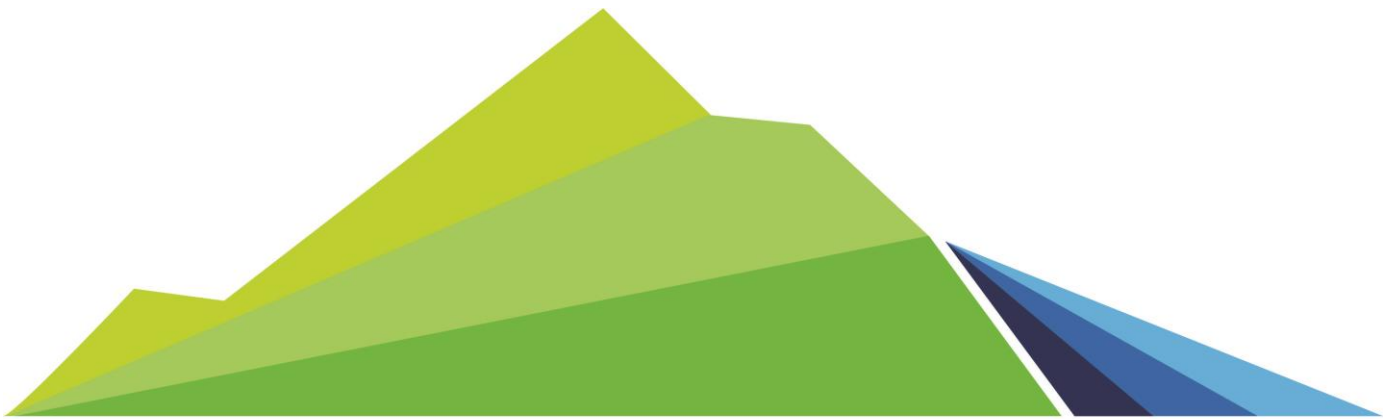




# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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## **This month:**

### **Broadcaster Charlie Bird conferred with the Freedom of County Wicklow**

Journalist and Broadcaster Mr Charlie Bird was conferred with the Freedom of County Wicklow by Wicklow County Council on 26<sup>th</sup> September, in recognition of his work and outstanding achievements in the field of broadcasting and journalism and more recently in his campaigning and raising funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta House.

Mr. Bird was only the third recipient of this unique honour: Oscar-winning actor and Wicklow resident, Daniel Day-Lewis, was the first in 2009 and World champion boxer, Katie Taylor, was the second in 2011.

The conferring of the honorary freedom of the County Wicklow is bestowed by the County Council on a person who has distinguished themselves in such a manner as is deemed worthy to have their name entered onto the Roll of Persons So Honoured.

### **CLAR Funding for 5 Projects in County Wicklow**

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

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

### **Wicklow Shortlisted for National Awards**

Wicklow County Council has been shortlisted in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 for six projects.

The 2022 Excellence in Local Government Awards, showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised.

The six projects shortlisted are:

- Wicklow County Council Solar Car Park in Climate Change
- Healthy Blessington in Health & Wellbeing
- Celebrating Wicklow's Wonder Women in Heritage and Built Environment
- Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub in Initiative through the Municipal Districts
- Social Housing Design & Build in Local Authority Innovation
- Wicklow Passport in Supporting Tourism



## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

### 1. Housing

#### Social Housing Support

	August 2022	August 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4565	4492
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	212	263
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2596	2329
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	22	16
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	29	31

#### Allocation of Social Housing

	August 2022	August 2021
Wicklow County Council	11	12
Approved Housing Bodies	05	24

#### Social Housing Stock

	August 2022	August 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,788	4,655
Total weekly rental accrual	314,366	305,746
Arrears	3,044,850.29	2,659,610.69

#### Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated



Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build	36	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Sheehan Court Design & Build	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 complete – tender documents being prepared
Three Trouts Greystones Design & Build	41	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Stage 2 approval received – detailed design and part 8 being prepared.
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Approval received from department. – part 8 ongoing
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 approved.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval received, stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5



Public Private Partnership.

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

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

## Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	Scheduled phased Q2-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022, 3 Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Wicklow Town	4	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	5	Delivered Q3 2022	CALF
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Delivered Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF

## Potential units

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

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

## Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Arklow	13	10 Delivered Q2 2022, 3 Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Rathnew	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	168	27 Units Delivered Q2, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q3-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF





Arklow	42	23 Delivered, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q3-Q4 2022	CALF
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- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.

### Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

### Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €2,299,375 (2022 budget) €881,705.00 spent to date
- › Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 (2022 budget) (€312,604.54 spent to date)

#### Private Houses

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

No of applications received:

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



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

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

### Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

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

### Vacant Homes Scheme

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

30 South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. <b>Council tenant now in situ.</b>
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchase by agreement with Receiver in progress.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchased by agreement with Receiver. In our possession since 20/5/2022 and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála held on 21 <sup>st</sup> June – no outcome yet. Purchase of the house by agreement with Receiver will be completed shortly.



114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing due on 20 <sup>th</sup> of October.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing due 18 <sup>th</sup> October. However purchase by agreement with Receiver is underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO confirmed 12 <sup>th</sup> April. Confirmation newspaper ad 26 <sup>th</sup> April. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. House in possession of WCC since 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2022. Refurbishment work to follow.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 <sup>th</sup> of June. Compensation to be agreed.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 <sup>th</sup> of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 <sup>st</sup> week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 <sup>st</sup> week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	CPO Published 12 <sup>th</sup> July (newspaper ad). No objections or submissions received by An Bord Pleanála. Chief Executive will confirm the CPO shortly. Receiver in contact with Council with a view to purchase by agreement.

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

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

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

## Croí Cónaithe (Towns)

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

- Vacant for more than 2 years.
- Built prior to 1993.
- Within a town or village (rural houses not covered).



- To be used as the applicant's permanent dwelling.

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

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

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

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

## Infill Sites

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

## Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

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

## Rebuilding Ireland Home loans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
62	25

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	August 2022
Applications Received	375	3
Completed	92	1
Declined	263	5
Ongoing	20	20

## Homeless figures for August 2022



<b>Addressing Homelessness</b>			
	<b>As at 31/08/2022</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>	<b>As at 31/08/2021</b>
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	44	279	19
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	1	17	7
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	26	143	11
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	18	137	14
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	1	13	1
<b>No. of Children</b>	50	264	18
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	20	109	6
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	13	85	12
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	1	7	0
<b>Mental Health</b>	0	5	0
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	2	21	2
<b>Arrears/Loss of Income</b>	1	9	0
<b>Addiction Issues</b>	0	11	0
<b>DV/DA</b>	1	22	2
<b>Medical Issues</b>	0	5	0
<b>Overcrowding</b>	2	8	1
<b>Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left</b>	5	34	1
<b>ASB:</b>	0	3	0
<b>Rough Sleeping*</b>	0	7	2
<b>Sofa Surfing*</b>	4	26	2
<b>Staying with Family*</b>	10	47	4
<b>Staying with Friends*</b>	0	15	5

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

<b>Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/08/2022</b>	
Families	21
Adults	35
Children	57
Single individual	1



Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	18	23	15	3	5	4	2	3
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	18	18	6	1	5	2	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, 405 households (300 families & 105 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. (177 homeless cases, 219 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 120 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

### Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

### Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

6 of the apartments in the hub are now occupied with a nomination for the 7<sup>th</sup> referred to Dublin Simon I



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

## **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray**

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

Bi- monthly meetings are held with Dublin Simon 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 have made arrangements to run an in-reach service with the clients to support them as they continue their journey into more permanent accommodation.

## **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

## **Housing First**

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. 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 11 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that 1 further allocation will take place in the coming weeks. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

## **Traveller accommodation**

A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019 - 2024 has commenced with all the relevant bodies notified ..

