

W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Annual Report**

### **2020**



### Beacon of Hope

*A beacon of hope shone from the foothills of Bray Head on Monday 13th April, 2020 as Easter drew to a close. Lights were shone to the sky from the shoreline, to represent the town standing in solidarity with all of those across the world affected by Covid-19.*

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# Wicklow County Council

Annual Report 2020

## Mission Statement

*“To improve the quality of life for the people of County Wicklow, drive economic and community development, adhering to the principles of sustainable development, social inclusion, human rights and equality and accessibility for all. We will maximize the use of resources to deliver efficient, effective and value for money services, be open and receptive to change, working in partnership with all our stakeholders”.*

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As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2020. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services. Wicklow County Council provides and funds a broad range of services including; housing, roads, playgrounds, libraries, fire stations, sports facilities, arts centres, recycling centres, as well as serving as a platform for local democracy.

2020 was a particularly difficult year for all; with the Covid19 pandemic having a profound impact across society, especially our most vulnerable and isolated in our Community. The launch of the Community Call Response Forum in March 2020, provided a vital support network for our citizens.

Almost €80,000 was allocated to 50 community groups who were supporting their communities across the county during the Covid19 pandemic. In July, community grant funding of €194,050 was allocated under community pride grants and digital poverty grants. These grants formed part of the work of the County Wicklow Covid19 Community Response Forum and of the implementation of the County Wicklow Digital Strategy. Seventy-four Clubs shared €52,600 in allocations made by the Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership; and a further nineteen clubs shared €22,298 under the Small Club Grants fund for Sports Clubs.

Two eagerly awaited playgrounds opened in June in Laragh and Roundwood. Both playgrounds were much welcomed by the community and will bring lots of joy and magic into the lives of younger members of both communities, particularly during the current pandemic.

December saw a new 16-acre coastal park, together with an extensive boardwalk overlooking Greystones Marina open. The boardwalk, over 300 meters long, links the coastal park to Greystones Harbour, with the two newly opened amenities forming an integral part of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk.

The Council was extremely proud to receive seven nominations in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards for projects throughout the County, and was delighted to win silver for the Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Elected Members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the six Strategic Policy Groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council.

I would also like to take the opportunity to record my appreciation to the Chief Executive, Frank Curran and to the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

COUNCILLOR PAT KENNEDY  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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It gives me great pleasure as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to welcome the publication of the 2020 Annual Report and to highlight a number of achievements over the last 12 months which are further contained within this report.

Wicklow County Council is responsible for providing services to approximately 142,425 citizens. While the current Covid19 pandemic had the potential to disrupt the continuity of operations for the provision of essential services to the citizens, the Council continued to deliver significant efficiencies and innovation, while focusing on its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, in line with the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, to ensure that Wicklow remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit.

The Council provided a number of economic supports in response to the challenges arising from the pandemic, including

€16 million paid out in Restart Grants

€1 million in grants to enhance Business trading online capabilities

€13 million to cover the commercial rates waiver scheme

Throughout the pandemic, the Council continued to progress a number of successful projects and strategies:

January saw 144 houses officially opened in Rathnew by Co-Operative Ireland in partnership with Wicklow County Council

Contracts signed for Wicklow's Fitzwilliam Square Scheme

Works commenced on the Customer Care Innovation Hub and the refurbishment of the Council Chamber in March

Wicklow Naturally website launched to showcase the county's finest producers

Town reopening committees established in all five municipal districts

Tracks and Trails 2020 video launched

Destination Recovery Task Force launched

€3.3 million allocated by the NTA for cycling and walking projects

Circa €500,000 investment to design upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities in Newtownmountkenedy under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

Sod turned on €3 million Content-Creation Enterprise Hub at the Wicklow County Campus in Clermont, Rathnew

Almost €200,000 further funding received under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme

€1.2 million secured for the refurbishment of the Courthouse in Arklow under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund as part of the overall Historic Town Core Project

Works completed on the refurbished Council Chamber and Customer Service Innovation Hub

I would like to commend the elected Members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and the LCDC and to acknowledge all the work that is carried out at Municipal District Level and by the various other hardworking committees.

I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pat Kennedy for his commitment and co-operation in the delivery of the Council's high level goals in 2020. I would like to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their continued hard work and contribution to the delivery of high quality service to the public during a global pandemic in 2020.

I am confident that the work of the Council and the progress achieved will enhance the quality of life for the people of Wicklow.

**FRANK CURRAN**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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## MANAGEMENT TEAM

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Chief Executive

Mr. Colm Lavery



Director of Services  
Transportation, Water and Emergency  
Services

Mr. Michael Nicholson



Director of Services  
Community, Cultural and Social  
Development

Mr. Joe Lane



Director of Services  
Housing and Corporate Estate

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher



Director of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate Services

Ms. Breege Kilkenny



Director of Services  
Planning and Environmental Services

Ms. Dorothy Kennedy



Law Agent

Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick



Head of Information Systems

Mr. Brian Gleeson



Head of Finance

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## Housing and Corporate Estate

### Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

**Cllr. John Snell**

Wicklow County Council  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Paul O'Brien  
Cllr. Mags Crean  
Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy  
Cllr. Grace McManus  
Outside Agencies  
Trade Unions  
Derek Casserly SIPTU  
Disadvantaged  
Catherine Kenny Dublin Simon  
Business/Commercial  
Paddy Mordaunt  
Community  
Mary Ann Parsons  
Simon Blanckensee  
Wicklow Travellers Group  
Aoibhinn McCloy

Director of Services  
Joe Lane

Senior Executive Officer  
Jackie Carroll

Senior Engineers  
Declan Marnane  
Helena Fallon

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on 6 occasions in 2020 and focused on a number of key areas including:

- Budget 2020– Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Housing priorities for 2020 including future housing supply and management
- Housing Supply/Delivery Programme
- Maintenance and Management of housing stock
- Annual Social Housing Assessment
- Housing Assistance Payment
- Traveller Accommodation Plan – 2019-2024
- Approved Housing Bodies collaboration
- Action Plan for Homelessness
- Choice Based Letting Scheme
- Affordable Housing

### Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

## Housing and Corporate Estate

- Social Housing Provision & Planning
  - Housing Management
  - Social Inclusion
  - Corporate Estate
-



Sli na Slainne, Baltinglass

Wicklow County Council continued to deliver under its Housing Delivery programme. 318 units of social housing were delivered in 2020, with proposed delivery of 379 in 2021, depending on levels of restrictions due to the pandemic.



Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue

## Part V

Wicklow County Council liaised closely with Agents and Developers in respect of Part V requirements. Some Part V units are delivered through CALF in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies e.g. Glenheron in Greystones and some directly to the Council e.g. Carraig Beag, Wicklow. 29 Part V units were delivered in 2020 through a combination of LA acquisition and CALF.

It is expected that 25 Part V units will be delivered in 2021, subject to a number of factors including the duration and number of any Covid 19 lockdowns and how quickly the Developers can remobilise and complete units

## Turnkey

The Council continued to actively seeking and encouraging the provision of social housing via the mechanism of turnkey development. 16 turnkey units were delivered in 2020 (WCC and AHB). The Council regularly invites applications for further turnkey units and expects to continue to augment supply with further turnkey units in 2020.

## CALF Leasing

Wicklow County Council continues to facilitate applications from Approved Housing Bodies for delivery of units through the CALF leasing scheme. 59 CALF turnkey units were delivered in 2020.

## Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Wicklow County Council continues to work with Approved Housing Bodies to increase the supply of social housing. A number of sites have been allocated to AHB's to progress following a selection procedure and progress has been made on designing schemes for these sites.

## Housing Management

The total budget for housing repairs was €1,870,700 for 2020. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

Central Heating was also provided in a number of houses while servicing and maintenance of central heating systems has continued.

When houses become vacant they are upgraded as follows:

- Electrics check and repair/rewire;
- Plumbing check;
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary;
- Upgrade of properties to enhanced energy efficiency.
- Any other works required

## VOIDS Refurbishment Programme 2020

A total of 48 units were returned to productive use in 2020 through funding available under the VOIDS Refurbishment Programme.

## Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1 and 2

Works continued on the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade programme during 2020 with Lot 2, 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow commencing in December 2020.

