



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

E N D L E S S O P P O R T U N I T I E S



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This month:

Good News for New Wicklow LEADER Programme

Wicklow stands to benefit from a huge range of project thanks to the latest Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) approved recently by the EU.

Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan for the period 2023 to 2027 will deliver a package of almost €10 billion to Rural Ireland.

LEADER is a key part of the CAP plan, and a new LEADER programme can now be developed over the coming months.

LEADER is a rural development programme co-funded by the EU which operates a locally led, bottom-up approach to meeting the needs of rural communities and businesses. The LEADER programme supports private enterprises and community groups in rural areas.

Launch of Wicklow Naturally Farm to Fork Trails

Farm to fork trails have been launched as part of the Wicklow Naturally food promotion campaign.

The launch 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.

From fine dining in historic houses, vegetable growing in walled gardens, traditional farms producing Wicklow beef and lamb, to innovative producers, brewers, distilleries and even a winery, Wicklow has much to offer. With a variety of experiences such as afternoon teas, cookery classes, foraging tours and chocolate making classes, there really is something for everyone.

The Farm to Fork Trails have been developed and curated by Wicklow Naturally - Wicklow's Food and Drinks network. 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.



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Housing

Housing Needs Assessment

Wicklow County Council are currently out a social housing assessment in accordance with section 21 of the Housing Miscellaneous provisions Act 2009.

The assessment is a review of all approved applicants on Wicklow County Councils housing list at given date 3/9/2021 - The housing section have written to all the relevant housing applicants who have been approved for social housing prior to 3/9/2021 using the current contact information that is on file.

Each applicant is required to complete a form and return it with any supporting documentation on or before 7th October 2022 – failure to do so could result in persons being removed from Wicklow County Councils social housing waiting list. (Every effort will be made to avoid this happening)

There is dedicated email address for any queries on any of the above e hna@wicklowcoco.ie

Social Housing Support

	September 2022	September 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4570	4470
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	210	254
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2599	2386
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	16
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	29	31

Allocation of Social Housing

	September 2022	September 2021
Wicklow County Council	16	21
Approved Housing Bodies	22	33

Social Housing Stock

	September 2022	September 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,797	4,654
Total weekly rental accrual	314,901.11	305,526.86
Arrears	2,769,253.66	2,862,880.65



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
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Schemes on Site	units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
Three Trouts Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status



Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 complete – tender documents being prepared
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Retendered, with Department for approval.
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	Part 8 received. Site start during Q4 2022
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5

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	18 Delivered, remaining 2 Units Scheduled 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	Delivered 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	188	30 Units Delivered Q2-Q3, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q4 2022	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	42	23 Delivered, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q4 2022	CALF

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

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,299,375 (2022 budget) €1,085,000.00 spent to date



› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 (2022 budget) (€636,000.00 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 11 th October)	243

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	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. Vesting Order being prepared – newspaper advert to appear shortly.
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5 Priory Way, Delgany	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. Vesting Order being prepared – newspaper advert to appear shortly.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. Council tenant now in situ.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Notice to Treat now served. Notice of Entry will follow.
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 st 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 th of October.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing due 18 th October. However purchase by agreement with Receiver is underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO confirmed 12 th April. Confirmation newspaper ad 26 th April. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. House in possession of WCC since 3 rd August 2022. Refurbishment work to follow.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 th of June. Compensation now agreed. Contracts being exchanged.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 th of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 15 th September 2022
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 16 th September 2022.



41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	CPO confirmed. Receiver in contact with Council with a view to purchase by agreement. Our Valuer has inspected the house and is preparing his report.
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Further long-term vacant properties are currently being identified for future batches of CPOs.

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

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

Croí Cónaithe (Towns)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Infill Sites

- Blackhills - Two 3 bed semi-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. 17 of those installations were complete as of 11th of October. 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

Local Authority Home loans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
72	25

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	September 2022
Applications Received	381	6
Completed	93	1
Declined	263	2
Ongoing	25	25

Homeless figures for September 2022

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/09/2022	Year To Date	As at 30/09/2021
No of New Presentations	50	329	18
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	17	8
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	15	158	9
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	35	172	14
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	13	4
No. of Children	18	282	18



NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	15	124	8
Family Circumstances	18	103	9
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	9	0
Mental Health	3	8	3
Risk of Homelessness	0	21	6
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	10	0
Addiction Issues	7	18	0
DV/DA	8	30	0
Medical Issues	0	5	0
Overcrowding	1	9	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	11	45	0
ASB:	2	5	1
Rough Sleeping*	2	9	1
Sofa Surfing*	7	33	3
Staying with Family*	7	54	7
Staying with Friends*	2	17	3

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/09/2022	
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	22	28	21	8	4	5	1	3



Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	16	18	7	1	5	2	1

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, 410 households (304 families & 101 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 30th September 2022. (178 homeless cases, 223 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.

All of the apartments in the hub are now occupied.

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. 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 2 further allocation will take place before the end of 2022. 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 and this will be discussed at the next LTACC to be held in October 2022.

Capital Programme

Ballinteskin – 3 houses	Contractor on site
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Stage 2 approval received. Pre part V111 discussions underway.
Ballinteskin Extension	Contractor on site – Family in the process of moving to allow for works to be completed.

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 14th October the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,125 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows -

- Arklow MD 153 No.
 - Baltinglass MD 177 No.
 - Bray MD 526 No.
 - Greystones MD 142 No.
 - Wicklow MD 127 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 14th October we will have housed 127 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

Community Centres Investment Fund

County Wicklow has received funding of €116,520.75 as part of the Community Centres Investment Fund, details of which were announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D. on 12th October 2022.

The new Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) will support groups in every county to carry out refurbishments and improvements of their local community facility. The funding will see improvements to community centres, GAA clubs, parish halls, youth centres, men's sheds and facilities used by our elderly.

Funding has been awarded to the following groups under Category 1 of the Community Centres Investment Fund:

- Askanagap Community Development Association - €24,900.00
- Ballinacor Community Project - €25,000.00
- Ballywaltrim Community Centre Company - €18,032.20
- Nockan Developments Wicklow - €25,000.00
- Rathnew Community Centre CLG - €23,588.55

Arts

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (LLPPS 4)

The final presentation of performances under Strand 4 of LLPPS saw live music events by primarily Wicklow based musicians and singers held across a variety of locations across Co. Wicklow including Baltinglass, Dunlavin, Blessington, Rathdrum, Greystones, Bray, Calary, Tinahely and Arklow.

Strategic Projects 2023

External adjudicators Valerie Bistany, Director of the Irish Writers Centre; Eamon Maxwell, Art Curator/Advisor, and Karan Thompson, KTCL recently assessed the applications for Strategic Projects Award 2023. Seven out of the twenty-three applications were selected to the value of €89,995 for 2023.

Culture Night 2022

Culture Night 2022 was a huge success with circa 3,000 people attending our 34 events across 11 locations in County Wicklow. Wicklow Arts Office worked with 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 the county.



Wicklow Artist Salon

The first of a series of Salon events takes place in the Mermaid Arts Centre theatre on Tuesday 18th October at 7.30pm. The events are designed to provide artists with opportunities for engagement, discussion and collaboration.

Artists Connect

Artists Connect seeks to support artists across all art forms who are either from, or resident in the County Wicklow, to connect, share and learn from each other. The fourth Artist Connect blog entry was contributed by Philip St John whose plays include the international award-winning Maxine, Temptress (the rights of which have been sold for a movie), and The Sylvia, which was the centrepiece of Dublin's Collaborations Festival and toured Italy in translation. Philip's short fiction has been published in New Irish Writing and journals abroad and shortlisted for major awards.

Music Programmes for Older Persons

Wicklow Arts Office are partnering with Music Network to deliver the return of the Teaching Residency. Residents from county Wicklow aged 55 and over, will be invited to take part over eight weeks from November 2022 to March 2023. The focus of this programme is on supporting participants to return to playing an instrument and to enjoy the pleasure of group music-making. Tuition is free of charge and instruments can be provided if necessary for the duration of the project.