## **Capital Programme**

<b>Ballintekin – 3 houses</b>	Contractor on site
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses</b>	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design underway



<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses</b>	Stage 2 approval received. Pre part V111 discussions underway.
<b>Ballinteskin Extension</b>	Contractor on site

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

## Energy Efficiency

### Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

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

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

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

## Ukrainian Response

- As of 13<sup>th</sup> September, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,035 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows -

- Arklow MD 125 No.
- Baltinglass MD 162 No.
- Bray MD 510 No.
- Greystones MD 132 No.
- Wicklow MD 106 No.
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
- WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 13<sup>th</sup> September we will have housed 121 number displaced Ukrainian people. Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation. –
- Arklow Rest Centre closed at the end of May.
- The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis





## 2. Community

### Arts

#### **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (LLPPS 4)**

Strand 4 of our LLPPS programme commenced in August with the roll out of a four day family festival event in Rathdrum with performances by many Wicklow based artists, musicians and singers. The line-up for September events is underway.

#### **Music Programmes for Older Persons**

The Mobile Music Machine 'Covid Care Concert' series 2022 continues its presentation of concert performances in residential care home facilities throughout County Wicklow.

#### **Strategic Projects**

The deadline for submitting applications to the Strategic Projects Award Scheme 2023 is 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Scheme is open to artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and / or artist collectives.

#### **Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2022**

Letters of Offer have been dispatched to the successful applicants for the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme.

#### **Culture Night**

Culture Night takes place on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. Wicklow Arts Office is working with the Mermaid Arts Centre, Whale Theatre, Tinahely Courthouse Centre, Arklow Music and Arts, West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival, Bray Jazz Festival, Killruddery House and Wicklow Library Services to curate and manage a diverse range of artistic and cultural activities and performances across County Wicklow. Details of the various events are available on [www.culturenight.ie/wicklow](http://www.culturenight.ie/wicklow).

#### **Artist Support**

In partnership with Visual Artists Ireland (VAI), Wicklow Arts Office is providing a series of training and lifelong learning sessions including workshops, peer discussion groups, seminars and talks for visual artists as part of Artist Connect. VAI will host an introductory Visual Artists Café via zoom on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 15:00-16:30pm which will focus on the needs and types of training sought by Wicklow visual artists.



#### **Healthy Blessington**

The Healthy Blessington initiative has been shortlisted in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Chambers in Local Government Awards 2022 under the Health & Wellbeing remit. The awards ceremony will take place later this year.



## Let's Play Event

Healthy Wicklow and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership held four 'Let's Play' events over the last few weeks at:

- Rathdrum Library
- Ballywaltrim Library
- Blessington Library
- Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely Show

Further events are planned for:

- Dunlavin Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Arklow Library on the 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Carnew Library to be confirmed

These garden games will be made available to be rented out by the community through selected libraries in the county.

## Library

### 2020 Statistics

The LGMA has recently released library usage stats for 2020. These show the following:

2020	National Average	Wicklow	Position, nationally
Items Borrowed	1,033 per 1,000 population	1,328	5 <sup>th</sup> behind Clare, DLR, Cork County & Cork City
Active Borrowers	11.5%	15.9%	2 <sup>nd</sup> behind DLR

With new libraries opened in Wicklow town and Rathdrum since 2020, these statistics will show further improvement in the coming years.

## WLIC conference delegates visit Arklow Library



As part of the World Library and Information Congress 2022 in Dublin a group of 50 delegates visited Arklow Library and received a tour from Executive Librarian Laura Larkin on Friday 29th July. As part of their visit delegates were treated to a performance from local music teacher Niamh O'Connor and her colleagues to highlight our Music Generation initiative, demonstrations of our Tovertafel (Magic Table) and tours of the rooftop.

## Summer Stars



Summer Stars, the national reading programme has so far been a huge success in Wicklow's libraries with 3,171 young people from all over the county signing up to take part, of these 973 have joined the library for the first time. This year, libraries have increased the amount of activities and come up with more and more ways of welcoming children to exciting and interesting events during the summer months. Pictured are a family who have just collected their medals at Arklow library and some shots of the presentation celebration at Greystones library.



## Autism Friendly Events

Every Friday throughout August in Arklow Library from 11-12 library staff will be hosting two events designed to be autism friendly - numbers are strictly limited, and the children will be encouraged to enjoy a scout hunt in the library followed by some simple arts & crafts activities. The first of these events was very popular with families and it is planned to replicate this programme in other library branches.

## Shelton Abbey Open day



There was a great atmosphere as Shelton Abbey opened its gardens to the public on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This was the first such open day since 2019 and there was great excitement to see so many visitors who enjoyed historical talks and tours of the gardens and grounds.

Wicklow County Council Library service's Mobile library paid a visit also. This gave visitors an opportunity to explore the library and become members. Families visiting on the day enjoyed taking part in a collaborative art project which is now on display in the visiting area of Shelton Abbey.

## Cosplay Pageant at Wicklow Library



The Wicklow Town Library hosted a teen Cosplay Pageant Thursday evening 28<sup>th</sup> July. It was the culmination of a month long series of workshops aimed at helping create character costumes from their favourite books, comics, movies, manga, and television series. Teenage participants learned sewing and make-up techniques, as well as how to build props. They also gained confidence in public speaking as they had to explain to the audience who their character was. The pageant drew an enthusiastic crowd and afterwards the young people won prizes including tickets to Dublin Comic Con. Due to the positive feedback from the teens and parents, a regular monthly cosplay club is being organized with 15 kids already signed up. They also requested we do it again next year.

## Dormant Account Funding for Library Supports



Wicklow County Council Library services are happy that their funding application for Dormant Accounts Funding has been successful. New interesting initiatives and resources will now be possible as will the opportunity to build on existing services to support children with dyslexia and other literacy delays. Planned programming includes a pilot outreach intergenerational activity with a selection of nursing homes in the county, a program of events with men in Shelton Abbey Open Prison, a Minecraft course for children in the Bray/ Ballywaltrim area, a Comic Bookclub and an early literacy range of activities for families with babies and pre-schoolers.

The funding will also facilitate the purchase of a subscription to LOTE – an online database of children’s books in languages other than English, an online subscription to Times Tables Rock Stars – a virtual fun activity to support children in Primary schools as they learn their times tables.

Finally the purchase of “C-pens” which have a simple mechanism that lets the user scan text to have words read aloud and have words defined if needed. These will be available for borrowing at each of our branches.

## WICKLOW TOWN LIBRARY CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY IN NEW PREMISES



One year after opening its doors, patrons and staff gathered for first birthday celebrations on Wednesday last (August 31<sup>st</sup>).

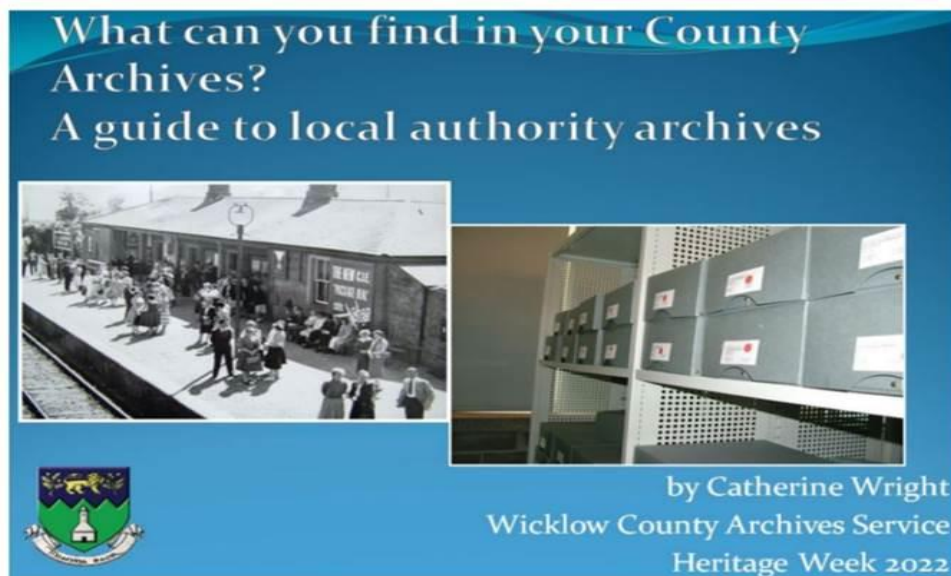
Patrons were treated to refreshments while the Wicklow Ukulele Players provided the entertainment, playing a host of well-known songs.

Almost 90,000 visits to the library have taken place since opening last year.