Works also commenced on 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray, to be completed in late Q1 2021.

## Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by Council Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List, subject to compliance with eligibility criteria.

Following completion of the Social Housing Assessment, a total of 4,487 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. A total of 325 houses were allocated during 2020 and 59 households availed of transfers.

## Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options in 2020

## Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The total number of RAS properties at 31st December, 2020 was 280.

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

A total of 2,144 households had availed of HAP rental support at 31st December, 2020.

## Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2020 to promote long and short term leasing as a social housing option in County Wicklow.

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Properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties will be allocated to tenants in accordance with the local authorities allocations schemes.

A total of 38 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December, 2020 and interest in the scheme is increasing.

## Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is scheme to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

25 families were assisted into MTR during 2020.

## Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

As a first time buyer you can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build your own home.

Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built is €320,000.

115 Rebuilding Ireland homeloans were approved at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

## Housing Grants

Wicklow County Council continued to fund grants under the terms of the Housing Adaption Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grant. In 2020, despite delays encountered due to the pandemic, over €1.2m issued in grant funding for private houses and €596,000 on social houses.

An awareness campaign commenced on Social Media in August 2020, which generated a significant increase in the level of enquiries and applications. Letters were also sent to all GP's

within Co Wicklow in August 2020 to raise awareness of scheme.

## Tenant Purchase Scheme

During 2020 a further 20 tenants completed purchase under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

## Estate Development

Estate Development Grants were allocated through the Municipal Districts to Residents Associations within the districts.

## Estate Management - Tenant Liaison

The Tenant Liaison Officer continued to support Wicklow County Council's Tenants in combatting Anti-Social Behaviour. A large number of cases involving anti-social behaviour were recorded in 2020. An Inter-Agency approach involving An Garda Síochána, H.S.E. and Tusla has proved to be the best possible outcome in dealing with anti-social issues. The update and review of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy commenced in 2020.

## Housing Rents

A total of 167 new dwellings were added to the Council's housing stock in 2020 and at the 31st December 2019 there were 4,530 tenanted units.

Significant work was undertaken with tenants whose income was reduced during the pandemic.

Pandemic restrictions prevented door to door collections for a period in 2020 and guidelines issued .

## Traveller Accommodation

During 2020 and at the onset of the pandemic, guidance issued to the local authorities on dealing with Vulnerable groups including Travellers during the crisis.

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Wicklow County Council put a number of arrangements in place to provide, among other things, services to previously un-serviced sites to facilitate better sanitation and social distancing. Welfare facilities were provided at a number of unauthorised sites. Some families on unauthorised sites were provided with housing units.

Wicklow County Council is required to undertake an annual count of Traveller families - the count in 2020 showed 275 Traveller families living in the County.

Under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, 25 allocations were made to Traveller households in 2020..

Further inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section and the fire brigade in Bray. In addition electrical inspections including the installation of smoke alarms has been rolled out.

Significant progress was made on the Capital Programme with the Ballintreskin Scheme of 3 houses progressing to detailed design and tender stage.

Approval for a 4 house Group Scheme in Rathdrum was received and the Council progressed to consultation and design stage. Works were completed on an extension to a Traveller house in Ashford to assist with disability.

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met twice in 2020. Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow were met. This included planning for the provision of standard housing,

halting sites, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

## Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness continued to be a key focus and the homeless team provided advice and support, (phone, counter and appointment) to persons homeless or at risk of homelessness. The homeless team engaged with Landlords and Agents, to sustain and progress tenancies.

Emergency accommodation was provided by the Council, where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

- 711 cases (families/individuals) presented as homeless during 2019, with 45 emergency accommodation placements provided during 2019.
- Mid-East Region Action Plan for Homelessness 2018-2020.
- Protocols/policies implemented during 2019 included Prisoner Release Protocol in conjunction with the Prison Service, National Quality Service Framework for service providers and Housing First.

## Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder 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, 306 households (238 families & 68 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020. (143 homeless cases, 161 prevention cases to date and 2 direct provision). 103 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Partnership Approach – working with Approved Housing Bodies

In order to target specific cohorts of vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and those who need supported accommodation, Wicklow County Council continued to work collaboratively with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to deliver accommodation to individuals with support needs. This housing led approach ensures a sustainable solution to homelessness in individuals who are initially hard to reach and ultimately have tenancy sustainment issues.

The Council operates the management of these properties through either Service Level Agreements, or License Agreements and Leases. These units provide wraparound, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals using the Housing First model. This housing led approach to combating homelessness is enshrined in Rebuilding Ireland and is a commitment in the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

In partnership with the Dublin Simon Community, the Council continued to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Eleven individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility.

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Covid-19 crisis further increased the urgency of the emergency need to provide suitable accommodation for, highly vulnerable, homeless individuals accessing the Cold Weather Initiative (CWI). Accordingly, the acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray was progressed and the facility opened to clients in October. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site keyworking support linking in with clients.

A Neighbourhood Liaison Committee was set up with representation from local residents, an Garda Síochána, local Councillors, Wicklow County Council and Dublin Simon.



San Remo, Bray

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Carraig Eden, Greystones

Works continued in 2020 to upgrade the building to provide 35 ensuite bedrooms within the existing building. The facility provides supported temporary accommodation to individuals who have successfully exited addiction and are now working to exit homelessness.

## Homeless Family Service Facility, Wicklow

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Hub. The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility pending finalisation of the legal handover.

Refurbishment work was significantly completed on the facility in 2020 and it is anticipated that operation of the facility, which

will provide temporary accommodation for 7 families, will commence in early 2021.

## Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

## Housing First

Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas. Peter McVerry Trust was appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 5 clients in 2020 under Housing First, 4 of these completed in 2020. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of accommodation.

## Homelessness and Mental Health

A Mental Health forum was established by Wicklow County Council with representatives from the HSE, Wicklow County Council and HAIL (AHB for Mental Health). Wicklow County Council agreed to cofund a Tenancy Sustainment Officer to deal with clients at risk of homelessness due to enduring Mental Health and this position was filled in 2020. The initiative is proving successful with 11 clients positively availing of the service in 2020.

## Refugee Resettlement

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Wicklow County Council was asked to provide accommodation for 190 individuals resettling under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. 37 families were accommodated under the programme in 2020, utilising extra supply and a mix of local authority and AHB units.

## Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council's Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has endorsed this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisation's policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives.

Safety audits and safety inspections of contractor and direct labour sites are carried out on a weekly basis by the Health and Safety Facilitator.

Health and Safety Induction Training is communicated to all new members of staff. Extensive training programs are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations.

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## Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

### Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Transportation, Water and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee consists of five County Councillors' along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local issues are discussed.

Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Derek Mitchell

Wicklow County Council  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Joe Behan  
Cllr. Irene Winters  
Cllr. Vincent Bake

Outside Agencies  
Trade Unions  
Margaret Coughlan

Environment/Conservation  
Tim Morgan

Agriculture/Farming Community  
Pat Dunne

Development/Construction  
Tomás Peare

Business Commercial  
Donal Murray

Director of Services  
Colm Lavery  
Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Senior Executive Officer  
Helena Dennehy

Senior Engineer  
Michael Flynn  
John Bowes

Chief Fire Officer  
Aidan Dempsey

Administrative Officers  
Allyson Minion  
Elizabeth Clarke

### Transportation Objective 1

To promote and facilitate the provision of all transport in an integrated manner and so to foster social and economic development, having regard to environmental considerations, sustainable development and social inclusion and health and safety

### Health and Safety

The Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety, Health and Welfare at work. In this regard, plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices has resulted in additional costs for various projects, but notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to the health and safety of its employees.

## Road Safety Promotion and Education

The County Wicklow Road Safety Together Committee consists of members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the Committee held one meeting during 2020 however, online communication was ongoing in order to review road safety in County Wicklow. The County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2015-2020 was due to be reviewed in 2020 but as there were delays in the publication of the RSA's National Strategy this will now commence in 2021. The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation.

## Objective 2

To construct and maintain the national, regional and local roads networks to the highest possible standard for each road type, current and future usage and best value for money.

## M11/N11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed in November 2018 as the lead consultant to process the project through Phases 1 – 4 in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines.