Children & Youth Programmes

Wicklow Arts Office has curated a new Halloween Primary School Creative Programme in Rathdrum featuring workshops such as mask making with 'White Doodle Art', Bodhrán drumming with 'Bodhrán Buzz' and lantern weaving with 'Wicklow Willow'. These activities will engage students within school hours and on school grounds for maximum participation and engagement. The programme will culminate in a mini parade through Parnell Memorial Park on Thursday 27th October during lunch time - over 300 students will come together and showcase their creations.

Per Cent for Art Commission

Wicklow Arts Office recently launched an open call for proposals for a site specific Per Cent for Art Commission to the value of €100,000 for the N81 Corridor at the realigned Knockroe Bends. Wicklow Arts Office is seeking proposals for an imaginative and contemporary sculptural work which capitalises on the natural beauty of the landscape and the built environment of the many historic towns and villages along the N81 route.

The N81 Knockroe Bends is located on the N81 south of Hollywood Cross at the junction with the local road L8314. The project consists of a realignment of the N81 over a distance of 0.85km in County Wicklow.

Library

New Aughrim Library

Aughrim Library Part 8 Process was officially adopted by Arklow Municipal District at AMD meeting of September 13. The final steps are now taking place, ahead of full drawings being prepared to go to tender for construction.

Culture Night in Wicklow Libraries

Culture Night events took place in 7 libraries on Friday Night 23rd September ; these were nicely spread across the county and included Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Carnew, Dunlavin, Rathdrum and Wicklow. Partnering with The Arts Office meant that people of all ages could enjoy a very exciting evening where they experienced mosaic making, creating a personal Ex Libris book page, painting, candle making, felting, willow weaving and other hands-on creative crafts. Audiences in Dunlavin were treated to an evening of singing, music and cookery. Wicklow Town patrons enjoyed set dancing, contemporary dance and podcasting and Carnew children met Reggie the baby dinosaur after quite a wait – this was finished off with an evening of Poetry with local poet Lorcan Brennan.



Pictured is Aria with her Willow woven fish at Dunlavin Library.



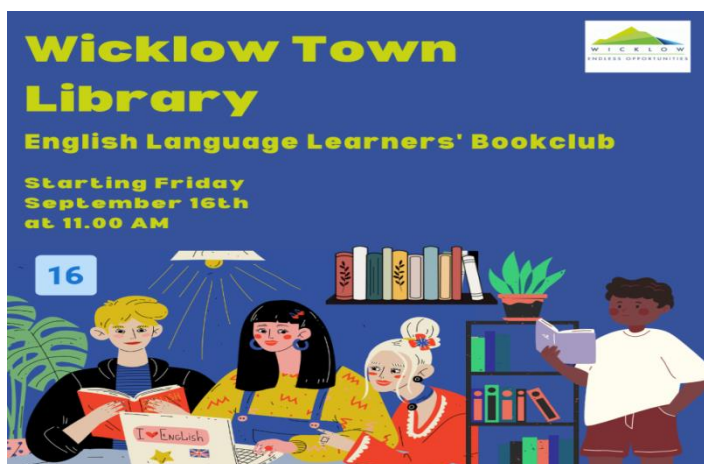
A group of people in Arklow library working on their Ex Libris Book Plates and the Boat Dancers at Wicklow Town Library.



English Language Learners Book Club at Wicklow Town Library



Wicklow Town library launched their first ever Book Club for English Language Learners on Friday 16th September. This Book Club is aimed at adults learning English as a second language. Attendees all get to read the same short story, this will be discussed at the next session on the 30th September and participants also receive worksheets to consolidate their learning.



This book club will take place every second Friday morning at 11.00 am and new members are always welcome.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Wicklow County Council Library Service recently launched a new support for primary schools in the county. This resource, TTRockstars is designed to offer children a fun and interactive way to engage with learning their times tables. Confidence with Times Tables is proven to be hugely beneficial to children as the encounter all other mathematical concepts. The Times Tables Rock Stars app has already been set up with 35 schools in the county. This online app allows children to work at their own level but does succeed in the students being driven to improve their recall of their times tables and this impacts very positively on the maths ability.

A Way Home – An Slí Abhaile



In celebration of Children's Book Festival, Wicklow's libraries are presenting an exhibition for children, showcasing the work of a collection of award winning contemporary Irish illustrators. Discover the magic of Halloween at Siamsa Tíre's Samhain exhibition 'A Way Home – An Slí Abhaile', touring Wicklow Libraries this October and November. Combining imaginative illustrations and ancient folklore with a modern-day fairy tale, this is an experience that will delight children, families and those of us who are still children at heart.

Dyslexia Online Webinar

On Wednesday the 5th of October, Wicklow County Council Library Service in association with Healthy Ireland, hosted a 2 hour webinar with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland. This talk was aimed at the parents and guardians of Dyslexic Children but was also attended by staff from a number of Wicklow Schools. Topics covered included mitigating the effects of Dyslexia on self-esteem and wellbeing; promoting reading for pleasure; assistive technology and navigating school and homework. Feedback from the event was effusive, with one attendee emailing in to say "Thanks for the content and resources, the session was really great and helped me to get the courage I needed to have my daughter assessed." This talk is part of the Wicklow County Council Library Service Children's Book Festival, which this year is focusing on engaging with children attending literacy groups in school.

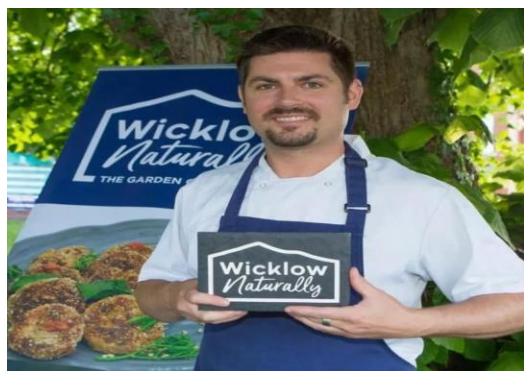
Nurturing Your Child's Emotional Well-Being 8th November online at 8pm

Emotional well-being is the capacity to understand, express and manage our own emotions in helpful ways. Our children have faced so many challenges to their emotional well-being over the past 2 years, so it is now more important than ever to support and nurture it.

This talk will outline some practical suggestions to help parents to do so, including how to support the development of emotional regulation. Emotional regulation is a key skill for well-being and resilience in young people and is also vital in order for them to develop their potential in many other areas.



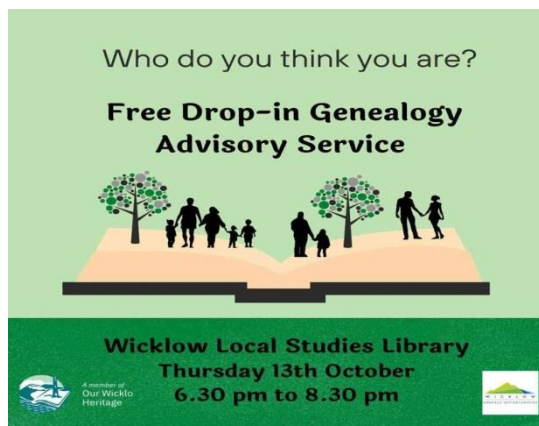
October Feast Talks and Demonstrations



Chef, Tadgh is looking forward to welcoming you to the first of a series of library talks for the Wicklow Naturally October Feast 2022 . This talk will take place in Arklow Library and the focus will be on Sustainable Eating and The Future of Food. Other library talks will include Bread and Bread Making with Lorraine Aspell from Grá Arán and Ethical Chocolate from Columbia with Lisa Kliner.

Who do you Think You Are? Genealogy Advisory Sessions, Wicklow Library

Wicklow Local Studies are hosting a series of drop in advisory sessions, the first of which will happen on Thursday 13th October 6.30-8.30. Perfect for anyone interested in tracing their family history, a local expert genealogist will be on hand to guide participants through their search, answer family history questions and point people to the right resources. This service is provided on a first-come-first-serve basis and no appointment is necessary.