The library is part of the “My open library” (MOL) initiative which allows users access to the building from 8am until 10pm 365 days a year. This same service is also available in Arklow Library. For more information on MOL, ask library staff at either location.



**What can you find in your County Archives: Wicklow County Archives – Digital Project for Heritage Week 2022**



You might be surprised at the volume and variety of records relating to your county in your local archives! In this digital presentation, archivist Catherine Wright describes the collections held in the Wicklow County Archives Service, focusing on collections common to most local authority archives and discuss their usefulness as sources for research. These include Grand Jury records, Boards of Guardians, Town Commissioners and Town and County Councils as well as private family papers and business collections.



County Archives are widely used by local historians, family historians, academics and researchers of varied interests. During this time of commemoration, county council records are invaluable as a tool in understanding the role played by local government in the path to independence and county archivists have played a key role in Decade of Centenary projects. Indeed, the collections of county archives tell the story of the development of communities and the authorities who served them and place this story within the national context. The project can be viewed on <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects/what-can-you-find-in-your-county-archives>

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

**Current Membership:** 401 community/voluntary groups countywide.

**Consultations:** DRCD PPN Structural Review Report Consultation; SJI & IRL Wellbeing & Just Transition in Rural Communities Survey; PPN National Branding; Volunteers Experience of Volunteer Management; Digital Public Services; Local Property Tax 2023; Supporting Young People Facing Loneliness & Isolation; Referendum on Housing in Ireland; Rural Ideas For a – Public Transport & Opportunities for Rural Ireland; Part 8 152 Housing Units at Lott Lane Kilcoole.

**Training & Workshops:** SJI/PPN Stakeholder Training; Safe Talk Training; Wellness Recovery Action Plan Program; Entrepreneurship Course for People with Disabilities; Equality & Human Rights in the Public Service; Equal Ireland – Certificate in Enterprise & Community Development.

**Funding Opportunities/Competitions:** Meet & Code Fund; Visual Artists Workplace Scheme; WCC Tree Grant; Healthy Eating Projects; DAF Scaling Fund for Social Enterprises; International Protection Integration Fund.

See [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) for further information on above.

## **Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership**

### **New Communities Activities**

Camp	Month	Location	Target group
Multi-Sport Activity Camp - 4 days	June	Baltinglass	Ukrainian Children
Summer Multi-Sport Activity Camp - 5 days	July	Pastoral Hall, Wicklow Town	DPC - Grand Hotel & Rathmore
Summer Multi-Sport Activity & Dance Camp - 3 days	August	Wicklow Rover Astro Pitch, Wicklow Town	DPC - Grand Hotel & Wicklow Town Estate
Baltinglass Bulldogs Basketball Camp	August	Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass	Ukrainian Children
Baltinglass Soccer Camp	August	Baltinglass F.C	Ukrainian Children



## European Week of Sport

There will be a 3k Neon run and a Skating experience on Bray seafront as part of European week of Sport 2022.

## Activator Poles Programme at Arklow Sports Centre

The Activator Poles Programme starts in Arklow Sports Centre (at the running track) on Monday 5th September for a 6 week programme. Time: 9.30am-10.30am

The Activator Poles Programme is a fun outdoor activity suitable for anyone with mobility or balance concerns. The participants will learn the activator technique and learn how to use the poles to improve mobility, strength, balance and aerobic fitness. Each person who attends the programme will improve posture and gait, enhance core and muscle strength, reduce impact on joints and reduce falls. The Activator poles are supplied. The 6 week course cost €20

## Men on the Move

This is a FREE 8 week men only exercise programme for beginner starting Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. The programme is running twice a week Monday & Thursday mornings @ 10.30 – 11.30am in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Tutor Tom will deliver a variety of different sessions throughout the 8 weeks. These sessions will include cardiovascular and resistance exercises.

## Women's FAI Training Programme



This is a one week female coach education programme in partnership with the FAI. The programme is starting 19th September and will take place online and face to face throughout week. Each participant will work closely with the FAI coaches which will upskill them to a FAI National D Coaching Licence. To register please e-mail Gemma Murphy [gemma.murphy@fai.ie](mailto:gemma.murphy@fai.ie)



## Beach Volleyball



Beach Volleyball programme is a continuation from our Taster Beach Volleyball during Her Outdoors Week. The 6 week programme will take place in Brittas Bay Beach starting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm – 8.30pm. Miriam Gormally from Volleyball Ireland will be delivering the programme.

## (Sport Leader UK)

Our Sports Leader UK Course is starting in Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass in September. The Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership provides the starting point for learners aged 12 years and over who wish to develop their leadership skills. The syllabus is designed to develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner. On completion each student receives a Sports Leader UK certificate. If your school or college is interested in this course please e-mail [wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie) for more information

## Training & Education

Course	Venue	Date
Sports First Aid	Wicklow tennis Club, The Glebe, Wicklow Town	10 <sup>th</sup> September at 9am – 4pm
Autism in Sport	Online	12 <sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm – 9pm
Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness	Online	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm – 8pm
Safeguarding 1	Online	13 <sup>th</sup> September 7pm

## Sláitecare Healthy Communities

Enhancement Fund Update: Community kitchens are expected to be completed by end of October. Procurement for calisthenics is due to be completed by mid-September. Received quote for the goal posts and need to secure a separate contractor for installation. Received quote for repainting the basketball court in Gilsbur, and need to procure the new posts and goals. Tender for boulders are almost complete and will be posted soon.

Additional updates: The first meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September with good attendance. Currently exploring several projects for Bray to tackle social determinants of health including fuel and food poverty, early years supports, and additional recreation facilities. Projects are in the early design phase involving research consultation.



## Town and Village Applications 2022

Measure	Location	Project	Funding Amount
T&V Marketing Campaign	County-wide	A Marketing Plan for all present and future BCPs and Remote Working Hubs in County Wicklow. This will provide a county level framework to complement the National Hub Network and provide a strategic direction for the development and marketing of current BCPs/Remote Working Hubs both nationally and internationally.	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Carnew	Wicklow County Council was successful in receiving funding under the Town and Village Building Acquisition Measure to purchase the now non-operational bank building on Main street in Carnew. This proposal is for funding to prepare the building to operate as a remote working hub and community space	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Kiltegan	Wicklow County Council has bought a derelict building and site in Kiltegan. This funding proposal is to fund the plans and permissions needed to prepare the building to be repurposed as a remote working hub and community space	€50,000
T&V	Arklow	This project aims to bring the currently disused 'Goods Store' at Arklow Railway Station back to use as a functional Craft and Ecology Centre	€500,000
T&V	Rathdrum	The Rathdrum Mill project intends to restore the vacant old mill buildings in Rathdrum and restore them into a useable state for heritage, craft and tourism purposes, thus saving them from dereliction, and acting as a creative economic driver for the area.	€250,000
T&V	Kilcoole	A placemaking project to enhance public amenities in Kilcoole through the provision of a skate and scooter park adjacent to the playground.	€250,000



T&V	Ashford	The project aims to take a place-making approach to transform a very unsightly boundary wall on the Main Street of Ashford, which is endangering the place making projects that have previously taken place.	€114,300
T&V	Laragh	The project is for a recreational exercise space to be developed located on the GAA grounds (but will not be for the exclusive use of the GAA but rather a wide inclusive and accessible amenity.)	€99,142
T&V	Blessington	This proposal is to fund a kit-out of both a Community and Youth space to ensure functionality for a wide range of uses including a small tech space.	€36,000

## Streetscape Funding for Newtownmountkennedy

€100,000 funding has been awarded to Newtownmountkennedy under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, Dept. Rural and Community Development. The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative will provide retail and property owners in Newtownmountkennedy with grants they can use to give their business a facelift. The primary aim of the scheme is to make towns and villages more attractive places to live, work or visit. Projects to include upgrade to building facades, artwork, murals, lighting, street furniture and canopies.

## Development of New Local Economic and Community Plan

The consultation process for the development of the new LECP is nearly complete.