The N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme is being considered in accordance with the National Transport Authority's "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016 – 2035)", which presents a suite of objectives to support transportation demands and sustained economic progression. The strategy envisages a number of specific developments, including enhancements along the N11/M11 corridor between Junction 4 and Junction 14.

The N11/M11 Scheme aims to improve safety, accessibility and journey time reliability along this strategic southeast corridor. The primary objective of the project is to deliver enhanced multimodal transport links for the south east corridor.

As part of the current Phase 2 Option Selection stage, we are collaborating with the National Transport Authority to assess future public transport proposals under the "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016 – 2035)" and their impact on the need for road improvements on the corridor. It is anticipated that the Emerging preferred Corridor will be announced in 2021, with progressing the scheme to Phase 3 Design and Evaluation.

Consideration on how the N11/M11 route could be enhanced to facilitate public transportation is underway, including an assessment of bus priority and park and ride measures.

## N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road





A contract for the construction of the N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue was signed on 13th January 2020 by Wicklow County Council with SIAC Construction Ltd.

The N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue is approximately 1.6km long and located between Junction 7 and Junction 8 of the N11. Construction of this scheme is currently underway and is due for completion in 2021. The additional service road will provide the motorist with both a safer and easier access to the residential and commercial properties and also the regional road (R755) to Roundwood. A special speed limit of 60 km/h on all public roads will apply to the Northbound and Southbound carriageways effective from the 17th February 2020 until the 30th July 2021. The reduction in the speed limit is required for the completion of necessary road works in the area.

### N11 Interim Bus Priority Scheme

A feasibility report has been undertaken by Arup Consulting Engineers on behalf of the National Transport Authority (NTA) to determine the viability of a dedicated bus scheme along the N11 between Junction 4 Loughlinstown and Junction 8 Kilmacanogue. The NTA have committed to a proposal for the scheme to be included in the National Development Plan which is under review in 2021.

### National Secondary N81

### N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme



The N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme was completed by Clonmel Enterprises and opened to two way traffic in July 2020. The scheme located south of Hollywood crossroads, involved the realignment of the N81 at Knockroe Bend over a length of approximately 1km. The scheme has been funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Funding is also available for Per Cent Art Commission and

procurement of an artist will commence in March 2021.

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

Wicklow County Council received approval from TII to progress the N81 Tuckmill Lower, N81 Hangman's Bend, N81 Whitestown Lower and N81 Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies') in accordance with Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG). The N81 Four Studies Scheme aims to improve safety, accessibility and journey time reliability along this strategic National Secondary corridor.

Given the overlap between and close proximity of the four study areas it was agreed to assess the corridor for Phase 1 from north of Baltinglass to north of Irishtown West. The overall length of the corridor under consideration for the purpose of the feasibility study is approximately 12.8km.

## Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads in 2020 were carried out by both direct labour units of the five Municipal Districts and by private contractors.

## Bridge Rehabilitation Grant Works

Works were carried out at the following locations in 2020:

R747	Killacloran, Aughrim
R747	Kilavaney, Tinahely
R750	Johnstown Bridge, Brittas

L50462	Beachdale Bridge, Kilcoole
L7256	Highpark Bridge Kiltegan
L1019	Little Newtown Bridge, Enniskerry
L8369-0	Woodend Bridge Manor Kilbride

## Safety Improvement Works 2020:

Road Number	Location
R-761-4	R761 Windgates, Greystones
L-1048-0	R761/L1048 Junction of Newcastle and Woodstock Roads
R-747-0	Vale Road - Arklow to Woodenbridge
R-747-0	Wexford Rd South, Arklow
R-772-50	Wexford Rd North, Arklow
R-752-122	St. Saviour's NS, Rathdrum
L-2260-0	L2137 - Aughrim - Ballyteige Rathdangan Road
L-5677-0	Tonlegee Crossroads, Brittas
R-725-223	Kenny's Corner, Carnew
L2172	L2172 Redcross, Arklow Road
R772	Newtownmountkenedy, Main Street junction and markings

Low cost safety improvements works were carried out in 2020 at the following locations:

## Objective 3

To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use of public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for



those who do not drive or have access to public transport.

## National Transport Authority Funding

Each year, Wicklow County Council receives funding from the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures Programme towards a variety of projects. These include projects that facilitate and promote walking, cycling and use of public transport. These initiatives assist in reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have their own transport.

## Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2020 included:

Strand Road Cycle Track (Including Aquarium)  
Bray Dart Interchange  
Wicklow Town port access route to Station  
Pedestrian Access  
Killarney Road Cycle Scheme  
Vevay Road Cycle Scheme  
Permeability to Public Transport of Schools  
Dublin Road, Bray ITS Traffic Management  
Bray Bridge footbridges and tie-ins  
Swan River Greenway  
Bus Stops, Mill Road Greystones  
Bus Priority in Little Bray  
Bray Public Transport Bridge Connection Phase 2  
Arklow Transport Study  
Greystones Transport Study  
Southern Cross VRU Improvements  
Bray Main Street Decongestion

Church Road/Killarney Road Junction Safety Scheme  
Public Transport Priority & Public Realm Improvements Bray Town Hall  
Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent  
Permeability Scheme

The Covid 19 Interim Mobility Measures programme was put in place as a direct response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Wicklow County Council received funding allocation from the NTA for the following Schemes in 2020:

Abbey Lane Pedestrianisation  
Arklow North Cycle Lane  
Arklow North Footpath Extension  
Blessington Town Centre Public Space Provision  
Blessington Town Centre Cycle Parking Facilities  
Dwyer Square, Tinahely  
Main Street Carnew  
Main Street Knockananna  
Kiltegan  
Market Square Baltinglass  
Rathdangan  
Coolboy  
Florence Road Public Space Provision  
Novara Avenue Public Space Provision  
Putland Road Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements  
Mayfield Pedestrian Improvements  
Oldcourt Pedestrian Improvements  
Convent Hill Pedestrian Improvements  
Fran O'Toole Pedestrian Improvements  
Upper Dargle Road Pedestrian Improvements  
Herbert Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements  
Aravon Court Pedestrian Improvements  
Enniskerry Public Space Provision

Cookstown Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements  
Quill Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements  
Reopening Greystones  
Greystones Coastal Walk & Cycle Ways  
Rathdown Road, cycle climbing lane, traffic calming and pedestrian space increase  
Cooldross Lane Cycletrack  
Church Hill Pedestrian & Cycling Improvements

The Governments' July 2020 Stimulus Package included funding programmes for Active Travel Measures and Climate Change Adaption. Wicklow County Council received an allocation for the following Active Travel Measures Schemes in 2020:

Strand Road North & Marine Terrace  
Rathnew to Ashford Footpath works  
Delgany Wood Avenue  
L-2137 Aughrim  
Strand Road, Aquarium Temporary Road Reallocation  
Rocky Road Footpath works, Wicklow  
Shillelagh Village  
The Meetings of the Water  
Greystones Road, Windgates  
Laragh to Glendalough Footpath Works  
Stratford on Slaney Village  
R-772 Arklow  
Carnew Village  
Leg of Mutton Junction Wicklow Town Co. Wicklow  
R-752 Avoca  
Aravon Court Laneway, Bray  
Stratford on Slaney Village  
Convent Hill, Vevay Road  
Kiltegan Road, Baltinglass  
Blacklion Manor Road

Sans Souci Wood, Bray  
Dunlavin Village  
R-761 Kilcoole to Greystones  
Rathdrum, Main Street  
Hollywood Village  
Bogmeadow, Enniskerry  
Wicklow Town One-Way System

Wicklow County Council has received allocation for the following Climate Change Adaption Measures Schemes in 2020:

Griffenstown, Dunlavin  
Beechwood Park, Kilcoole  
Garrymore-Ballincarrig  
Barnamelia  
Bridge on Ashford Main Street over Vartry River

### Disability Access

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate will continue to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability Authority, ensuring that the highest standard of 'access for all' is achieved through compliant standards of design.

### Energy Saving Measures 2020

- In 2020 the Council has continued the policy of replacing SOX lanterns that failed with an LED equivalent lantern and approximately 1,861 LED lanterns have been installed as part of maintenance repair works throughout the county. The estimated energy saving is approximately 447,9400Kwh per year.
  - In association with TII all the existing street lights on the N81 in Blessington and Baltinglass were replaced with LED equivalent lantern (130 units total). Estimated energy savings of 40,700Kwh per year.
-

- Upgraded 30 decorative lights along Bray Seafront and Promenade. Estimated Energy Saving 9,600Kwh per year.