Bray Library Literary Festival

Bray Library hosted Bray Literary Festival to celebrate Culture Night this year. The first half of the evening filled the library with poetry and songs remembering the forgotten women of the decade of centenaries. Imogen Gunner and Catherine Ann Cullen recounted stories of Irish women from the 1920s. We then heard from Supriya Dhaliwal, who read poetry about an Irishwoman Norah Richards - known as Lady Gregory of the Punjab; and Emily Cooper who read works remembering Dora Maar a muse of Picasso, and artist in her own right. Each reading was punctuated with harp music and song.

The second part of the night was dedicated to the shortlistees from the Bray Literary Festival Writing Competition. Readings took place from the shortlisted writers and poets. Jennifer McMahon took first place for short fiction, as well as another shortlisting, with two engrossing and thought-provoking stories. Judge David Butler said of her work, that in a short piece of writing she created a convincing and tangible world. A wonderful, enriching evening was had by all.

Pollinator Pod Exhibition at Arklow Library



This beautiful exhibition is the result of 10 weeks of work by TY Students from St. Mary's College and Sunbeam House Services who collaborated with professional artists to create this amazing body of work.

Students used their phones to record and upload sightings of pollinators; they then designed and made these ceramic pollinator pods with the needs of ladybirds and bees in mind. This important and relevant project came about with the support of a grant from Wicklow County Council. Students gained much from the experience as they learned about insect habitats, pollinators and how to work with ceramics from working with clay through to having their final pieces fired and ready to include in the exhibition.

October.

This exhibition runs in Arklow Library until the 24th of



The GAA Health & Wellbeing initiative is to launch in Co. Wicklow during World Mental Health Month. The 11 Healthy GAA Clubs across the County will be presented with their Health & Wellbeing Board on Friday 14th October in Ballinakill. This initiative aims to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing supports through the promotion of the 24/7 support and crisis helplines. Mental Health Ireland has worked in coproducing this initiative alongside the GAA Health and Wellbeing in Wicklow, Regional Offices of Suicide Prevention, Healthy Ireland - Wicklow, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, HSE Mental Health Engagement and Recovery and Wicklow Mental Health Association.

HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORTS

#supportsinwicklow

THE FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are simple actions you can do in your everyday life to feel good and function well.

Mental Health Ireland's aim is to promote positive mental health, wellbeing and recovery to all individuals and communities in Ireland.

CONNECT

Connect with the people around you at home, work, school and in your local community.

BE ACTIVE

Step outside. Go for a walk. Cycle. Garden. Dance. Discover a physical activity you enjoy and suits your lifestyle.

TAKE NOTICE

Savour the moment whether you are walking, eating or talking. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling.

KEEP LEARNING

Try something new. Re-discover an old interest. Take on new responsibilities. Fix a bike, learn how to cook your favourite meal.

GIVE

Do something nice for a friend or a stranger. Thank someone. Volunteer. Join a community group.

www.mentalhealthireland.ie

Childline

24 hour free helpline: **1800 666 666**
www.childline.ie to chat online anytime

Childline is Ireland's only 24 hour active listening service for young people up to the age of 18.

SAMARITANS

24 hour free helpline: **116 123**
jo@samaritans.ie www.samaritans.ie

text about it

50808

24 hours free text: **Text HELLO to 50808**
Free and anonymous

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

24 hour free helpline: **1800 77 88 88**
counselling@drcc.ie www.drcc.ie for live webchat and resources & more

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre - preventing the harm and healing the trauma of all forms of sexual violence. 24 hour helpline for free & confidential support.

TeonLine IRELAND

24 hour free helpline: **1800 833 634**

TeonLine is a national active listening service for children and young people up to the age of 18 in Ireland.

Women's Aid

24 hour free national helpline: **1800 341 900**
www.womensaid.ie for online message support service

Provides a listening ear, practical information support to women experiencing domestic abuse. Multi-language support. Free and confidential.

Emergency Services

tel: **112 or 999**

The Eircode for this location is:

Y14 X892

www.officaticwallowgaa.ie/supportsinwicklow

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

European Week of Sport



Took place 23rd – 30th September. To celebrate Wicklow SRP held a 3K Neon Run and a Sunset Skate experience on Bray Seafont. It was a fantastic evening with 280 people taking part.

Men on the Move

Our Free eight week Men on the Move programme started Monday 29th August. The programme ran twice a week Monday & Thursday mornings @ 10.30 – 11.30am in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership tutor Tom Thornton delivered a variety of sessions through-out the 8 weeks. These



sessions included cardiovascular and resistance exercises. Due to popularity this programme has become an ongoing programme.

Female Only Coach Education FAI Programme

This was a one week female coach education programme in partnership with the FAI. The programme started Monday 19th September online finishing with a face to face practical day in Arklow United F.C. 13 women took part in the programme. Each participant worked closely with the FAI coaches which upskilled them to a FAI National D Coaching Licence.



Beach Volleyball



The six week programme started Thursday 8th September in South Beach Brittas Bay. Coach Miriam Gormally from Volleyball Ireland delivered the programme and 10 women took part. We are now sourcing an indoor venue to continue the programme thought-out the winter months.

Pickleball Arklow

Our Pickleball Programme in Arklow is now running as an ongoing booking in our Sports Hub in Coral Leisure Arklow. Wicklow SRP purchased two Pickleball nets, eight bats and ball. Sinead Nolan who was a participant in the Pickleball programme has taken the lead in this. There are 10 people taking part each week.



Learn to Cycle



Targeting the Bray Community, this 6 week programme started on Tuesday 20th September and will continue until 25th October. 12 children who are not able to cycle have engaged with the tutors with support from their parents to learn the skills of balance, turning and braking leading to cycling. Most of the children have a dyspraxia or other diagnosis.

Activator Poles

The 6 weeks activator poles sessions finished on 10th October. There were ten participants. Wicklow SRP is looking at keeping the programme going for another block of 6 weeks.

Badminton Ireland Schools Programme

Wicklow SRP in conjunction with Badminton Ireland ran a training course for primary school teachers in County Wicklow. This leader of the future and inclusion course was held in An Tóchar GAA in Roundwood. Ten different primary school with sixteen teachers attended the course. Each school will receive a kitbag with Badminton rackets, nets and shuttles to practise in their own schools. The teachers will transfer their new skills to the children in the schools. It is hoped to run a schools blitz in the future between in each school that participated in the programme.

Training & Education

<u>Course</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>
Safeguarding 2	Online	4 th October at 6:30pm
Safeguarding 1	Online	11 th October at 6:30pm
Autism in Sport	Online	12 th October at 6:30pm – 9pm
Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness	Online	Wednesday 26 th October at 6:30pm – 8pm

Programmes coming up:

Couch to 5K

This is a FREE six week online walk to jog programme for the beginners starting Monday 24th October. Each week participants will receive a motivating email and their walk / run plan for that week. Their Goal:



At the end of the six weeks there will be a 5K Virtual Santa Dash for you to complete. Once you have completed our Santa Dash you will receive your Santa Dash medal and be super proud of your achievement.

Active for Life 55+

A community based physical activity programme aimed at clients of an Occupational Therapist in the Wicklow Town and Arklow areas. This programme will consist of walking with activator poles, chair yoga and intro to gym sessions. The programme will improve overall energy, health and wellbeing. The programme is starting Thursday 27th October and will run for seven weeks.

Youth Boxing Programme

A six week boxing programme with an educational piece included. This programme is with the youth project group in Ballywaltrim Centre, Fassaroe and in conjunction with Bray Sports Promotion Unit.

Table Tennis Roadshow for schools and clubs

Jing Yi Graham from Table Tennis Ireland will be providing a table tennis schools roadshow to schools in the Arklow area on 10th & 11th November. There will be a table tennis exhibition skills session in the Arklow Sports Centre on 10th November @7pm. The table tennis clubs in County Wicklow are invited the exhibition evening.

SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONA PROGRAMME (SICAP)

- Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership recently applied to the government's International Protection Integration Fund which supports the integration of International Protection Applicants/asylum seekers. The types of projects applied for include: Facilitation of additional adult English language classes; Supporting pre-school children's integration into the local community; Supporting eligible individuals into employment; Counselling sessions; Meditation workshops and craft classes; English classes for teenagers. Both companies are currently waiting to hear if they have been successful.
- Both of the Wicklow Partnerships are on track to fully achieve on their 2022 SICAP KPIs as originally set out and will not be seeking a reduction in targets from Pobal.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Consultations: Climate Action Plan; Climate Conversation; Volunteers Experience of Volunteer Management; Digital Public Services; Climate Change in Rural Ireland – Older Person's Perspective; Local Property Tax; Wellbeing in Ireland; Challenges Facing Irish Mental Health Services; Mental Health & the Workplace Survey; Women in Rural Ireland Survey; Roadmap for Social Inclusion Mid-term Review; Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan; InPlace NTMK Online Focus Group; Coastwatch Annual Autumn Survey; Baseline Data About Social Enterprise in Ireland.

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Training & Workshops: SJI PPN Stakeholders Training; KWETB Digital Skills for Older People; Arches Recovery College Program; Safe Talk; Entrepreneurship Course for People with Disabilities; Start Your Own Social Enterprise Course; Marketing Masterclass Series; Equality & Human Rights in the Public Service; Engage – National Men’s Health Training.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Relove Fashion Competition; Volunteer Ireland Awards; St Stephen’s Green Trust – Family Matters; 2022 Community Covid Re-start Grant; Patagonia Environmental Grants Programme; Healthy Eating Project; Meet & Code Fund; Visual Artists Workplace Scheme; DAF Scaling Fund for Social Enterprise; Wicklow Arts Office 2023 Strategic Projects Award Scheme; Youth Micro Grants Scheme; Artist in the Community Scheme; Community Biodiversity Grants; Eurospar Community Awards; Our EU Story Awards; Conservations Advice Pilot Scheme; Enhanced Community Centre Fund.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie for further information on above.



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 the transfer of Title is nearing completion.

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 was presented to the elected members at their October meeting and a response is being prepared in respect of the points raised.

The review will be presented to the Town Teams over the next number of weeks and it is proposed to have a plenary session with all Town Teams at the end of November when the Town Regeneration Officer is in place.

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.

Blessington Town Team

At the most recent Blessington Town Team meeting held on 27th of September last, updates on the following projects were given to the town team members.

- Progress on the Blessington Inner Relief Road.
- An update on the Towns First Policy.
- The Blessington RRDF.
- Progress on the Blessington CCTV scheme.
- The ongoing work of the Tidy Towns group.

The next meeting is due to take place on the 29th November 2022



Arklow Town Team

The Arklow Pottery Online project is complete and will be launched in the coming weeks. Arklow Town Team received €20,000 from the Heritage Council, Community Grants Scheme for the project to help people access and engage with the heritage of Arklow Pottery, through a digital resource of first-hand stories and techniques, and creating an interactive online catalogue of pieces, images and videos. An Arklow Pottery Trail will also be launched as part of the project, which connects seven locations where you can view Arklow Pottery collections and memorabilia. A special family friendly Activity Sheet ensures even the youngest explorer will enjoy the trail, with a fun activity to complete at each location.

Ms. Christine Flood gave a presentation to the Town Team on the recent review of the Town Team.

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.

Wicklow Town Team

Wicklow Town Team was successful in achieving funding through the 2021 Town & Village Scheme for a project to reconnect Wicklow Town Centre and the South Quay through its network of laneways. The project seeks to reanimate and revitalise these important central links between South Quay, Harbour and Port, Main Street and Market Square through lighting and some large scale public artwork. The theme throughout the project will have a local and maritime focus.

This Placemaking Project intends to maximise on the assets and the potential of Wicklow Town creating brighter and more colourful public spaces that are pleasant and attractive to visit and pass through.

The Wicklow Town Team will work in partnership with Wicklow Municipal District to implement the project.

The Annual General Meeting of Wicklow Town Team will take place on Wednesday 12th October.



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

Irish Mid-Amateur Golf Championship

Wicklow County Council was delighted to be associated with the Irish Mid-Amateur Golf Championships which was held in Blainroe Golf Club in Wicklow. The event was held in September. The Championship attracted elite golfers from Ireland and abroad and provide Wicklow to showcase its beauty. Wicklow Naturally sponsored two hampers packed with locally sourced food and drink products for the event.

EcoTrail Wicklow:

September was dedicated at preparing EcoTrail Wicklow which was hosted on Saturday the 24th of September. See below updates on the event.

- 1200 people registered for the event, 25% of those were foreign nationals, representing 41 countries. People travelled from as far as Singapore, South Africa, or the West Coast of America.
- The Weekend events started on Friday evening with registrations, live press conference, and neon run organised by Wicklow Sports Partnership.
- Saturday's races started at 7:30am with glorious weather. The following 14 hours were filled with excitement, fun and drama with our 80k winner completing the course in less than 7hours. The video of the winners finish line interview reached more than 70,000 people on Facebook alone. Highlights of the day can be viewed on social media.
- The Journey to EcoTrail Wicklow mini documentary hosted by Siobhan O'Connor was completed with all three episodes now available. The videos are dedicated to attracting people to EcoTrail Wicklow and Wicklow in general.
- We had a team of photographers, who managed to snap some incredible photos along the course, showcasing the stunning outdoor playground Wicklow offers. Participants were given access to the photos to share on social media, and some of the best images are available on https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w06rG82nx_A8UFGZ8g9ntWUSki-KmJQD?usp=sharing



Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

A tender has been published on eTenders to formulate, develop, and illustrate options for a Masterplan for Wicklow County Campus at Clermont recommending the best use and future development potential for lands on the campus having full regard to its heritage sensitivities and historical context.

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

The tender closed on 10th October 2022, with two valid tenders received which will now be evaluated. It is expected that a consultant will be appointed in early November with the contract due to commence before December.

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.

An Environmental Report and a Natura Impact Statement have been prepared. It is anticipated that these will go to public consultation in November. The consultant's team are due to address the members of Wicklow County Council at the earliest opportunity

Outdoor Performance Space

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. Site meetings have taken place with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. The project team continue to consult with experts in this industry on the different styles



of canopy options available. 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 involved the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices which is now complete. 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.

A resolution was signed in respect of the disposal of 0.54 hectares (1.33 acre) site on Mill Road/South Beach to the HSE for the development of a Primary Health Care Centre.

A disposal notice was brought before the Elected Members on 3rd October, 2022 and a Resolution signed for the disposal of 0.4047 hectares (1 acre) or thereabouts of land on School Road, Lugduff, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow to Automatic Plastics Limited.

A claim has been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development to draw down the funds which were approved for the purchase of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew.

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:



1. 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.
2. The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
6. Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR
7. 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 in 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.

Wicklow County Council is supporting the formation of a working group of businesses interested in becoming part of the supply chain of these significant projects.

Wicklow County Council is also working with education providers to assess and address the skills requirements.

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

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subscriptions and it is proposed that Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

James Burke Associates (JBA) has been appointed to review The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2018-2021 and to develop an Action Plan which will entail the following steps:

- Review the original; strategy objectives and proposed actions and Identify progress on each
- Take feedback from key stakeholders to extract their views on strengths and opportunities
- Identify other domestic and international food initiatives which may be relevant
- Review any appropriate Wicklow initiatives which may influence the Food strategy going forward e.g., plans to improve production units and kitchens, food poverty reports
- Identify a future roadmap which will be underpinned by Climate Action and Sustainability.

An event will be held on Tuesday 25th October in the Glenview Hotel with Wicklow Naturally members seeking their input into the Strategy.

The Farm to Fork Trails continues as guided and self-guided tours throughout County Wicklow with the aim of showcasing the best of Wicklow food and drinks producers and providers. It is hoped that the initiative will continue to enhance the reputation of County Wicklow as a great destination for quality food and drink.

OctoberFeast is a celebration of Wicklow Naturally's members with events running throughout October. The launch of the event took place on Saturday 1st October at Powerscourt Distillery, Enniskerry which was held in conjunction with Powerscourt Distillery Harvest Festival

<https://wicklownaturally.ie/events/feed-your-appetite-with-wicklow-naturallys-october-feast-2022/#:~:text=Join%20us%20on%20Saturday%2C%20October,wicklownaturally.ie%2Fevents%2F>.

Wicklow Naturally will be taking a stand at the upcoming Gifted event to be held in the RDS. Gifted is Ireland's biggest and best Christmas craft fair, featuring 100's of makers, designers and artisan food producers.

Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

The Skills Taskforce is now up and running with two new members representing the Film and Renewables industries. A Food representative will be confirmed at the next meeting.



A Request for Tender document is being prepared, with advice from the Skills Taskforce to engage consultants to carry out a skills audit to identify existing skills and competencies and future skills required to support economic development in the County and also to produce a Skills Strategy for the county.

Greenways Update

Arklow Shillelagh Greenway

The route options are being revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. The role of independent agronomist will be appointed in the very near future. Once the Independent Agronomist is appointed, the Agronomist's details will be communicated to Landowners.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

The closing date for receipt of tenders to take this project to planning stage was extended to 20th September.

A tender assessment has been carried out and three tenders were forwarded to TII for further evaluation. Once the evaluation is back with Wicklow County Council we can proceed to appoint a tenderer, subject to standstill periods etc. It is expected that the project (Environmental Assessments) will commence in November.

Blessington eGreenway

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála. No update has been received yet from An Bord Pleanála on a likely decision date. It is still anticipated that an oral hearing will be required by ABP.



2. Local Enterprise Office

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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value)	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	-24/ €737,080
- Measure 1	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-7/ €12,286.95
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters			

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

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	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

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022

OCTOBER 2022



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

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 22-23
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	1121

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	52

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	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



September 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.
- The 'You're the Business' national campaign was launched by Google, in partnership with the LEOs nationwide, and Enterprise Ireland, and offers free online training in digital skills to SMEs
- LEO Wicklow was represented at the National Ploughing Championships in Rathniska on 20th, to 22nd September, 2022.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter business skills training programme has been published on the LEO website. Courses are now open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow. A wide range of courses are on offer from August through to December.

Recently held courses include

- Trading Online Voucher Seminar (8th September)
- Pathway to Start-Up (13th September)
- Tax and VAT for Start-Ups (12th, 14th and 16th September)
- Start Your Own Business (commenced 29th September)
- 'Bookkeeping using Excel' (5th October).



3. Planning and Development

County Development Plan

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council made a new County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (CDP) on Monday 12th September 2022. This plan replaces the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. This plan will have effect from Sunday 23rd October 2022.

- **Healthy Placemaking, Climate Change** and **Economic Opportunity** are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the new plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County.
- This plan also includes new **Town Plans** for the following settlements:- Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough.
- This plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as well as a number of other important appendices.
- As part of the making of the new County Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the Schedule of Tree Preservations Orders have been amended, including the making of additions, deletions and amendments to existing entries. The RPS is included in Appendix 4 of the published County Development Plan. Owners and occupiers of relevant structures have received a separate written notification with regard to this.
- The new plan will be available to view and download from the 23 October 2022 on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage, and are currently consulting with all internal departments and state agencies. It is intended to start pre draft plan public consultation in Q4 2022.



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

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.

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

Mapping has been undertaken and lands identified. The advertisements will be placed in papers week beginning Monday 17th October 2022. The draft map will be published on the Wicklow County Council website on November 1st. Submissions can be made by post, online through the consultation hub and by email. The closing date for submissions will be the 1st January 2023. Submissions will be published on the Wicklow County Council website.

Heritage & Biodiversity

Climate Action: Biodiversity Actions/ Activities

Brittas Bay Conservation project Continuation of conservation measures, including ecological recording & monitoring. A Community Engagement programme of field outings and workshops is also underway running from May-November. Recent events include 31st August Butterfly Identification workshop, 25th September Migrant Bird Walk. On 1st October Dune Clean up community event is scheduled to take place.

Wicklow Barn Owl Project – Over 30 confirmed sightings of Barn Owls for county Wicklow, have now been recorded, a significant increase from 3 at the start of the project. Over 170 potential sites for future nesting boxes have been identified and are being assessed.



Conservation Management Plans for WCC owned land at Bray Head and Wicklow Head: Heritage Office liaising with Bray MD and ALCNature (ecological consultants). Initial site visit to Bray Head was undertaken 7th September.

Pollinator resources –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. Resources made available for Ashford Honey festival on 25th September.

East Coast Nature Reserve Events: Monthly seasonal free public event programme in place in partnership with Bird Watch Ireland at East Coast Nature Reserve. Family ‘Hide & Seek’ event held Sun 18th September. Next event Birds and Feeders on 23rd October.

Climate Action (Built Heritage - Archaeology) -

Community Archaeology Service for County Wicklow

Allocation received through County Heritage Plan Fund from the Heritage Council and WCC for appointment of a part time community archaeology service. A programme is currently underway by De Faoite Archaeology and managed by the Heritage Officer. Part of the programme entails the survey of medieval ecclesiastical sites in Wicklow through a recording template specially developed by the WCC GIS officer. Onsite meetings have been held in September with groups in Roundwood, Kilpipe, Kilmacanogue and Netwownmountkennedy.

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, co-ordinated by Heritage Officer, allocations as follows: Arklow Castle repairs, 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.

Climate Action (Built Heritage – Architecture):

Conservation Management Plan for Clermont: Consultants 7L appointed as part of multi-disciplinary team to provide conservation management advice for natural, built and cultural heritage at Clermont House and campus. Initial meeting held on 12th September. Report due by end of year.

Protected Structures Grants: Projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage underway. BHIS includes 11 projects under a county allocation of €96,000. HSF includes 3 projects; €25,000



towards Russborough Weir Wall repairs; €40,000 for St Matthews Church, Newtownmountkennedy, and €10,000 to vernacular house at Greenan More.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th September 2022	To 30 th September 2021
Received (Valid)	907	1028

A total of 103 valid applications were received during September:

Type of Development	30 th September 2022 -Number Received
Individual Houses	34 (32 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	10
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	02
Other Developments**	54
Total	103

* Large housing development

PRR22/983 Beakonford Ltd, 2nd Phase, 99 Units, Inchanappa South, Ashford

PRR 22/984 Beakonford Ltd, 3rd Phase, 99 Units, Inchanappa South, Ashford

PRR 22/1006 Certain Assets of Dawnhill & Windhill Ltd, 98 Units, Lands at Kilbride, Arklow

PRR22/1054 Bray Property Development Ltd, 49 Apartments, the Former Everest Centre, Castle Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow

**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 87 applications in September,



Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	4
Individual Houses	8 (8 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	75
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	87

Decisions issued between January to September 2022:

	30/09/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	816
Total Number of decisions to grant	683
% Grant Rate	84%
No of applications withdrawn	14

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanála

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



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

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, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	11
Advisory Letters	9
Warning Letters	0
Enforcement Notices	3
Legal Files	0
Closed	16

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

- 3 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)
- 3 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)
- 1 site on appeal to Valuation Tribunal
- €1,814 paid in levies in August

Short-Term Letting

Applications for registration received in 2022	36
Complaints	1
Warning Letters	29
Enforcement Notices	7
Legal proceedings	1
Under Investigation	58



2. Environmental Services

Waste Management

Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of cases closed, resolved or completed	69
No. of Litter Fines issued	7
No. of Waste Management files opened	3
No. of Warning Letters issued	3
No. of Abandoned Cars Notices issued	8
No. of Burning Applications granted	7
No. of Temporary Signs granted	1
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3
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	53
No. of cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	6
Income-Litter	€600.00
Income-Waste Management	€3,300.00

Whitestown Remediation Project

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

The first draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27th November 2020. Following submissions from a number of parties a revised remediation plan, which incorporated requests contained in the submissions, was circulated on the 28th April 2022. Submissions on the revised remediation plan were received and taken on board in the final draft remediation plan which was submitted to the court and consultees at the end of September 2022.



Climate Action

Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing Our Future

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

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development 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 has commenced the planning stage of the development of Wicklow's Climate Action Plan. A tender competition is being run to appoint a consultant to develop a Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and a Climate change Risk Assessment. The deadline for tender responses is 20th October.

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 unit 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.

In advance of the establishment of the Energy Unit WCC has purchased a licence to use an energy management software called Energy Elephant. This will assist in managing the energy usage in all WCC buildings and to identify projects which can be progressed by the Energy Unit through the Pathfinder Programme.