- Social Inclusion Women’s Network – 60 participants
- Breakfast Briefing – approx. 100 participants
- Comhairle na nÓg – approx. 100 participants
- PPN Environment Workshop
- Wicklow MD
- Greystones MD
- Baltinglass MD
- Arklow MD
- Bray MD
- Online consultation
- 3 written submissions
- Online survey



### Engagement with Marginalised Communities

County Wicklow has been selected as one of four pilot projects to develop and test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation. The project aims to develop toolkits that can be adapted and used by local authorities and other state agencies to enable better engagement with hard to reach groups.

Following an expressions of interest process administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, funding of up to €40,000 has been approved for each of 4 LCDCs.

Clare, Fingal, Galway City and Wicklow will undertake pilot programmes to support participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) process which is currently underway in each local authority area. The process will take six months and in Co. Wicklow's case involves both participation and capacity building.

### Core Aims & Actions

- Through the networks available – to members of the LCDC, WCC & Co Wicklow PPN, key community leaders and service providers within/working with the target groups will be identified and encouraged to undertake training that will support them to understand the background & context for developing the VCWB & the LECP as well as providing them with the facilitation skills & tools needed for them to run this process of consultation in their communities & those they work with.
- This will extend the reach of the consultations and engage with those groups which are harder to reach.
- The facilitators will also be trained to support the data analysis process that will inform and develop the VCWB as well as the LECP.
- This in-depth consultation should also provide direction and help prioritise some of the actions within the LECP.
- Collaborating with key agencies in this process should also result in cohesive & complimentary local plans, work plans and strategies e.g. SICAP and LEADER plans.
- Record and report on the learning from this process

### Pride of Place 2022

The Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place competition 2022 judging took place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. The following groups were assessed by the two judges, under these three categories -

- Community Wellbeing – An Tochar GAA and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership for their collaborative on the “Irish Sign Language Project.”
- Community Resilience - The Wicklow and Arklow Ukrainian Hubs
- Community Creative Place – The Chatting Benches - An Garda Síochána's project

The three groups made impressive presentations to the judges over the two days. The winners of the competition will be announced at a Gala Awards Ceremony, which will take place in January 2023. This competition is dubbed the “Oscars of the Community Sector”, the “Pride of Place” Awards are an annual competition organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. It promotes and



celebrates the best in community development and recognises the selfless efforts of people in making their local area a better place to live work and socialise.



## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Funding has been announced in respect of ORIS 2022 Measure 1

Project Name	Project Cost	Funding Provided	Match Funding from WCC	Brief description
Avonmore Way	€33,000	€29,700	€3,300	Resurfacing of the Avonmore Way through Clara Vale Nature Reserve
Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€29,700	€3,300	Looped equestrian trail in Ballyboy forest
Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€29,700	€3,600	Glen Turn Cliff Walk
Miners Way	€28,000	€25,200	€2,800	Resurface Ballinafunshogue section of the Miner's Way
Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€29,700	€3,300	A linear wild play area on the Red Kite Loop

## SEPTEMBER 2022



West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€29,700	€3,300	Creation of user friendly access points in West Wicklow via Coillte properties
Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€29,700	€3,300	Airlifting of materials into sensitive project sites in the Wicklow Uplands
	€226,300	€203,400	€22,900	



## Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

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

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

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

The Economic Development unit is seeking to engage with the business, tourism and wider community to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

Wicklow County Council has appointed a team of experts from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the LECP.

#### Retail

##### Bray Central

Practical Completion Cert has been agreed and the transfer of Title has begun.

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

#### Town Teams

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



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

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

### **Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan**

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

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

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

### **Arklow Town Team**

The Interactive Tourism Kiosk project is progressing well. The screen has been installed in the new public realm area at the Parade Ground in Arklow. The design process is still ongoing. An EXPLORE ARKLOW section is being created exclusively for the screen with the onus placed on brand new maps of the town, its points of interest, amenities, and selected walks.

Arklow Town Team were delighted to support The Vessels exhibition with funding received from Creative Wicklow Grants Scheme 2022, to host a number of ‘Old Tales made New’ events in Arklow. The exhibition celebrates the history of Arklow, its culture and heritage through the eyes of Sean Redmond, James Burke and Adam Burke. The launch was a great success, and the exhibition will be displayed in the Arklow Maritime Museum until 31<sup>st</sup> October.





The funding will also be used for the Giant Tea Cup Project. The Town Team have purchased a giant teacup made out of fibreglass which will be restored by local group 4o2 Creative Artists. A call out for broken, chipped and unwanted Arklow pottery has been made, to be reused into making a beautiful mosaic for the teacup. The finished cup will be installed at a location in Arklow for all to enjoy.

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

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

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

### **Greystones Town Team**

A very successful multi-Cultural event was held at Burnaby Park on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 where the Greystones Town Team actively supported the African Irish Society Wicklow. The event comprised of music, dance, food, costume, storytelling and language classes. It was well supported and an enjoyable day for all attendees.

## **Tourism**

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

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

The Key Priorities are:

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



### **Tinahely Agri Show:**

Wicklow Tourism was present at the Agri Show in Tinahely over the August Bank Holiday. Main focus was to present and promote the Wicklow Passport. Many passports were distributed raising tremendous interest from members of the public.

### **Wicklow Passport:**

A few Wicklow Ambassadors Certificates were issued over the summer, including two from the US who spent time in Wicklow with families. Another Certificate was delivered to a Bray resident who collected all passport stamps either walking or cycling around Wicklow. General feedback is very positive and we created a blog of a Dublin family going around the County. See blog at link:

<https://visitwicklow.ie/our-wicklow-passport-family-adventures-meet-toby-and-harry-wicklow-passports-new-ambassadors/>

### **Rose of Tralee Tours:**

Wicklow Tourism helped organise a two day tour around Wicklow for a number of National and International Roses taking part in the international Rose of Tralee Festival. The tour included visits to Powerscourt, Glendalough, Arklow, Avondale, Cookery School Ballyknocken and Russborough House with overnight in the Arklow Bay Hotel. See video edit of their time in Wicklow at

<https://youtu.be/Q86apqLi07Y>

### **EcoTrail Wicklow:**

Following the support granted by Failte Ireland, Wicklow Tourism has been busy developing promotional activities for the event, as well as developing a few activities to enhance visitors experience as well as develop a Festival Atmosphere. Activities include the following:

- Journey to Wicklow mini-series. Shot by the Tracks & Trails production company, this mini documentary follows first time trail runner Siobhan on her journey to EcoTrail Wicklow. Two episodes have been shot so far, with the third and final episode being shot on race day in September. See current episodes at <https://visitwicklow.ie/introduction-to-trail-running-videos-journey-to-ecotrail-wicklow/>
- EcoTrail Festival Banners are now on display along Bray main street. Those were placed on the last week in August and will remain in place until the end of September. See image: [https://www.instagram.com/p/CiANY\\_9qBPP/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CiANY_9qBPP/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)



- Extensive PR and online advertising to promote the event and attract as many participants as possible.

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

The purchase of the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow completed in August and it is intended that the space will be enhanced and redeveloped into the Abbey Gardens and Event Space. 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 redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café/Retail/Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheatre arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility, and public seating.

The plans take careful consideration of the conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the grounds, as well as the protection of the ruined remains.

### **Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study**

In 2020, 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.

Key issues identified in the brief included:

- Improving the regional and seasonal spread of visitors
- Encouraging more tourists to visit outside seasonal peaks
- Encouraging people to visit areas outside of the main attractions all intended to mitigate against regional and seasonal congestion and deliver a better experience for all
- Increase dwell time in the county

The consultancy team undertook an assessment and consultation process to discern key issues which affect the National Park experience. In tandem with this consultation and information gathering, detailed site surveys were conducted to assess the existing ecological and archaeological sensitivities of the area.



The following recommendations are made, working together to effectively disperse visitors to sites across the county:

- Enhanced online presence – particularly via social media channels
- Enhanced quality on the ground – improvements to basic visitor infrastructure
- Product enhancement and product development
- Strengthened outdoor recreation hubs
- Increased Connectivity

Improving the quality and sustainability of outdoor recreation sites is integral to achieving effective dispersal within the park and on a county wide level.

A shuttle bus service to Glendalough ran over the summer months to improve traffic congestion in the area and was very successful. The shuttle bus has now ceased and signage has been replaced to reflect this.