## Proposed Energy Saving Measure 2021

- Support and contribute to the Eastern Region Energy Efficiency Project (LED upgrades) overseen by the Roads Management Office and Kilkenny County Council.
- Continue the installation of LEDs at various locations throughout the county to repair faulty lanterns and in particular the SOX lanterns. Estimated number to be replaced for 2021 is 1,500; this would generate an energy saving of about 336,150Kwh of energy.
- Complete the database verification in association with the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project and update the ESB Unmetered Register.
- Seek funding from the TII to upgrade further public lights on the N81 at The Lamb Junction and at Hollywood. This would entail the upgrading of about 20 lights to LED generating a saving of about 8,000kwh per year.
- Charlesland/Farrankelly Dual Carriageway Project (Phase 2). Estimated Energy Saving 126,750Kwh per year. Subject to funding being available.

## Machinery Yard & Stocked Stores

A full and detailed review of operations of council run machinery yard and stocked stores was carried out in latter end of 2018 and early 2019.

During 2020 many of the recommendations of the audit review were implemented as follows:-

The Stores area was cleared of all stock and no longer operates as a stocked store.

The lease tender for small medium vans was progressed with the tender review stage ongoing at year end 2020. Pending finalizing of the tender assessment and award the roll out of lease option will progress in Quarter 1 of 2021.

The larger fleet replacement was progressed during 2020 in line with the replacement programme which saw the Local Authority take delivery of 6 new 7.5 tonne Crewcabs and 3 new 26 tonne tipper Trucks. In addition a new Velocity Patcher was delivered during 2020 to be based in West Wicklow.



During 2020 an alternative use for the stores location was being developed which has yet to be finalised.

Both areas of operation will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

## Water and Wastewater Water Services

In 2020 WCC continued to provide Water and Wastewater Services under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water.

## Covid-19:

Normal operation and maintenance works have been on-going throughout this challenging time. In Water Services, caretakers, leakage

locators, plumbers and leakage inspectors continued to work, ensuring quality and supplies from water treatment plants and within the water networks haven't been affected in County Wicklow. Similarly, in Waste Water Services, caretakers and general services supervisors have insured that waste water is treated throughout the County and sewer blockages have been cleared as quickly as possible. Administration, outdoor, technical and engineering staff have been working together throughout 2020, to ensure the best service is delivered on a daily basis.

### Upgrading Projects:

There was an additional significant funding stream provided to Wicklow County Council water and waste water sections from Irish Water in the form of a Stimulus package. This was in addition to annual allocations.

### Water Treatment Plants and Water Networks:

The funding was secured to improve the Water Network in Wicklow. For example, at Rathdrum Water Treatment Plant the old 6" raw water main was leaking and clogged up and has been replaced with a 180mm HDPE pipe. Defective Sluice valves, hydrants, air valves (picture below), meter covers and trip hazards have been replaced throughout the county. Pressure reducing valves have been replaced throughout the county, directly by Wicklow County Council staff and by contractors, under the supervision of Wicklow County Council Water Inspectors and Engineers at Greystones, Newtown, Newcastle and Delgany.



*Air Valve replacement, Carnew Pump Replacement and pipe upgrade works*

Work has also finished on laying a 100mm main between two areas in the Wicklow Water Supply Zone. These works will allow one of the oldest reservoirs in the Wicklow Water Supply Zone to be decommissioned (Seacrest reservoir). In Ashford, the old cast iron main that has been in the ground for a long number of years and has seen a lot of frequent bursts recently, received funding for replacement and a total main length of 2.6km was upgraded to a 150mm HDPE main. To facilitate access and improve the water network, Backyard services removal has been on-going over the last few years. This year a number of schemes were completed, including Grattan Park, Kindlestown and Kimberley Park Greystones.

### Waste Water Treatment Plants:

There is on-going maintenance and upgrade to machinery and parts at waste water treatment plants this year. Inlet screens have been replaced at a number of locations throughout the county this year such as Aughrim, Donard and Knockananna. The project like others saw the installation of a new control panel. Baltinglass Waste Water Treatment Plant among others has seen a few upgrades this year such as new Refrigerator Sampling Units, Auger replacement and Screens.



*Aughrim, Screen Upgrade.*

Upgrade works were on-going at a number of plants throughout the County. This is to help provide for the ever-increasing population of Wicklow and ensure that the capacity is within the plants. Currently, upgrading Barndarrig Wastewater Treatment Plant, installation of new inlet screen, control panel and two large primary settlement tanks.

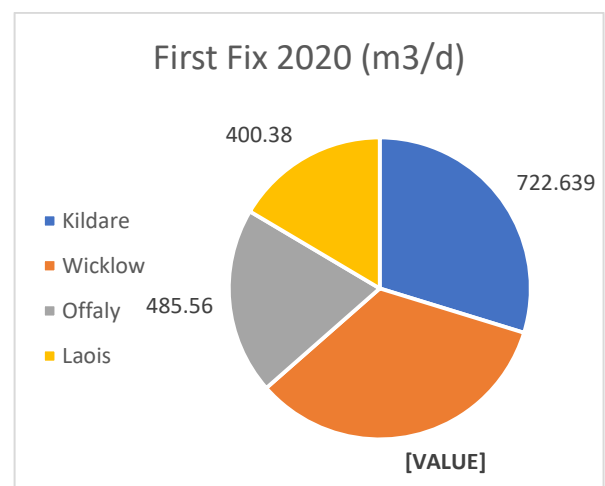


*Installation of Settlement Tanks, Barndarrig.*

Grangecon Waste Water Treatment Plant has seen new tanks and distribution system installed. This will ensure that a high standard effluent control will be met.

## Sustainability:

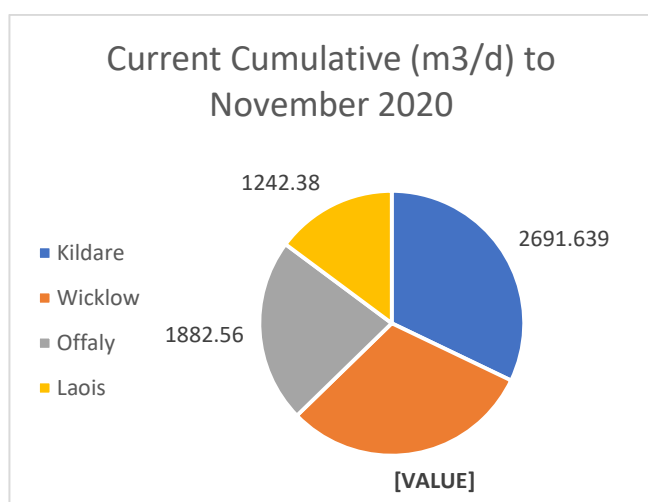
Sustainability continues to be a key concern of both Wicklow County Council and Irish Water, with Wicklow County Council staff playing a key role in locating and managing leaks throughout the county. The Leakage Inspectors work with the leakage crews through the year to identify areas where there is leakage, this great work helps to identify problem areas and keeps as much water in the system as possible, conserving water and saving money.



*Figure 1. First Fix 2020 – (Wicklow County Council crews 820.74m<sup>3</sup>/day)*

The leaks identified by the Wicklow County Council Leakage crews up to November alone saved 821m<sup>3</sup>/day going out of the system as unaccounted for water, this figure is expected to reach 880m<sup>3</sup>/day by year-end.





**Figure 2.** Current Cumulative 2020 – (Wicklow County Council 2564.74m<sup>3</sup>/day)

With the addition of contractor's leakage savings this figure was a cumulative of 2,656m<sup>3</sup>/day up to the end of November, extrapolating this figure to the end of the year will be nearly 3,000m<sup>3</sup> of water saved daily. In 2019 this figure was 1,744 m<sup>3</sup>, which equates to an increase of 52% on the leakage savings of 2020.

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

Under the Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, Wicklow County Council continued to be scored on Key Performance Indicators. In 2020, the overall score was 94.4% versus a 2019 score of 88.1%, this continues to reflect the excellent performance of Wicklow County Council staff across all pillars within the Annual Service plan.