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, car parks and amenities.

EV Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure

Wicklow County Council is collaborating with Easy Go to build on the existing EVCP infrastructure in the County. Municipal District Engineers will work with Easy Go to identify suitable locations for installations.

The Green Team 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 was completed with a great response. Results are being analysed.
- Home Energy Retrofit Information day for Staff was held in September and was well attended.

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

- The first National Sustainable Development Goals Week was marked with two talks for staff on Saving Energy at Home and an Apple Pressing demonstration in Clermont Campus with apples from the orchard in the grounds. The week was also marked with a joint project with the PPN to celebrate some of the work being done by groups in the county which deliver on the goals.
- An application has been submitted to the Regional Waste Management Office for funding to work with Wicklow Naturally to look at better waste segregation practice in the food sector and waste prevention for the sector. One initiative will be promotion of a deposit return scheme for coffee shops.
- Wicklow Secondary Schools have been invited to participate in the Rubbish Film festival with Create Schools based in Clermont. The schools participation is funded by Wicklow County Council. Five schools have registered for the project.
- 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. Further workshops were programmed and delivered for September due to high demand in Bray and Wicklow.
- A travel survey was undertaken with staff and will be used to look at what options can be explored to reduce car dependence for staff.
- 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.
- 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. 30 applications were received from community groups.
- 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 has received 33 team registrations from schools in Wicklow.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Presentations were given at the Eirgrid Energy Roadshow in Arklow and Wicklow.



A one day study tour for SECs with completed EMP's was planned to Dunleer SEC in Co. Louth. The event is an opportunity to learn from a SEC further down the road on delivery of projects and for SEC members in County Wicklow to network

The Energy Master Plan for Enniskerry is now complete.

Work is nearing 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, Greystones, Wicklow and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

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
September 2022	9	8	1	10	8	2

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 2nd September 2022.



Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 1 Water pollution complaints investigated and 2 closed.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints investigated and closed.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) National Monitoring Programme

- 9 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 44 Rivers monitored involving 145 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) River Basin Management

- Water Quality in Ireland Report 2006-2021 published by EPA.
- Over 4000 surface waters and 514 monitored.
- Clean water essential for well-being, livelihood, economy and nature.
- River and lakes are home to hundreds of freshwater species.
- Estuaries and Coastal water rich in marine biodiversity.
- Nearly half of Ireland's surface waters are in an unsatisfactory condition caused by human activities that cause water pollution or habitat degradation.
- 50% Rivers, 69% Lakes, 36% Estuaries and 81% Coastal Waters are good or better.
- Main causes in order of magnitude are run-off from farm yards and land, drainage and barriers in rivers, discharges poorly treated sewage from urban wastewater treatment plants, domestic wastewater treatment system and storm water overflows and run-off from forestry.
- WFD Directive requires that all waters are protected and restored to satisfactory condition by 2027.

Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations.

- 2 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations issued compliance certificate.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations inspected.
- 1 Dry Cleaner installations inspected.

Drinking Water Regulations – Non-exempted Private Supplies

- 30 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and compliant with tested parameters
- 3 Regulated Private Water Supply was monitored with non-compliances with the microbiological parameters.
- 5 Regulated Private Water Supply was monitored with non-compliances with the pH parameters.
- 3 Boil Water Notices were issued in consultation with the HSE and proprietor requested to take remedial action.



Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Bathing Water Regulations

- 16 bathing water samples were taken and tested in September.
- Identified bathing waters - Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North and Clogga Beach were excellent on 5th September.
- Identified bathing waters- Brittas Bay South was poor 5th September and excellent on 8th September. The likely cause of the drop to poor quality was heavy rainfall influenced by septic tank, wastewater and agriculture pressures in the catchment. A bathing prohibition was issued from 7th to 12th September.
- Identified bathing waters- Clogga was good 5th September and excellent on 8th September.
- Other bathing waters- Arklow South, Greystones Cove, Kilcoole, Murrough, Wicklow Harbour South of Bray Harbour were excellent on 5th September. Arklow Cove was sufficient on 5th September and excellent on 8th September. The likely cause of the drop to sufficient quality was heavy rainfall influenced by septic tank and agriculture pressures in the catchment.

Planning & Development

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

Well Grants

- 15 Number of New Applications
- 2 Number of New Wells Granted
- 6 Number of New Pumps Granted
- 10 Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted
- 27 Number of Inspections in advance/after works

Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

On the 19th 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.

Flooding at the Breaches, Kilcoole – two options are now being considered by NPWS for the management of water on their lands.



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 **326 - 2.15%**. 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)	3			1	1	5
Cable Fault (Attend)		1	1		1	3
ESB Required (Attended)	6	3	3	8	8	28
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	1	2	3	1	8
On Hold	1	1	12	1	4	19
Submitted	37	27	68	41	48	221
TMR	7	5	14	4	2	32
Tree cutting required	1		2	1	4	8
Grand Total	57	39	102	59	69	326
Percentage Not Working	1.93%	1.63%	3.06%	2.12%	1.88%	2.15%

	29/08/22	05/09/22	12/09/22	19/09/22	26/09/22	03/10/22	10/10/22
Access Issues (Attend)	4	4	4	4	3	5	5
Cable Fault (Attend)	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
ESB Required (Attended)	34	33	32	28	28	28	28
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Materials required	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
No Supply	9	9	9	8	8	8	8
On Hold	17	17	17	18	18	18	19
Submitted	129	147	156	190	176	200	221
TMR	35	37	37	35	30	32	32
Tree cutting required	6	6	6	6	7	8	8
Total	239	258	265	294	275	304	326
Percentage not working	1.58%	1.70%	1.75%	1.94%	1.82%	2.00%	2.15%



Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	August 2022	September 2022
Solicitors Queries	842	923	636	65	80
Road closure applications	23	53	65	12	12
Road Opening licences	1279	1575	1092	90	155
Abnormal Load applications	33	54	46	7	5

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	766,844
Greystones Municipal District	217,693
Wicklow Municipal District	307,331
Arklow Municipal District	178,611
Parking Permits	50,985
Parking Fines	263,766
Wicklow County Council	1,785,230

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

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 scheme is currently at the Options Selection phase (Phase 2 of TII's Project Management Guidelines)

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

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment of the 7 no residential properties that are adjacent to the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The draft report concluded that the change in junction layout does not change the noise levels at nearby properties when compared to the previous layout. However when road traffic speeds are increased to 100km/h 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. A Design & Delivery Competition for new public sculpture is closing on e-tenders on 23rd November 2022.

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

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

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

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

N81 Pavement Capital Works

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

N81 Capital Maintenance

Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky was completed in May. Drainage works at Mullycagh and Tinode are underway during October 2022.

N81 Fencing Retrofit

The contract for the fencing expected completion in October 2022.

N81 Invasive Species Removal

Annual treatment completed in September 2022.

N81 Bus Stop at Hollywood

Following comments received from TII, further work is being undertaken to look at the proposal in more detail. The scope of the study has been extended to consider possible improvements for vulnerable road users at the junction. TII have provided funding for this further study.

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

The route options are being revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. The role of independent agronomist will be appointed in the



very near future. Once the Independent Agronomist is 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 reports have been prepared to aid those discussions. Award of contract is to be undertaken once approvals have been obtained.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Detailed design along with the preparation of associated documents to allow the Council to seek statutory approval is ongoing.

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 construction tender preparation. Notices to Treat will be issued within the few weeks, 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 VIII consultation has been finalised and will be brought before the Members of the Greystones Municipal District Council at the next meeting in October 2022.

Active Travel updates

- Presentations made to Arklow MD and Greystones MD on the Safe Routes to School Programme.
- Section 38 approval successfully obtained for the Sidmonton Square, Powerscourt National School, Cookstown Road and Deerpark Cycleway in Bray MD.
- ARUP appointed as consultants for the Greystones Seafront to Kilcoole Scheme and Sea Road to Train Station, Kilcoole cycle and pedestrian facilities scheme.
- Feasibility Report for Dublin Rd to Wexford Rd, Arklow Main St to Train Station and Lower Main Street, Tinnahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay agreed.
- Works on the Kilmalum Junction, Blessington have been successfully completed.
- Tender issued for works at Sidmonton Square and Powerscourt National School.
- Herbert Road Project has been progressed and works have commenced.
- Ashford to New Developments– Agreements reached with private landowners on land take and works should be ready to commence in the next two weeks.
- Delgany Village – Mill Road – Contractor has been appointed to commence works on Bellevue Junction – works starting week commencing 17th October.
- Tenders sought for consultants to manage Rathdown Rd/Blacklion, Scalp Improvement Scheme) and Wicklow Rathnew Transport Study.