### **Outdoor Performance Space**

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

Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. A site meeting took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> May with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. Initial drawings showing canopy options are being considered. When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process

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

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve



Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin "Our Rural Future" Ireland's Rural Development policy.

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

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

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

### **Bray Harbour Improvements**

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

RPS was requested to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. A draft EIA has been received and this is being reviewed at present. This identifies all of the potential environmental impacts that need to be addressed in the EIAR. A Stage 1 Screening for an Appropriate Assessment report has yet to be provided after which it is proposed to organise further public consultation that includes a 3D visualisation of the proposed scheme.



## Land Management

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of an Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn and are also progressing the sale of the 1.33-acre site on Mill Road/South Beach to the HSE.

The purchase of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew has been completed and the building has been insured and secured. A Town and Village Renewal Scheme application has been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development to fund the purchase of this building, and the application to draw down this funding is in process.

## Maritime

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

Key milestones have been:

- The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.
- The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
- The Marine Area Consent process is now open for relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.
- An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.
- Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
- Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR



- Bord na Mona Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics and is seeking to further engage with the local authority.

The next significant milestone will be the announcement of the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) Auction either later in 2022 or early 2023. Under ORESS eligible projects will be invited to bid to deliver renewable energy services. The Community Benefit Fund associated with the ORESS Auction will be significant.

### Food and Beverage Strategy

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

Wicklow Naturally continues to increase its network of members in 2022 to add to the array of County Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally members will be represented at a range of events throughout the year including Taste of Wicklow, the Tinahely show, Ploughing Championships, OctoberFeast and Gifted; all aimed at raising the profile of Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally and its members continue to receive coverage in national and international media including Lonely Planet, Farmers Journal, Forbes and Nationwide.

Wicklow Naturally, supported by Wicklow County Council was successful in securing funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in respect of the development of Farm to Fork Trails as part of Wicklow's tourism offering. Wicklow Naturally has worked with Wicklow Tourism to develop this product. A number of trails have been identified, with photography, videography and a pilot tour took place in July.

The launch of Farm to fork trails was held on 31<sup>st</sup> August as part of the Wicklow Naturally food promotion campaign and was hosted by renowned chef Catherine Fulvio in the gardens of Ballyknocken House and Cookery School.



The Farm to Fork Trails will include guided and self-guided tours throughout County Wicklow. The trails aim to showcase the best of Wicklow food and drinks producers and providers, connecting the visitors' experience from Farm to Fork and offering a true taste of the Garden County.

Guided tours include return coach travel to several destinations such as farms, historic houses, food and drinks producers, farmers markets etc. Self-guided tours can be facilitated also.

It is hoped that the initiative will further enhance the reputation of County Wicklow as a great destination for quality food and drink.

### Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

A Skills Taskforce Chaired by the Chief Executive has now been set up following meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July to coordinate key stakeholders, in partnership between Government, industry, and education and training providers, to continue with engagement and explore areas of collaboration to build skills education and training programmes in County Wicklow, including the Wicklow County Campus, that will meet the future employment needs of the sectors.

The Skills Taskforce will meet on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 and it is expected to receive a report from the Sub Group / Education Sub Committee. It is also expected that nominations from the three industries, i.e. renewables, food and the screen sector will be agreed.

Wicklow County Council will shortly be advertising for consultants to carry out a skills audit to identify existing skills and competencies and future skills required to support economic development in the County.





## 2. Local Enterprise Office

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

<b>METRICS: Grants</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b>	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	-30/ € 653,927
- Measure 1	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-9/ € 62,225
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters			
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

<b>METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	37
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	85
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	395
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	6



<b>METRICS: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of new clients added to database *Criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	156
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	221

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

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

<b>Trading Online Voucher</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of Trading Online Vouchers approved</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Year to Date 2022</b>
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	48

<b>Lean For Micro Project</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	11



Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	10	5

## August 2022 Activities

- Fortnightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- LEO Wicklow was represented at the Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely Show on 1<sup>st</sup> August and distributed advice and information to attendees.

## Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

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



## 3. Planning and Development

### County Development Plan

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

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

### Local Area Plans

The Forward Planning Department has commenced work on the preparation on new LAPs for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington (which will be delivered in that order). The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage, and will be consulting with all internal departments and state agencies over the next few weeks

### Residential Zoned Land Tax

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

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

### Heritage & Biodiversity

#### Heritage Week 13<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> August.

Over 65 in-person events held throughout county Wicklow plus five digital Heritage Week Projects.



### **Climate Action: Biodiversity Actions/ Activities**

**Wicklow Barn Owl Project** – currently peak season for survey work as breeding birds are most active from now until August. Digital Project produced for Heritage Week. Ongoing survey work.

**Wicklow Swift Project:** Resources, advice and nesting boxes distributed to schools and community groups on request. 10 nesting boxes distributed. Swift workshops delivered in Carnew and Rathdrum. Digital project uploaded for Heritage Week

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

**East Coast Nature Reserve Events:** Monthly seasonal free public event programme in place in partnership with Bird Watch Ireland at East Coast Nature Reserve. Dragonfly themed outing held for Heritage Week, 50+ attendance.

**Brittas Bay Conservation project** (Works underway supported by Local Biodiversity Action Plan funding allocation):

- Continuation of conservation measures
- Recording & monitoring (incl citizen science)
- Community Engagement programme – Heritage Week digital project

**Conservation Management Plans for WCC owned land at Bray Head and Wicklow Head:** RFT process complete, ecological consultants appointed and work underway at Bray.

### **Climate Action (Built Heritage - Archaeology):**

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

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

Heritage Week events hosted at Roundwood (Castlekevin) and Arklow Castle and medieval trail.



## Community Archaeologist Role for county Wicklow:

Allocation received through County Heritage Plan Fund from the Heritage Council and WCC for appointment of a part time community archaeologist. Yvonne Whitty, De Faoite Archaeology has been appointed and currently delivering role. Heritage Week digital project uploaded for Heritage Week. Uploading of Medieval sites register to Wicklow GIS is commenced

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

**Conservation Management Plan for Clermont:** Co-ordination of project brief for procurement process to carry out heritage assessment (natural, built and cultural) and draw up management recommendations.

## Development Management

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	To 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021		Type of Development	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 Number Received 98
Received (Valid)	831	943		Individual Houses	25 (23 refer to a rural house)
				Housing Developments*	08
				Agricultural Structures	03
				Commercial	08
				Other Developments**	54
				<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

A total of 98 valid applications were received during August

\* Large housing development \*\*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 90 applications in August:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	14 ( 13 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	75
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

Decisions issued between January to August 2022,:

	31/08/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	728
Total Number of decisions to grant	612
% Grant Rate	84%
No of applications withdrawn	13

## Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-305558-21, Kilgarron Hill, Parknasilloge, Enniskerry (219 Units), Members meeting 1/3/2022, CE report to be forwarded to ABP by 31/3/2022

ABP-312020-21, Lands at Bray Head House (179 Units) Members meeting 7/12, CE report forwarded 26/1/22, Granted 23/3.

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

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



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

### **Strategic Infrastructure Development**

An Bord Pleanála 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 Pleanála 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

### **Substitute Consent**

An Bord Pleanála 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 Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, 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.





## Planning Enforcement

New Files	14
Advisory Letters	12
Warning Letters	7
Enforcement Notices	3
Legal Files	1
Closed	4

## Derelict Sites

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

## Vacant Sites

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

- 03 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)
- 03 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)
- 01 site on appeal to Valuation Tribunal
- €2,100 paid in levies in August



**Short-Term Letting**

	To date
Applications for Registration received	176
Warning Letters issued	28
Enforcement Notices issued	7
UD files opened	27
Under Investigation	54
Legal Proceedings instigated	1



## 2. Environmental Services

### Waste Management

#### Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of Complaints Created	108
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	69
No of Litter Fines Issued	10
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	3
No. of Burning Applications Granted	4
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	42

#### Whitestown Remediation Project

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

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

#### Climate Action

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Wicklow Climate Action**

#### **Mid-East Energy Unit**

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Meath and Kildare County Councils is establishing the Mid East Energy Unit. As lead authority, Wicklow County Council is at the final stages of signing a MOU with the SEAI to progress the establishment of the Energy Unit.