	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
ASP Report 2020	93.9%	96.2%	91.3%	94.4%
ASP Report 2019	84.3%	93.3%	83.7%	88.1%

The overall score for Wicklow County Council is comprised of a range of KPI scores over the year, including:

- A score of 100% was achieved for microbiological compliance in the drinking water supply.
- A score of 100% was achieved for Health, Safety, Quality and Environment.
- A score of 100% was achieved for the number of compliant assessments taken at Waste Water Treatment Plants meeting mandatory UWWTD effluent quality standards.
- A score of 98% was achieved for the notification of interruptions.
- A Score of 100% was achieved for a timely response to Workflow Queries.
- A Score of 96.2% was achieved for Financial – Operations Expenditure Control (working within budget).

(Based on Irish Water ASP Monthly Report Quarter 4 2020).

### Emergency Management

Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency Planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare. Wicklow's Chief Fire Officer Chairs the Eastern Region Working Group which has representatives from the Local Authorities in the region, An Garda Síochána and Health Service Executive. The Working Group reports to the Regional Steering Group which co-ordinates Emergency Planning for the Region.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and Municipal Districts. Only one meeting of the committee (there would normally be 3) took place in 2020

due to the restrictions in relation to COVID and the focus of all sections on dealing with the effects of the pandemic.

The focus of Major Emergency Management in the Local Authority and the Region was the response to the COVID pandemic.

In addition Wicklow County Council organised a Multi-Agency Major Emergency Exercise which took place in the Glenview Hotel on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The exercise scenario was based on a failure of a dam at Vartry and practiced the Multi Agency Local Co-ordinating Group, the Crisis Management Teams of the Principle Response Agencies, Information Management Systems and Media Liaison Officers. Evelyn Cusack from Met Éireann briefed participants in advance of the exercise which involved 86 staff from 11 organisations. Wicklow County Council's Flood Plans were used and tested throughout the exercise.



## Fire Services

Wicklow County Fire Service was involved in 1,214 incidents in 2020 of which 67 were in neighbouring counties. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 1,393 occasions. Activity during the year spiked in May, September and October due to gorse fires and outdoor fires, rubbish fires and bonfires.

In terms of overall activity the following statistics are considered noteworthy:

• Outdoor / gorse fires	17%
• Road Traffic Collisions	15%
• Fire Alarm Activations	14%
• Bins / Rubbish Fires	12%
• Domestic Fire	8%
• Assisting Ambulances	7%
• Chimney Fires	5%
• Vehicle Fires	5%

The above incident types account for 83% of total operational activity. Individual Fire Stations were mobilized the following number of times:

• Bray	372
• Greystones	279
• Wicklow Town	240
• Rathdrum	104
• Arklow	110
• Blessington	70
• Dunlavin	60
• Baltinglass	42
• Carnew	54
• Tinahely	62





The Fire Service took delivery of one new Fire Engine which was allocated to Wicklow Town. In addition the following grant aid funding from Central Government has been announced:

- New Fire Station Baltinglass €1 million
- New Fire Station Dunlavin €1 million
- New Fire Engine €450,000
- 2 x new Water Tankers €250,000

Wicklow County Fire Service used additional grant aid funding to design and build a Wildland Firefighting Jeep which is based in Tinahely and available to respond to incidents across the county.

The Fire Service assessed 50 candidates who applied to join the service. A 3-week QQI accredited Firefighter Skills Course for new entrants was undertaken in Bray which resulted in 12 successful participants joining the following Fire Stations:

- Bray 4
- Greystones 2
- Arklow 2
- Carnew 2
- Blessington 1
- Dunlavin 1

The primary focus of the annual training programme was to maintain / refresh necessary areas of competence e.g.

- Incident Command skills
- Breathing Apparatus
- Road Traffic Collision skills
- Hydraulic Platform operators
- Confined Space Rescue
- Cardiac First Responder
- Emergency Medical First Responder
- Flood Response training
- Emergency Vehicle driving skills

The following organisations availed of the training facilities in Bray Fire Station:

- Cork City Fire Service (5-weeks)
- National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (2-weeks)
- Clare Fire Service (2-weeks)
- Air Corps Crash Rescue (2-weeks)

Throughout the pandemic staff in Wicklow County Fire Service were proactive and enthusiastic in their response and support for the community. There were two well publicised examples, firefighter Jason Keogh (Carnew) designed, manufactured and distributed, free of charge, clips which provided comfort for patients and front line workers required to wear face masks for protracted periods. Also Station Officer Derek Ryan (Dunlavin) made over 600 deliveries of food and medicine to members of the local community that were isolating.



Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during the pandemic included:

- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003
- Inspecting Licensed Premises.
- Assessing Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009.
- Community Fire Safety including visits to most Primary Schools in the county

and to sites used by the Travelling Community.

## Building Control

The Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2015 set out procedures and controls which require owners, builders, and registered construction professionals to demonstrate that the works or buildings concerned have been designed and constructed in compliance with Building Regulations. With the advent of the Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) in 2014, there is now greater oversight and accountability of the construction of building and works in County Wicklow.

The Building Control Section administers the building control system and carries out inspections of active construction sites. Developers are required to submit Commencement Notices online into the National Building Control Management System (BCMS). A technical desktop assessment of every Commencement Notice is carried out and any issues are identified by a Building Control Officer. The purpose of site inspections is to provide an oversight role to the building control system and also to encourage and support a culture of compliance with the requirements of the building regulations. Sites are selected for inspection on a risk assessment basis with priority given to new building multi-unit residential developments, places of public resort, schools, hospitals and other buildings where large numbers of the public may be affected by non-compliant work. The priority of the Building Control Officer on site is to confirm compliance with fire safety requirements,

structural stability, accessibility and conservation of fuel and energy.

In 2020, there was continued activity to promote a culture of compliance with regulations. Further professional training for staff, standardisation of process of validation of applications, increased digitalisation, improved recording and structure of inspections and enhanced collaboration with other Building Control Authorities through the National Building Control Office.

## Civil Defence

Currently Wicklow Civil Defence has approximately 40 active members based in Greystones, Baltinglass and a newly formed unit in Arklow and will be looking to run a recruiting campaign in the new year Covid permitting. Wicklow Civil Defence members were kept busy during lock down with 1,212 requests for assistance ranging from shopping for the vulnerable through to transportation to medical appointments in Dublin.



Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence are at the forefront on using Drone and UAV Technology within Ireland. Currently Wicklow Civil Defence is using a Matrice 210 Drone which has both 30 x Optical Zoom Camera and Thermal Imaging Camera to assist

local Emergency Service Agencies in carrying out their respective roles. To date during 2020 the unit has been deployed 6 times to assist both local authorities such as Wicklow Fire Service and Coast Guard as well as three inter county deployments to assist with search of missing persons.



An exciting addition to the units capabilities is the acquisition of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y Platform which will arrive at the unit sometime in the early part of 2021. Sonar E.M.I.L.Y which stands for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard is a robotic device used for Rescue/Recovery and is equipped with side sonar technology. This unit operates on battery power and is operated either by remote control or can be pre-programmed to operate autonomously and is able to be deployed from shore, a boat, pier or

#### Building Control

P1 – New Buildings Inspected

even can be dropped from a helicopter and will be the only one in Ireland which is exciting times for both the Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence.

#### Performance Indicators – Wicklow County Council

National Service Indicators are prepared annually and submitted and verified by NOAC. Transportation, Water & Emergency Service indicators include:

#### Transportation (Verified externally by RMO)

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)

R2: Regional & Local Road Grant Works

#### Fire Services

P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates

F2 - Service Mobilisation

F3 - Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes

## Planning Development and Environment Directorate

Senior Engineer  
Fergal Keogh

## Planning Development and Environment Directorate

### Planning Development Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (2.5 years)  
Cllr. Edward Timmins (2.5 years)

Wicklow County Council  
Cllr. Shay Cullen  
Cllr. Edward Timmins  
Cllr. Patsy Glennon  
Cllr. Erica Doyle  
Cllr. Gerry O'Neill

Outside Agencies

Development/Construction - Jim Wood

Agriculture/Farming Community - Michael Byrne

Environment/Conservation - Tessa Stewart

Business/Commercial/Chambers - Conor McCarthy

Director of Services  
Breege Kilkenny

Senior Executive Officer  
Theresa O'Brien

Senior Planner  
Sorcha Walsh

### Functions Include:

- Preparation of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of policies of Development Plan
- Development Management
- Enforcement.
- Heritage
- Vacant Sites
- Derelict Sites
- Enforcement of the Short Term letting Regulations

### Goal

"To provide for proper and effective planning balancing the need for sustainable development, the rights of individuals, the protection of the environment and the social and economic needs of each area".