Cunningham's Corner, Roundwood

Works on Cunningham's Corner, Roundwood have now been completed. The completion of this safety improvement scheme will improve the road, providing a safer transport route on this key piece of infrastructure

Public Consultation- Speed Limits

Speed Limit review has been published to make Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws in respect of certain national, regional and local roads within the administrative area of County Wicklow following a review of speed limits in



accordance the “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland” issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (March 2015).

The “Draft” Speed Limit Bye-Laws together with associated maps are available for inspection at Wicklow County Council Offices during normal office hours 9.00am to 5.00pm from Wednesday, 12th October, 2022 to Friday, 16th November, 2022

The “Draft” Bye-Laws are also available for inspection or download on the Council's website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub>

Submissions and observations with respect to the “Draft County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws of 2022” can be made at www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub or in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Transport & Roads Infrastructure, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow marked “Draft County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws of 2022” to or by e-mail to speedlimits@wicklowcoco.ie.

The latest date for receipt of objections or submissions regarding this matter is 12:00 noon on Friday, 16th November 2022.

Operational Fire Statistics September 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
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	14	1	1	3	4		1	2	1		1
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	18	2	2	5	5	2	1				1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4			1	1		1	1			
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	4	1	1					1	1		
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	18	7	5	2	2	1	1				
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	15	2		3		1	5	4			
Fire Chimney	3									2	1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	28	20		5	1	1	1				
Fire Vehicle	3		1	1		1					
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1								1		
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	6	2	3		1						
Garda Assist	0										
Electrical Incident	1				1						
Gas Leak	2	2									
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										



Oil Spill / Road Hazard	1			1							
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	3			1	1			1			
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	10					3	2	1	1	3	
Times Stations mobilised	131	37	13	22	16	9	12	10	4	5	3

There were **112 incidents** attended during the month of September 2022. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **131 occasions** including 10 incidents in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of September **decreased by 36% (-74 mobilisations) on the preceding month** August 2022 – 205 mobilisations). This was mainly due to a reduction in RTCs (down from 24 to 18 mobilisations), Gorse fires (down from 57 to 15 mobilisations) and Ambulance Assists (down from 19 to 6). There was an increase in bonfires, 20 in the month, mainly around the Boghall Road in Bray. Bonfires accounted for 21% of all incidents in the county, Bray bonfires represented 15% of all incidents in the county and 54% of all incidents attended by the Bray crew were bonfires. Action was taken in conjunction with Gardai, Environmental Wardens and by interacting with local businesses to eliminate the supply of combustible materials. By the end of the month no bonfires occurred for a period of 7 days.

Operational activity for the month of September 2022 **was up 12% (+14 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2021** (September 2021 – 117 mobilisations). When compared year on year increases occurred in mobilisations to domestic fires up from 6 to 14, RTCs up from 15 to 18 and fires in other counties up from 2 to 10.

Sample Incidents (September 2022)

- 01/09/2022 Tinahely and Rathdrum crews responded to a domestic fire in Glenmalure. The fire was extinguished, one casualty treated for smoke inhalation.
- 03/09/2022 Wicklow town and Rathdrum crews attended a single car roll over at Aghowle, 4 patients at scene
- 08/09/2022 Wicklow town and Rathdrum crews attended a fire in an apartment at Castle Street, Wicklow.
- 09/09/2022 Rathdrum and Arklow crews attended an RTC involving 2 cars and a van at the Meeting of the Waters on the R752. 3 individuals.
- 17/09/2022 Bray and Greystones crews attended a shed fire at Pearse Street.
- 27/09/2022 Blessington supported by Naas attended an RTC between a truck and a car at Trooperstown, Blessington.
- 28/09/2022 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a fire in a workshop / barn / shed at Grangecon.

Incidents in County Kildare 2-incidents):

- 05/09/2022 Blessington crew assisted Naas crew at an RTC at Eadestown.
- 07/09/2022 Blessington and Dunlavin crews supported crews from Naas at a 3-car RTC at Eadestown. 3 casualties taken to hospital.

Incidents in County Wexford (6-incidents):

- 04/09/2022 Carnew crew attended a single car RTC at Clonegal.
- 10/09/2022 Carnew crew attended a false alarm in a domestic house in Ballytarsna.
- 18/09/2022 Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at a grass / outdoor fire at Baile Eoghain.
- 27/09/2022 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at a single car RTC at Coolgreaney, car on roof.
- 28/09/2022 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at a single car RTC at Killinierin.

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- 29/09/2022 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey in Garden City. Car and truck, one casualty taken to hospital.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incident):

- 30/09/2022 Baltinglass crew supported Hacketstown crew at an RTC at Berkill involving 2 cars, one casualty taken to hospital.

General

Having successfully qualified at national level, Wicklow County Extrication and Trauma Teams attended the World Rescue Challenge in Luxembourg and represented both County and Country on the world stage where they participated in three live Extrication Scenarios and two live Trauma Scenarios over a four day period. The team came joint 6th overall, a remarkable achievement against 36 of the best teams across the World, showing that Wicklow are among the best and deliver a world class standard to the public we serve.

Fire Prevention Statistics September 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	11		1		9
Regularisation Certificates					
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	13		8		17

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter Issued to Court Clerk	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	65	61	9	20	44
Circuit	1		1		
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act	3			3	

Commencement Notices for September 2022:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 29

- 7 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents

- 15 Opt Out Declarations

- 7 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

- 0 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 50 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out



- 59 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 17 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

7 are Compliance Documentation (41%)

9 are Opt Out (53%)

1 Without Compliance Documentation (6%)

0 Seven Day Notice (0%)

- 22 Valid Commencement Notices

- 100 new build residential Units

- Invalidated CNs for September = 1

□ **Certificates of Completion processed in September 2022**

- 24 New No. of CCC submitted

- 18 Required Revised Information

- 31 No. Validated

- 0 No. Invalid

- 154 new residential units validated

Submission Statistics

31 No. Validated CCCs related to;

13 No CCCs submitted in August 2022

18 No CCCs submitted in September 2022

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity and completion of units in September 2022. 100 new residential units in were notified to LA for Commencement and 154 newly completed residential units and 24 new Duplex units were submitted, assessed and validated in September.

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

Revised Information requests were extremely high in September for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 59% of Commencement Notice submissions and 75% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information in September. 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.

Building Control staff attended both the quarterly Building Control regional meeting hosted by Dublin City Council and NBC&MS Office CPD Day on Part L Conservation of Fuel & Energy Requirements in Athlone in September.

NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022 has requested LA's to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regulations.



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in September 2022:

Administrative Officer – Shortlisting
 Assistant Architect
 Executive Technician
 Temporary Executive Accountant

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Managerial/Administrative	305	303	298	301
Professional/Technical	122	117	116	126
Outdoor	262	273	264	262
Temporary/Seasonal	49	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)	37
Non DOHPLG	8	6	6	5
Total	746	743	753	731



Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

September 2022: 6	September 2021: 12
Jan – September 2022: 59	Jan – September 2021: 72

Ombudsman Requests

September 2022: 5	September 2021: 3
January – September 2022: 31	January – September 2021: 20

Press Releases

September 2022 - 16

Register of Electors

The new Electoral Reform Act 2022 was launched on Thursday 13th October. Under the new act there is no longer a requirement for a Draft register to be published in November, a Final register in February or a Supplement register, these have now been replaced by a single live and continuously updated register known as the “Rolling Register”.

As part of the Electoral Reform www.checktheregister.ie now allows electors to register to vote online using their PPSN and eircode, to amend their details online should they change address or find that their details are incorrect etc. as well as the option of downloading a paper form to complete should they not have a PPSN number or want to update their citizenship.