Service Level Agreements between Wicklow and the partnering authorities are being progressed in parallel. Work within the energy unity will deliver on public sector energy efficiency and energy reduction projects via the SEAI Pathfinder scheme which includes 50% funding for these projects from the SEAI .

**Arklow Decarbonisation Project:** RPS Consulting Engineers has delivered the Baseline Emissions Inventory, the Register of Opportunities and Placemaking and Active Travel Reports and the draft Implementation Plan. The Final



Implementation Plan will be delivered in the coming weeks. The DZ Implementation Plan will become a chapter of the Climate Action Plan.

### **Bicycle Parking**

- Create bicycle friendly buildings for employees and visitors, by putting bicycle parking in place by 2022 – which is secure, accessible and simple for cyclists to recognise and use.

As per this action in the Climate Action mandate for the public sector - Work has commenced to identify suitable locations to install bicycle parking at our public buildings.

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

**The Green Team** are working on a number of initiatives:

- A draft **Paper Use Policy** has been drawn up.
- Eco friendly cleaning products for our buildings
- A staff travel survey which may result in car pooling
- Home Energy Retrofit Information day for Staff and use of the Home Energy Saving Kit.
- A number of members will attend training in September.

ALCNature have been appointed to develop a **Conservation Management Plan for Bray Head and Wicklow Head**. For Wicklow Head an initial meeting has been held between the Climate Action Team, Forward Planning and Sports Partnership to ensure there is a smooth crossover between the plans being developed by each section

### **Environmental Awareness**

- Kids educational workshops were held on the four Blue Flag beaches and Arklow Beach. The workshops were given by Seashore Kids and are part of our Blue Flag education programme. All were well attended. A second workshop was held in Arklow due to high demand.
- A Bikes' for Africa project with the Rotary Clubs of Wicklow and Bray began receiving bikes. Bikes are accepted in all recycling centres with a storage facility installed in Arklow. The bikes will be repaired at Shelton Abbey Open Prison before being shipped to The Gambia. Good sturdy bikes suitable for students commuting to school are being sought. The project was funded under the anti-dumping initiative and



helps to develop circular economy activity in our recycling centres. The target of 120 good quality bikes was achieved by the end of August.

- An LAPN project is linking to the Bikes for Africa project and involved delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. The video was used to advertise the workshops. All workshops programmed for the first week of August were fully booked and more workshops will be programmed for September.
- The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Sustainable Development awards for Tidy Towns, residents associations, community groups, businesses and schools were judged. The awards have been linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Wicklow County Council is one of twelve local authorities that partnered to deliver a new dog fouling campaign which contains six videos, seven social media posts, one gif and an advertisement for the local papers. The campaign continued over the summer months. The campaign aims to highlight the impact of dog fouling on all while reminding owners of their responsibility to pick up after their dog. The campaign was well supported on social media with many sharing the campaign posts.
- The annual tree grant to support planting of native trees and hedgerows in communities has been launched and is now open for application. 75% of the cost of planting trees is grant aided. Applications are coming in ahead of the September deadline.
- An LAPN project to provide training on composting has now been completed and a case study was prepared. The project was extended to provide training for Newcastle Tidy Towns with a site developed at the community centre during July and August.
- Second hand school books sales were held in Arklow, Bray and Wicklow recycling centres in association with local scout troops. The sales were popular with a good turnover of books and funds raised for the scouts.
- A Climate Action for TY event is being planned for October. It will be held in the Brockagh Centre and Raoul Empey of Sustineo will be the key note speaker. Relove Fashion was also relaunched for schools.

### Sustainable Energy Committees

Greystones/Delgany and Wicklow Town SECs both completed their energy master plans. A claim for the SEAI funding has been submitted.

The Energy Master Plan for Enniskerry I snow complete. Work is near completion on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for High Park and Blessington. In Arklow survey work is being undertaken. A new application for an Energy Master Plan has been received from Carnew Community Care. Newtownmountkennedy, Glenmalure and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

A meeting was held with Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community to explore collaboration with their team sharing their experiences of delivering energy efficiency and renewables projects in their community.



## Harbours and Ports

### Activity at Wicklow Port - Shipping Movements

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

### Pontoon at Arklow

The Part 8 for the development of a heavy duty pontoon incorporating finger walkways and associated infrastructure at the Inner Harbour, South Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow was approved by the members of Arklow Municipal District at a meeting held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.

### Pollution Control

#### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 10 Water pollution complaints received and investigated and 2 closed.
- 2 Air pollution complaints received and investigated and 1 closed.
- 9 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated and 8 closed

### Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 14 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 10 Rivers monitored involving 70 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

### Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 3 Catchment activity/engagements/consultations on water quality matters.
- Water of Life Project – EU €20M funded project to protect and restore pristine waters to March 2028 - Upper Avonmore River is one of 6 Demonstration Catchments in the Country – LAWPRO hosted Public Information Meeting will be held at Anmamoe Community Centre at 7.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022.



## Vehicle Refinisher Regulations.

- 1 certificate renewal letter issued.

## Drinking Water Regulations – Non-exempted Private Supplies

- 13 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and compliant with tested parameters
- 1 Regulated Private Water Supply was monitored with non-compliances with the conductivity parameter.
- 2 Boil Water Notices were lifted after remedial action, verification test and HSE consultation.
- 1 Regulated private supply audited.

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

- 1 Preparation of Inspection Plan
- 1 Inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and found non-compliant and advisory notice was issued.
- 1 Inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and found compliant.

## Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

## Bathing Water Regulations

- 30 bathing water samples were taken and tested in August.
- Identified bathing waters - Bray South Promenade, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South and Clogga Beach were excellent on 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022.
- Identified bathing waters- Greystones South was excellent on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and good on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- Identified bathing waters- Silver strand was excellent on 8<sup>th</sup> and good on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- Included other bathing waters- Arklow South was good on 15<sup>th</sup> August , Arklow Cove was excellent on 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and Greystones Cove, Kilcoole, Murrough, Wicklow Harbour South of Bray Harbour.

## Planning & Development

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

## Well Grants

- 33 Number of New Applications
- 1 Number of New Wells Granted





- 7 Number of New Pumps Granted
- 10 Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted
- 32 Number of Inspections in advance/after works

### Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

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



## 5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Public Lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **265 1.75%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	1	1		1	1	4
Cable Fault (Attend)		1			1	2
ESB Required (Attended)	6	3	3	8	12	32
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	2	1	2	3	1	9
On Hold			12	1	4	17
Submitted	24	20	40	35	37	156
TMR	7	3	17	8	2	37
Tree cutting required			2		4	6
Grand Total	41	30	76	56	62	265
Percentage Not Working	1.39%	1.25%	2.28%	2.01%	1.69%	1.75%

	25th July 2022	2nd August 2022	8th August 2022	29th August 2022	5th September 2022	12th September 2022
Access Issues (Attend)	7	7	8	4	4	4
Cable Fault (Attend)	3	4	4	2	2	2
ESB Required (Attended)	34	33	33	34	33	32
Knock Down (Attended)	2	2	2	1	1	
Materials required	2	2	2	2	2	2
No Supply	11	11	11	9	9	9
On Hold	16	17	17	17	17	17
Submitted	141	124	119	129	147	156
TMR	30	31	31	35	37	37
Tree cutting required	12	8	8	6	6	6
Total	258	239	235	239	258	265
Percentage not working	1.70%	1.58%	1.55%	1.58%	1.70%	1.75%



## Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	July 2022	August 2022
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	842	923	<b>556</b>	78	<b>65</b>
<b>Road closure applications</b>	23	53	<b>53</b>	2	<b>12</b>
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1279	1575	<b>937</b>	130	<b>90</b>
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	33	54	<b>41</b>	8	<b>7</b>

### **M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme**

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding has been provided to continue during 2022.

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

### **M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme**

The BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures in advance of the main scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 9 (Glenview).

The BPIS web site is now available on [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

### **N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue**

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

### **N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment**

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Officer.

### **N81 Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Lower “N81 Four Studies”**

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

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

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

### **N81 Pavement Capital Works**

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

### **N81 Capital Maintenance**

Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky was completed in May.