### Development Management

Development Management is the general term used to describe the functions relating to the processing of planning applications, up to and including any appeals to An Bord Pleanala.

Year	No. of Applications
2010	1147
2011	976
2012	939
2013	987
2014	1285
2015	1361

2016	1465
2017	1544
2018	1156
2019	1122
2020	1118

Other projects dealt with in this area are

- Strategic Housing Developments
- pre-planning
- third party submissions
- compliance
- appeals
- collection of development contributions
- section 5 referrals
- Taking in charge of estates

## Heritage

External funding drawn down in 2020:

- €23,000 - County Heritage Plan Fund;
- €14,300 - National Biodiversity Action Plan fund
- €22,000 - Creative Ireland; DCHG
- €7,600 – Community Monument Fund
- €110,000 - Built Heritage Grants.

### County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Actions completed

- Wicklow Community Archaeology Project
- National Heritage Week: Co-ordination of a county programme
- Our Wicklow Heritage Network of community heritage websites
- Heritage short films produced; River Liffey and Avoca River stories

- Co-ordination of Community Monument Fund (CMF) in county Wicklow
- Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project - Year 2 programme
- Wicklow Swift project
- National Biodiversity Week 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May
- *Gardening for Biodiversity* Publication
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan – Production of tutorial video on Grassland Management with National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

Other:

- Draft World Heritage Site (WHS) Tentative List input on behalf of Wicklow County Council
- Co-ordination of Protected Structures Grant schemes on behalf of Planning Department
- Ongoing input to Development management and Forward Planning functions
- Ongoing input to Climate & Biodiversity Action team
- Co-ordination of Wicklow Heritage Forum

## Environment

### Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Rory O'Connor (2.5 years)

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien

Cllr. Jodie Neary

Cllr Peir Leonard  
Cllr Lourda Scott

## Outside Agencies

Environment and Conservation – East  
Wicklow -Annette Vaucanson Kelly

Environment and Conservation – West  
Wicklow - Sharon Jackson  
Agriculture/Farming Community - Tom  
Shortt  
Business/ commercial/ chambers - Gary  
McKensie  
An Comhairle NA Nog - Rhona Lennox

Director of Services  
Breege Kilkenny

Senior Executive Officer  
Theresa O'Brien

Senior Engineer  
Marc Devereux

Climate Action Officer  
Mary Cahill

## Climate Action

The Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC  
met five times during 2020

Climate Action Officer was appointed and  
the Climate Action Team formed in 2020  
to oversee the implementation of actions  
committed to in both the Wicklow County  
Council Climate Change Adaptation  
Strategy and the Climate Action Charter.

Priority Action items for 2020 included

- Pilot scheme to install EV Charging point in three locations in the County
- UCD appointed to draft a tree Management Policy
- Woodland Creation Project: desktop study carried out to identify lands suitable for DAFM woodlands creation funding.
- Alternatives to the use of Glyphosate were researched and as a result a Foam stream machine was purchased and is being piloted in Bray MD in 2021.
- The roll out of the Climate Action national training programme commenced and will continue in 2021.
- Application for 2021 funding under the Better Energy Communities (BEC) grant scheme was submitted to the SEAI in December 2020

## Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

- 8 Communities have now signed up to the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) programme – Glenmalure, Laragh NewtownmountKennedy, Greystones/Delgany Kilcoole Enniskerry Wicklow and Blessington. Energy master plan was completed for Glenmalure in 2020
- An online seminar was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November to promote the programme in Wicklow with SEAI mentors and 3CEA and had an



audience of 50 participants. This has resulted in an increased interest from other communities in the programme

### Environmental awareness

- The Relove fashion competition was held again in 2020 with 23 teams from six secondary schools partaking. The delivery of a virtual final is planned for February 2021. Wicklow County Council received an Excellence in Local Government Award for this project.
- The Sustainable Development Goals mapping tool was delivered with the map developed in house by our GIS Officer.
- A new tree grant was developed to facilitate more planting of trees by local groups in County Wicklow. 21 applications were received with 18 approved for grant funding following consultation with the relevant Municipal Districts.
- 700 trees distributed for national tree week to communities and schools
- Despite COVID support to the green school programmer continued
- The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards were launched at the beginning of July and judged in August and September.
- The annual Christmas Decoration Competition was held as an in school event this year. Twenty one schools participated

- Stop Food Waste campaign with Catherine Fulvio was aired online twice once in July and again at Christmas

### Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

Wicklow County Council, under its remit and on behalf of Irish Water, continues to monitor water and control and wastewater pollution in accordance with legislation and EU regulations.

### Laboratory Services & Pollution Control

The laboratory services and pollution team were active in a range of areas to promote, protect and improve the quality of our environment and water resources in County Wicklow. The team plan and RMCEI (recommended minimum criteria for environmental inspections) formed the basis of prioritizing the work activities such as monitoring, complaint investigation, assessment and enforcement, as guided by departmental plan and committed resources.

Wicklow County Council continued to participate on the regional management and operational committees and engage with the Environmental Protection Agency, LA Water Programmes Offices and other stakeholders tasked with implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2018\_2021 and



preparation of the next management plan.

The monitoring of drinking water, river and lakes, and emissions to air and water and investigation of complaints were conducted virtually uninterrupted and adhering to the pandemic restrictions.

## Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2020. The bathing water monitoring results are displayed at the beaches and on the beaches.ie website through the bathing water season which runs from 1st June to 15th September each year. The bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters and eight other bathing areas was predominantly excellent in 2020 although there were periods when the water quality was significantly lower, due to rainfall and infrastructure events, which necessitated the placing of notices to protect the health of bathers in Bray, Wicklow and Clogga during the season. A public consultation was undertaken about the identification of bathing waters for 2021 and are under consideration.

## Blue Flags

Wicklow County Council retained its four Blue Flags in 2019 at Brittas Bay South, Brittas Bay North, Greystones South

Beach and Bray. ....lifeguards were employed for the bathing season 2020

## Veterinary Services

Service contract with Food Safety

Authority of Ireland(FSAI) until 31/12/21

- Allocation for 2020 - €180,835
- Supervision of low throughput abattoirs and meat manufacturing premises (14 in total)
- Section 85 agreement with Wexford County Council
- Ante & post-mortem inspections; hygiene inspections & audits; animal welfare; microbiological sampling (food, water & swabs); chemical analysis; veterinary medicine residue analysis
- Participation in Eastern Region and National Zoonoses Committees
- Participation in CCMA, FSAI and DAFM working groups

## Dog Control

- Memorandum of Agreement with ISPCA 1/3/20 to 28/2/23
- Dog Pound at Wicklow SPCA site in Ballygannonmore, Rathdrum
- 2 Dog Wardens & 1 part-time Kennel Assistant
- Charge for 2020 - €208,699

## 2020 statistics

- Dog Licences issued – 3493 Annual; Lifetime – 242; General - 3
- No. of stray & surrendered dogs 48
- No. reclaimed dogs 20 /rehomed 28
- No. put to sleep - 0

- Rehomed to other welfare groups – WSPCA/ISPCA/Dogs Trust/Dogs Angels
- All rehomed dogs microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed and neutering voucher given.
- Dog Breeding Establishments - 4
- Participation in Wicklow Multi-Agency Animal Welfare Forum

## Whitestown

The environmental consultants, Fehily Timony and Co produced a draft remediation plan for the site. This has been circulated to the relevant stake holders

## Waste Enforcement Team.

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing Waste Management Legislation within County Wicklow and has proven to be a great asset to the County.

The Team deals with waste, litter & burning environmental complaints. 2691 complaints were received during 2020.