It is hoped that the reform will make the Electoral Registration process more accessible, inclusive and responsive.

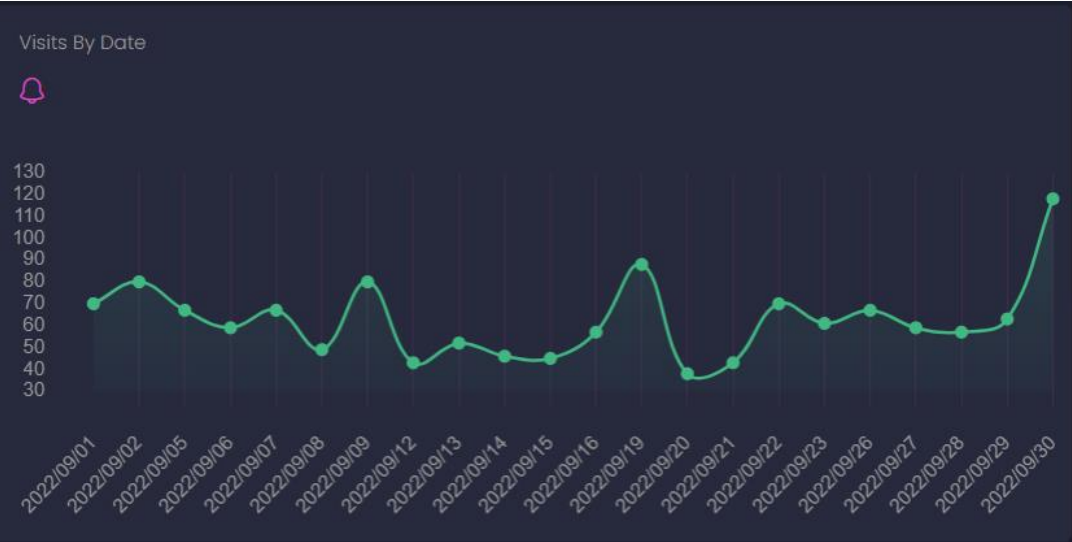
Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub – September 2022			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	10,346	Motor Taxation	1,766
No. of Emails	1,122	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,529
No. of Elected Members Emails	84	Social Housing Applications	35
CRM Cases	155		

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Total in person visits for September 2022 – 1,379





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

Upgrade of Financial Management System (Milestone 4 to Milestone 7) completed

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 continuing.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- Residential Zoned Land Tax analysis is still on-going. Final draft maps are currently in production.
- The map preparation of the County Development Plan (2022 - 2028) has nearly ended. Preparation is underway to transform this data to the cloud and reconfigure the relevant applications.
- Review of submissions for the Ballynagran Small Grant Scheme has ended.

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



3. Financial

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th SEPTEMBER 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	24,527,217	34,438,754	71%	(27,656,459)	(39,943,965)	69%	(3,129,242)
Road Transport & Safety	14,456,406	22,204,016	65%	(9,030,824)	(15,347,052)	59%	5,425,582
Water Services	3,968,719	5,394,788	74%	(4,500,297)	(6,561,262)	69%	(531,578)
Development Management	8,897,799	12,355,595	72%	(5,305,187)	(6,872,547)	77%	3,592,612
Environmental Services	8,787,338	12,130,078	72%	(1,216,039)	(2,083,134)	58%	7,571,299
Recreation and Amenity	6,909,099	8,498,513	81%	(1,485,361)	(1,148,299)	129%	5,423,738
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	955,902	1,566,840	61%	(486,300)	(809,228)	60%	469,602
Miscellaneous Services	7,676,926	10,846,102	71%	(6,689,484)	(9,033,954)	74%	987,442
Central Management Charges	14,503,754	20,213,476	72%	(845,862)	(1,000,000)	85%	13,657,893
Local Government Fund				(9,801,680)	(13,068,907)	75%	(9,801,680)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(23,738,074)	(31,929,814)	74%	(23,738,074)
	90,683,161	127,648,162	71%	(90,755,566)	(127,798,162)	71%	(72,405)

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 September 2022 to 30th September 2022.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/09/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,706,643	40,873,688	(29,709,705)	(364,000)	24,506,626
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	9,161,338	(3,696,085)	373,289	(29,868,311)
Water Services	(10,436,363)	159,303	(623,061)	(35,000)	(10,935,120)
Development Management	(25,225,375)	3,077,391	(7,036,806)	(450,000)	(29,634,791)
Environmental Services	743,438	2,860,195	(2,701,331)	(311,250)	591,052
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	2,523,494	(356,733)	(119,097)	2,494,283
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	47,401	(6,000)	(197,500)	(1,599,862)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	3,356,882	(6,671,301)	553,802	(21,586,441)
	(76,741,477)	62,059,691	(50,801,022)	(549,757)	(66,032,564)



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/09/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	6,342,375	31,652,285	(94,966)	(992,388)	(1,543,696)	35,363,609	(23,351,806)	12,011,803	1,635,693	69%
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	13,180,503	0	(21,695)	0	15,996,334	(12,763,598)	3,232,736	0	80%
Housing Loans	446,170	1,346,438	0	0	0	1,792,608	(1,782,854)	9,755	0	99%

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

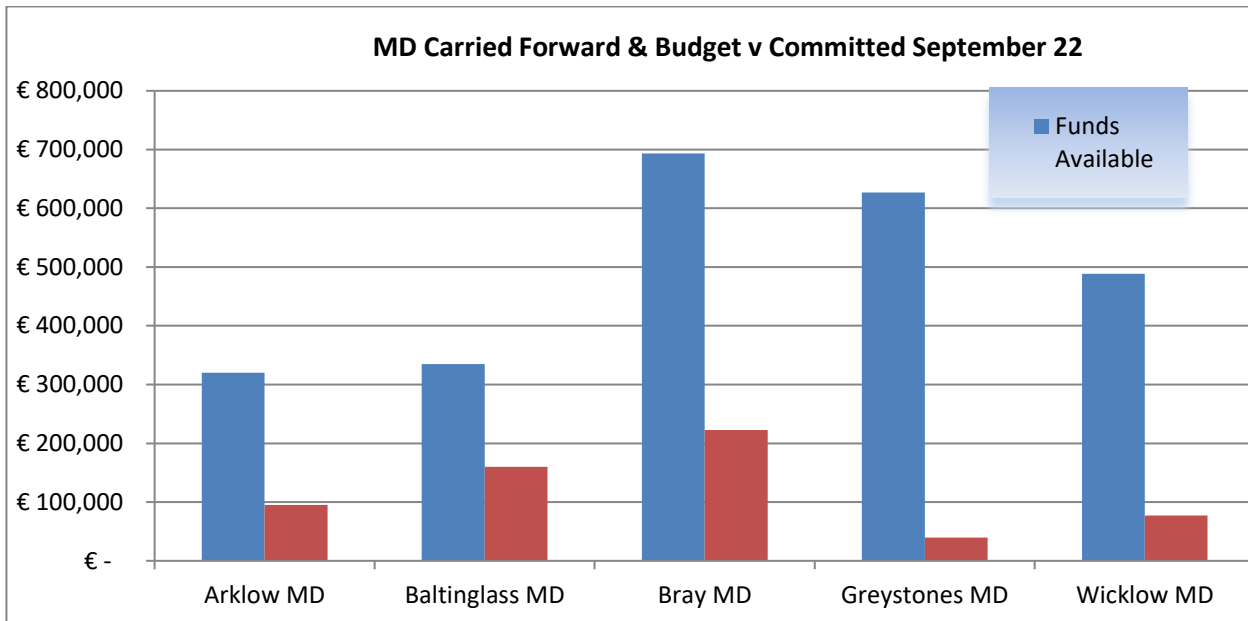
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022

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
Total	256,649	221,649	334,365	233,649	241,649	1,287,960

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	95,360	224,760
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	160,141	174,964
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	222,681	470,802
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	39,434	587,289
Wicklow MD	246,816	241,649	488,465	76,952	411,513
Total	1,079,046	1,384,850	2,463,896	594,568	1,869,328



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



Capital Funded Projects

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



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