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

### **N81 Fencing Retrofit**

The contract for the fencing will commence in Q3.

### **N81 Invasive Species Removal**

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

### **Arklow Public Realm**

**Construction works activities are well advanced with the following elements completed or under construction at the present time:**

#### **Main Street – South side of road between Bank of Ireland and Parochial House entrance**

Install planter walls next to bus stop and prepare for paving

#### **Main Street - North side of road from former Morgan Doyle's to K Style Hair and Beauty**

Install paving and finished surfaces

#### **Coomie Lane (Road Closure)**

Paving to pedestrian crossing on bottom on lane

Install pedestrian crossings top of lane

Prepare subbase for tarmacadam

#### **Main Street – North side of road adjacent courthouse**

Complete ducting

Reduce ground and backfill

New connection to watermain for the feed to the courthouse

Kerbing and preparation of paving.

### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

Options Report to be finalised for a few sections of the greenway. Once discussed with the landowners, the emerging preferred route will be finalised and public consultation undertaken. Tenders have been sought for the role of Independent Agronomist, it is anticipated that the independent agronomist will be appointed in the very near future. Once appointed, the Agronomist's details will be communicated to Landowners.

### **Baltinglass Town Centre Plan**

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

### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

Review of detailed design along with potential SUD strategies for the scheme is underway. Additional topographical surveys were undertaken in July and August to assist in the preparation of documents to allow the Council to seek statutory approval.

### **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 and tender preparation. Notice to Treat will be issued within the next month which will commence formal discussions on compensation.

## Redford Junction

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

## Active Travel updates

- Draft design options completed for Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme
- Draft Options Report completed for Blessington Main Street to Deerpark and Old Ballymore Road projects.
- Funding approval received for Kilpedder to Willow Grove Footpath under the Rapid Deployment Active Travel Measures allocation.
- Works on the Rathnew to Glenealy Active Travel Footpath have been successfully completed.
- Works on the cycle and pedestrian scheme at Arklow North have commenced on site.
- Works on Priory Road pedestrian scheme have commenced on site following successful negotiations with private landowners.
- Presentations to be made to Arklow and Greystones Municipal District Meetings on the Safe Routes to Schools Projects.

## Speed Limit Review

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

## Operational Fire Statistics August 2022

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2		1			1					
Fire Domestic	6	1	2	2	1						
Fire Caravan	4	1	1	1	1						
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	24	4	4	5	4	2				2	3
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4			2		2					
Hazardous Materials Incident	1					1					
Fire Industrial / Commercial	4	1	1	1		1					
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	0										



<b>One Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	21	12	3	3	1	1					1
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	57	13	17	8	7	3	1	2		3	3
Fire Chimney	1		1								
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	22	9	5	5		2		1			
Fire Vehicle	5		1	2					1	1	
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1		1								
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	19	3	4	2	4	1	1	1	1		2
Garda Assist	2			1	1						
Electrical Incident	4		1	1	1	1					
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	1						1				
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	4	1	2	1							
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	1										1
Animal Rescue	1			1							
Lock In / Lock Out	1	1									
False Alarm – Good Intent	2	1		1							
Malicious False Alarm	2									1	1
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>

There were **182 incidents** attended during the month of August 2022. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **205 occasions** including 16 incidents in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of August **increased by 7% (+15 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (July 2022 – 190 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of August 2022 **was up 66% (+83 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2021** (August 2021 – 122 mobilisations). When compared year on year increases occurred in mobilisations to gorse fires up from 8 to 57 (+49), alarm activations up from 16 to 21 (+5) vehicle fires up from 1 to 5 (+4), ambulance assists up from 12 to 19 (+7), incidents in other counties up from 7 to 16 (+9)..

### Sample Incidents (August 2022)

- 04/08/2022 Crews from Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended an RTC at Junction 14 on the M11 (north) involving a car and a tractor.
- 07/08/2022 Crews from Greystones and Bray attended a 1-vehicle RTC at Junction 5 on the N11 (south).
- 19/08/2022 Crews from Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended caravan fire beside a house in Ballyhenry, Ashford.
- 17/08/2022 Crews from Wicklow Town and Arklow attended a 1-vehicle RTC rollover at Ballinacor.
- 21/08/2022 Crews from Carnew and Tinahely attended an RTC at Ballynultagh.
- 21/08/22 Arklow Fire Crew attended an industrial fire in the Croghan Industrial Estate involving a vehicle recycling unit. They were supported by crews from Wicklow Town, Greystones and Gorey.

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

- 01/08/2022 Dunlavin crew responded to an alarm activation at Brannockstown National School.
- 02/08/2022 Blessington and Dunlavin crews supported crews from Naas at an RTC at Eadestown.
- 10/08/2022 Blessington crew were mobilised to support Kildare Fire Service at an RTC at Junction 9A northbound on the M7.



## Incidents in County Wexford (10-incidents):

02/08/2022	Carnew crew supported Wexford Fire Service at a road incident at Monaseed where a truck had spilt its load of cement.
11/08/2022	Carnew crew supported Wexford Fire Service at an outdoor fire at Ballybeg, Ferns.
11/08/2022	Carnew crew supported Wexford Fire Service at an outdoor fire at Newtown, Kilbora.
12/08/2022	Arklow crew attended an outdoor fire at Newtown, Coolgreaney.
12/08/2022	Arklow crew attended an outdoor fire in Gorey.
12/08/2022	Carnew crew supported Wexford Fire Service at a domestic house fire at Coolishal, Gorey.
12/08/2022	Carnew crew supported Wexford Fire Service at an outdoor fire at Knocknalour, Bunclody.
15/08/2022	Arklow crew supported Wexford Fire Service at a bus / coach fire at Ballylarkin, Inch.
19/08/2022	Arklow crew supported Wexford Fire Service at an alarm activation at Courtown, Gorey.
19/08/2022	Carnew crew supported Wexford Fire Service a single car RTC at Bolaney, Gorey.

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

13/08/2022	Tinahely crew supported Carlow Fire Service (Tullow and Hacketstown) at an industrial / agricultural fire at Liscolman, Ballyconnell.
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### Fire Prevention Statistics August 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	7		4		10
Regularisation Certificates			1		
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	10		7		7

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Response Issued	Not raising an objection
District	1				1
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act	2				
Explosive Act	1			1	

### **Commencement Notices for August 2022:**

- Commencement Notices Submitted: 30
- 11 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 15 Opt Out Declarations
- 2 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice



## Submission Statistics

- 50 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 86 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 26 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - o 10 are Compliance Documentation (38%)
  - o 12 are Opt Out (46%)
  - o 1 Without Compliance Documentation (1%)
- 3 Seven Day Notice (12%)
- 24 Valid Commencement Notices
- 124 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for August = 2

## Certificates of Completion processed in August 2022

- 22 New No. of CCC submitted
- 15 Required Revised Information
- 18 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 89 new residential units validated

## Submission Statistics

- 18 No. Validated CCCs related to;
- 2 No CCCs submitted in June 2022
- 6 No CCCs submitted in July 2022
- 12 No CCCs submitted in August 2022

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

Building Control continues to experience high construction activity in August 2022. 124 new residential units were notified to LA for Commencement and 89 newly completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in August.

Building Control continued with site inspection in August to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests were extremely high in August for both Commencement Notices and Certificate of Compliance on Completion, 86% of submissions required revised information in August. 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 June 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.

## Parking Income

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	<b>676,134</b>
Greystones Municipal District	<b>192,885</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>266,493</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>159,462</b>
Parking Permits	<b>46,165</b>
Parking Fines	<b>236,886</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>1,578,025</b>



## Organisational Development and Financial Matters

### 1. HR and Corporate Services

#### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in August:

- Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator
- Business Advisor

#### Employee Numbers

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



## Access to Information

### F.O.I. Requests

August 2022: 7	August 2021: 8
Jan – August 2022: 53	Jan – August 2021: 60

### Ombudsman Requests

August 2022: 6	August 2021: 5
January – August 2022: 25	January – August 2021: 17

### Press Releases

August 2022 - 14

## Register of Electors

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage wrote to the councillors on the 31 August advising them of the provisions of Part 3 of the Electoral Reform Act and the modernisation of the electoral register. He has signalled to them that it is planned to commence the legislation in October.

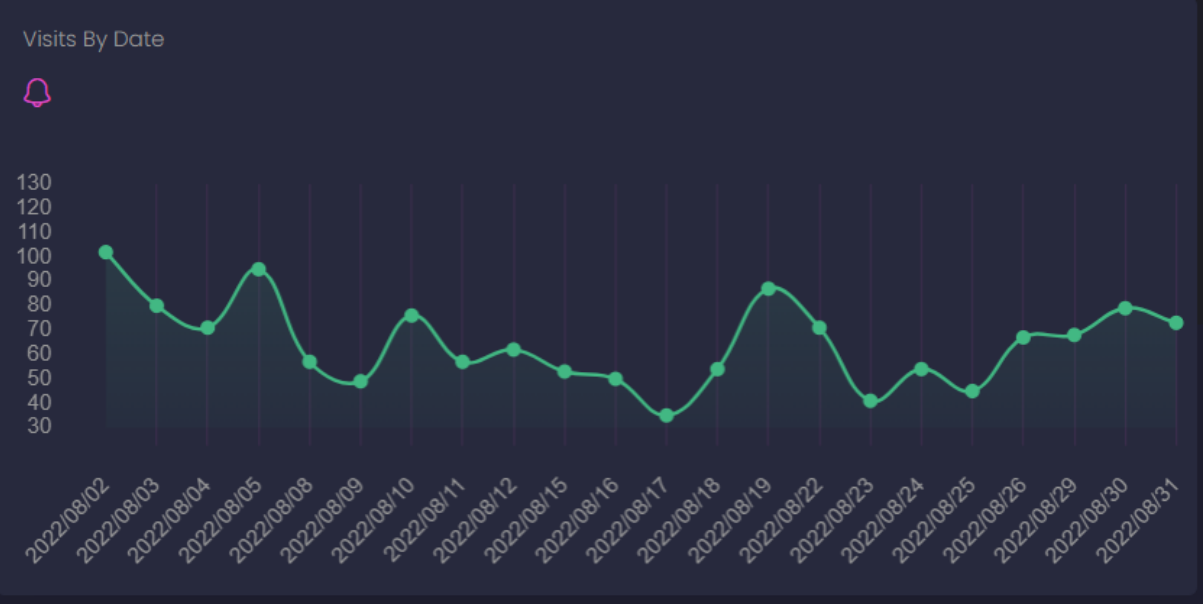
The new [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) website is nearing completion with final decisions being made on content. Testing of the site has been ongoing over the last number of weeks.

Over the next few weeks we have a challenging schedule of work with a view to going live on the 10<sup>th</sup> October.

## Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	11,041	Motor Taxation	1,734
No. of Emails	1,209	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,937
No. of Elected Members Emails	64	Social Housing Applications	31
CRM Cases	491		

Total in person visits for August 2022 – 1426.





## 2. I.C.T.

### Blended Working

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

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

### IT Helpdesk

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

### Implementation of ePlanning

- Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- Residential Zoned Land Tax analysis on-going. All datasets have been collected and post processing has begun.
- Final preparation of the County Development Plan (2022 - 2028) maps are in production with a proposed published date of October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Review of submissions for the Ballynagran Small Grant Scheme has commenced.

### Business Systems/Applications Development

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

### Customer Service Delivery

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



## eServices

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

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



## 2. Financial

### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st AUGUST 2022							
	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	21,811,866	34,438,754	63%	(25,440,411)	(39,943,965)	64%	(3,628,545)
Road Transport & Safety	13,040,552	22,204,016	59%	(8,156,883)	(15,347,052)	53%	4,883,670
Water Services	3,396,244	5,394,788	63%	(4,145,438)	(6,561,262)	63%	(749,194)
Development Management	8,040,768	12,355,595	65%	(4,529,238)	(6,872,547)	66%	3,511,530
Environmental Services	7,757,182	12,130,078	64%	(962,055)	(2,083,134)	46%	6,795,127
Recreation and Amenity	6,245,598	8,498,513	73%	(1,145,073)	(1,148,299)	100%	5,100,525
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	952,017	1,566,840	61%	(455,289)	(809,228)	56%	496,728
Miscellaneous Services	7,249,348	10,846,102	67%	(6,145,172)	(9,033,954)	68%	1,104,175
Central Management Charges	13,280,863	20,213,476	66%	(771,125)	(1,000,000)	77%	12,509,738
Local Government Fund				(8,712,605)	(13,068,907)	67%	(8,712,605)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(21,286,543)	(31,929,814)	67%	(21,286,543)
	<b>81,774,438</b>	<b>127,648,162</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>(81,749,832)</b>	<b>(127,798,162)</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>24,606</b>

### 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 August 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st AUGUST 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/08/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,706,643	39,407,545	(28,115,479)	(364,000)	24,634,710
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	7,005,062	(3,682,875)	373,289	(32,011,377)
Water Services	(10,436,363)	154,920	(386,737)	(35,000)	(10,703,180)
Development Management	(25,225,375)	2,564,996	(6,244,955)	(450,000)	(29,355,334)
Environmental Services	743,438	2,854,962	(2,447,655)	(311,250)	839,495
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	2,319,665	(317,662)	(96,588)	2,352,034
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	41,979	(6,000)	(197,500)	(1,605,284)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	3,334,366	(6,670,801)	553,802	(21,608,457)
	<b>(76,741,477)</b>	<b>57,683,494</b>	<b>(47,872,163)</b>	<b>(527,248)</b>	<b>(67,457,393)</b>



## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st AUGUST 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/08/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	6,342,375	31,652,285	(94,966)	(992,388)	(1,543,696)	35,363,609	(21,401,232)	13,962,378	1,660,703	63%
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	11,867,438	0	(19,708)	0	14,685,257	(11,160,499)	3,524,758	0	76%
Housing Loans	446,170	1,346,158	0	0	0	1,792,328	(1,543,933)	248,395	0	86%

Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022

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

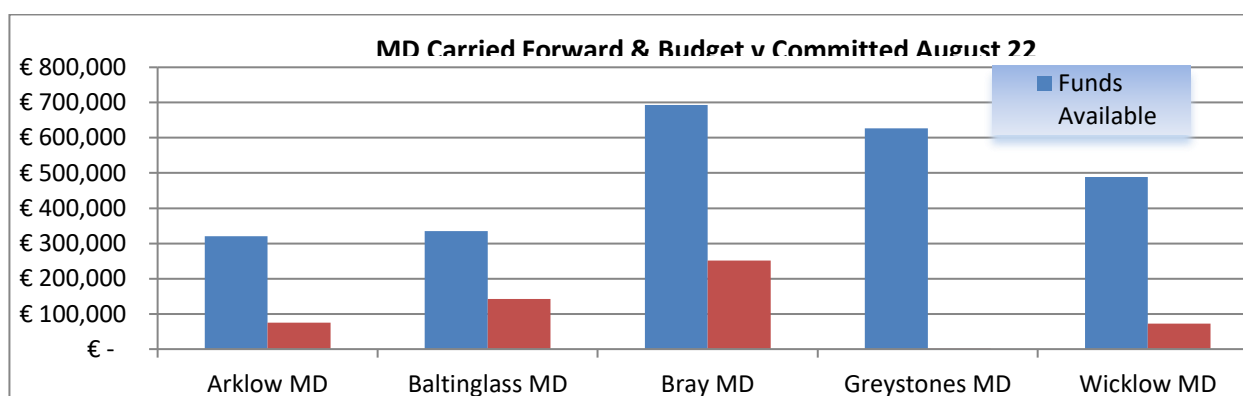
Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	3,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	31,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	7,000	9,500	10,000	13,000	67,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	4,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	56,000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





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

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	75,192	244,928
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	142,412	192,693
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	251,756	441,727
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	1,448	625,275
Wicklow MD	246,816	241,649	488,465	72,699	415,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,079,046</b>	<b>1,384,850</b>	<b>2,463,896</b>	<b>543,507</b>	<b>1,920,389</b>



## Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 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 March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

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



## 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
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>€56,705,032</b>	<b>€11,312,089</b>



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
	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>€59,816,421</b>	<b>€11,670,872</b>