## Litter

- 553 Litter Fines were issued for various breaches of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. littering, illegal signage, dog fouling etc.
- 44 cases were taken to Court.
- 58 Warning Letters were issued to individuals who contrived the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. leaving material at the recycling centres when the centres were

closed, incorrect recycling at the Recycling Centre, holding full and/or overflowing skip bags around an individual's property for a long period of time etc.

## Waste Management

- 72 Waste Management Files were opened for various breaches of the Waste Management Act, e.g. illegal dumping, burning of waste, illegal storage of waste etc. 35 Waste Management Files were sent to Court.
- 63 Section 14 Direction Notices were issued to individuals who failed to keep their property free from waste.
- 156 Abandoned Vehicle Notices were issued.
- 117 Burning Applications were processed.

## Anti-dumping Initiative

Funding of €36,722 was received during 2020 for five projects.

- 1257 mattresses were collected in two mattress amnesties in Bray and Arklow which were considerably lower than expected based on the numbers that were collected in 2019.
- Additional CCTV cameras were purchased to address increased dumping at bottle banks and outside charity shops.
- A "Bikes for Africa" project which repaired and recycled 260 unwanted bicycles and shipped them to Africa.

## PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)

PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat the increase of illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and was officially launched in September, 2006. The Project has been funded up to end of 2020.

## Recycling Facilities.

In 2020 the 5 Recycling Centres remained fully operational through the COVID restrictions. They accepted the following amounts of recycling materials:-

Arklow	873 tonnes
Avoca	412 tonnes
Bray	1552 tonnes
Wicklow	806 tonnes
Rampere	320 tonnes

In addition, we have 42 bottle bank locations throughout the County that collect Glass, Drink Cans and Food Cans. During 2020 the total weight of materials collected at these bottle banks amounted to 3593 tonnes this is an increase of over 50% on 2019.

## Harbours and Ports

### Wicklow County Council (Wicklow Port) Explosive Bye-Laws 2020

Following consultation the Department of Justice and Equality bye-laws to facilitate the importation of explosives through Wicklow Port were drafted. The bye-laws were prepared in accordance with Section 34 of the Explosives Act 1875. The draft bye-laws were advertised and placed on public display on the 20th November 2019. Following completion of the statutory period of the public consultation a request to sanction the bye-laws was made to the Minister for Justice and Equality. On the 28th February the Minister for Justice & Equality sanctioned the Wicklow County Council (Wicklow Port) Explosives Bye-Laws 2020.

At the ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 15th June 2020 the Members of Wicklow County Council adopted the Wicklow County Council (Wicklow Port) Explosive Bye-Laws 2020 by a margin of 30 For and 2 Not Present.

## Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2020

The following works were completed under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2020. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine co-funds up to 75% of the total cost of approved projects, with Wicklow County Council providing the balance.

### Arklow Harbour - Navigation Lights

- Installation of new omni-directional sectorised lantern with a range of up to 9 nautical miles on a
-

- solar powered system with battery pack North Pier, Arklow
- Installation of omni-directional sectored lantern with a range of up to 11 nautical miles on a transformer system at the South Pier, Arklow
- Civil works including the installation of over 200 metres of new cabling at the South Pier.

### Wicklow Harbour - Ladders

- Installation of 11 new galvanised ladders with handrails and 2 recessed ladders on the North and South Quays, Wicklow Harbour.

### Wicklow Harbour - Bollards

- Installation of a 50 tonne heavy duty bollard at Packet Pier and intermediate bollards on the North Quay

### Wicklow Harbour – East Pier Minor refurbishment/ improvement

- Installation of new and repair of existing fenders on the East Pier
- Resurfacing of section so the East Pier as the southern end.
- Replacement of damaged and corroded railings and handrail
- Installation of public lighting along the entire length of the East Pier
- Installation of three new mooring bollards

### Wicklow and Arklow Harbours

- Erection of signage around the harbours and piers in order to improve awareness and safety for all harbour users.

### Floating Pontoon – South Quay, Wicklow

At the ordinary meeting of Wicklow Municipal District held on the 28th September 2020 the members in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) were presented with the CE Report on the proposals to develop a floating pontoon at South Quay, Wicklow. The proposal, as detailed in the report, was passed unanimously by all Members present.

The development of the pontoon facility cannot commence until a foreshore licence is granted by the Department of Planning, Local Government and Heritage (DPLGH). Following preliminary discussions an application for a foreshore licence was formally submitted to the DPLGH in January 2020.

### Storage Facilities for fishermen, South Quay, Arklow

At the ordinary meeting of Arklow Municipal District the held on the 11th November 2020 the Members were presented with the CE Report associated with the development of storage facilities for fishers at South Quay, Arklow. The proposals, as detailed in the report, were passed unanimously by the Members present.

### Wicklow Port – Shipping Activity

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Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions
January 2020	3	3	0	3
February 2020	4	4	0	4
March 2020	9	8	1	10
April 2020	9	8	1	10
May 2020	8	8	0	8
June 2020	8	7	1	9
July 2020	11	11	0	11
August 2020	10	9	1	11
September 2020	9	9	0	9
October 2020	10	10	0	10
November 2020	14	12	2	16
December 2020	11	11	0	11
Total 2020	91	89	6	101
Total 2019	116	89	27	143
Total 2018	138	126	12	150

		2020	TOTAL
IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL	
100,378.00	3,615.00	<b>103,993.00</b>	Forestry Products
-	44,507.00	<b>44,507.00</b>	Metals
-	-	-	Sand
-	-	-	Waste export
-	3,006.00	<b>3,006.00</b>	Glass
<b>100,378.00</b>	<b>51,128.00</b>	<b>151,506.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## Greystones Harbour

On 14th December 2020 the 16-acre coastal park together and public boardwalk attached to the €300 million harbour development opened. The boardwalk, which is over 300 metres long, links the coastal park to Greystones Harbour, with the two newly

opened amenities forming an integral part of the Greystones Harbour development which runs from the Bray Promenade to Victoria Road, Greystones.

An application under section 146B of the planning and development act 2000, as amended has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Sispar Limited for alterations to Block D to include a mixed use consisting of 33 residential units (up from 11), the omission of a medical centre, provision of 1,351 square metres of commercial space, amendments to courtyard areas, and increasing car parking in Courtyard 1 from the previously approved 35 spaces to 58 spaces and in Courtyard 2 from the previously approved 42 spaces to 52 spaces.

TOTAL			2019	2020	TOTAL
	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL	IMPORTS	EXPORTS
Forestry Products	105,039.00	24,253.00	<b>129,292.00</b>	100,378.00	3,615.00
Metals	-	30,660.00	<b>30,660.00</b>	44,507.00	44,507.00
Sand	2,460.00	-	<b>2,460.00</b>	-	-
Waste export	-	8,999.00	<b>8,999.00</b>	-	-
Glass	-	-	-	3,006.00	3,006.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107,499.00</b>	<b>63,912.00</b>	<b>171,411.00</b>	<b>100,378.00</b>	<b>51,128.00</b>



## Burial Grounds

There are thirty two burial grounds currently in operation in County Wicklow - part-time registrars are employed in each graveyard by Wicklow County Council to liaise with the public in regard to the purchase of grave space and also to maintain burial registers.

The Municipal Districts are responsible for the maintenance of the graveyards within their districts.

The first Urn wall was constructed in Springfield graveyard in Bray in 2020 and will be operational in 2021.

- Licence for Archaeological Site Investigation of potential Compounds lodged 4/11/2020  
Archaeological Investigations have been completed and integrated into EIAR.
- Statutory Consultee consultation - Meetings with NPWS and IFI completed
- Virtual Public Information day and Update to members and Local Media planned for Q1 2021.

## Avoca Mines Remediation Project

- The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) wrote to Wicklow County Council requesting assistance and offering funding support to WCC to advance the above project . A draft Memorandum of Understanding and a draft Corporate Governance document was prepared and issued to the Department.
- A CPO for the lands in West Avoca has been published in December 2020 to progress the transfer of lands in West Avoca around Ballymurthagh Landfill to WCC.

## Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

- Dredge disposal site investigation received - preliminary indications are that 65% dredge material can be disposed of, to inert land based uses.
  - Presentation on the scheme to Arklow Members on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020
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The purpose of these committees is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

## **COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CC&SD)**

### **Strategic Policy Committee Membership**

**Director of Services:** Michael Nicholson

**Elected Members:**

Cllr. Gail Dunne (Cathaoirleach)

Cllr. Vincent Blake

Cllr. Vincent Blake

Cllr. Anne Ferris

Cllr John Mullen

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Cllr. Miriam Murphy

**Outside Agencies:**

Business/Commercial,

Irene Sweeney, Chamber of Commerce

Public Participation Network,

Gertie Salley, PPN Social Inclusion

Public Participation Network,

Kevin Mann, Community and Voluntary

Community and Voluntary, Celine O'Neill

Environment/Conservation, Anne Gregory

### **Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)**

#### **1.1 The functions of the LCDC**

- a) To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan.
- b) To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- c) To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least once within the 6 year period.
- d) To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.
- e) To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.
- f) To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee, so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly-funded local and

community development resources are used.

- g) To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority.
- h) The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body or person, as the case may be, which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

## Local Economic and Community Plan

The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County.

The plan:

- agrees priorities for the area
- agrees agency roles in addressing these priorities
- Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan

## Monitoring the LECP

An Advisory Committee was originally set up to develop the LECP and ensure integration of both elements of the plan. The Advisory Committee has agreed to continue in place to monitor the implementation of the plan. The members of the Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority.

They are:

Cllr. Pat Kennedy	Chair LCDC
Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Chair Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Michael Nicholson	Chief Officer LCDC
Lorraine Gallagher	Director of Services, Economic Development & Enterprise
Vibeke Delahunt	Local Enterprise Office
Christine Flood	SEO Economic Development & Enterprise
Deirdre Whitfield	Community Cultural & Social Development

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

## Regional

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001, in particular Section 66c 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC has anticipated the development of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) worked closely together on the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

The LDS was designed and developed through the following consultative processes:

- Feedback from countywide consultation process
- Relevant stakeholder consultations
- Socio-economic profile of the County
- Desk research – relevant policies and reports
- Available budgets

The combined Goals of the LECP are:

(The Goals highlighted in blue are mainly the Community Goals – those in green are the Economic Goals)

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of

resource, and leading in the smart economy

Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund
- Community Enhancement Scheme
- Community Enhancement Programme (Community Centres and Community Facilities)

## 3.1.2. Implementation

Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build capacity and social capital across all communities</li> <li>- Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development</li> </ul>
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A number of programmes contribute to the achievement of this goal and a number of agencies are involved in the integration of this action. The LEADER and SICAP Programmes are central to building capacity of communities. In addition, a number of development funding schemes were announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development:

- Town & Village Scheme
- CLÁR
- Outdoor Recreation Scheme
- Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

## Funding Received 2020

Funding Schemes 2020	Funding Received 2020
Town & Village Schemes (Accelerated 1, 2, 3 and main scheme)	€961,538
CLAR	€60,000
Emergency COVID fund	€78,414
Libraries COVID Funding	€145,619
DCYA Playground Grant	€18,000
Digital Poverty Grant	€45,000
Outdoor Recreation Scheme to 9 projects under Measure1 initiatives.	€158,247
Rural Regeneration &	€357,750



Development Fund (NTMK)	
Sports Funding	€41,000
Creative Ireland Funding	€73,900
Healthy Ireland Initiative	€115,385
Community Enhancement Scheme: General Community Centres & Community Facilities	€61,767 €150,438
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€2,267,058</b>

There are twenty one local schools and youth groups involved in the Comhairle. The Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg is an extremely strong group of individuals who represent the County extremely well and with great pride.

Wicklow Comhairle took part in a national consultation on the effect Covid 19 is having on young people. The Youth Summit was highly successful and as always energetic. The Comhairle Showcase event took place virtually and a number of topics were discussed. The Wicklow Comhairle participated in the Keep Well campaign with fantastic videos produced to encourage all young people to mind their mental health and stay safe.

Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making	-Develop strong representative fora in the county
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## Activity Performance Indicators 2020

### Youth and Community (Y1 and Y2)

Y1 : Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme

Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme  
= **78%**

Compiled as follows:-

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area at 31/12/2018 = **23**

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2020 = **18**

## Comhairle na nÓg

Wicklow County Council are the hosts of Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg. Dermot O'Brien is the Wicklow co-ordinator appointed following tender process.

## County Wicklow Older Persons Council

The CWOPC are the consultative body for the older people in Wicklow. They proved invaluable in 2020 as they continued to provide a voice for the older people who were severely affected by Covid in 2020. They were instrumental in proving feedback and in a lot of cases took the lead to provide assistance to their Communities. Due to restrictions, they could not meet up but were very successful in completing meetings on line. A Programme of works for 2021 has been drawn up which includes radio slots for the CWOPC , a digital pilot with an OPC member who has never used the internet and cannot join the meetings on zoom, and forging stronger links with the Belfast group amongst other actions.

## Age Friendly

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme provides a structure so that Local Authorities can take a lead on changing thinking about ageing and how services are planned and delivered. Through this model, Local Authorities bring together older people, service providers and businesses in an Alliance that really works and which:

- Enables older people to live active and healthy lives, remaining in their own homes for as long as possible.

- Enhances service delivery without increasing expenditure.
- Brings about valued improvements in the quality of life for everybody in the community.

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme offers a proven way of bringing diverse organisations, groups, services and businesses together to streamline their work, with the needs and interests of older people at their heart.

The Age Friendly Strategy delivered the following in 2020:

- 500 care packages were delivered throughout the county with a target group of those most vulnerable and isolated. The packs were delivered by Meals on Wheels and participating Public Health nurses. Each pack contained the Information Guide to service for people in Wicklow, the age friendly eircode fridge magnet, an exercise book from the LSP, Hi Vis armbands from the RSA, a recipe book created by the Environmental Awareness office, colouring pencils, sketch pad, chocolate, hand sanitiser, hand cream, puzzle book and face masks. This project was part funded by Age friendly and by the “keep well” campaign.
  - Age friendly participated in the Digital poverty programme by working with Bray Area Partnership to provide technology
-

for nursing homes in the Bray Area. A further 17 technology tablets for nursing homes were delivered outside of the Bray area. This was funded by Age friendly Ireland and the HSE. Seven nursing homes/hospital settings participated. Another tranche of this project is due in early 2021 being funded through the Keep Well campaign.

- Training for a new Befriending service in Arklow was initiated and should be complete 2021. Alone are providing the training free of charge.
- A walkability survey took place in Baltinglass with the results forwarded to the RRDF team
- A new age friendly housing technical advisor was appointed, in line with the national programme for government. This will ensure a focus is kept on the needs of the elderly.
- Age friendly were proud to collaborate with the Waste Management Department to roll out age friendly parking at four civic amenity sites. These parking spaces have been well received.
- National Age Friendly newsletter widely distributed as a source of valuable information and ongoing updates for older people.



**Winter Care package photo Recipient**

## Community Awards 2020

The Community Award Grants for 2020 had an overall fund of €200,000 and awards were granted in respect of Community Grant/Merit Awards and Community Social Innovation Awards. Over 300 Community Groups, Clubs and Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2020.

## Social Inclusion Unit

Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued to support anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives throughout 2020. Over that period it:

- Monitored implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) throughout County Wicklow
- Represented social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Supported the ongoing development and operation of the Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Represented social inclusion issues on the Community, Cultural and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
- Participated on regional and national committees, networks and structures

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022

This national programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU European Social Fund (ESF) continues to be successfully delivered in Co. Wicklow by Bray Area Partnership for the Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-1) and Co. Wicklow Partnership for the Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-2). SICAP focuses on

empowering and enabling the county's most disadvantaged communities and individuals to improve their life opportunities, outcomes and local environment.

In 2020 the Programme Implementers pivoted work plans and methodologies to comprehensively meet the challenges presented by Covid 19, particularly through the use of online platforms. Key priority issues included: Food poverty; Digital divide; mental health; Refugees/Asylum seekers; Substance Misusers.

The Programme's three key goals are;

- Community development- Resource disadvantaged communities to engage with relevant local stakeholders in addressing social exclusion and increase the capacity of local community groups.
- Education/training- Support disadvantaged individuals to improve their educational and training qualifications.
- Employment- Support the long-term unemployed -including young people- to improve work readiness and access to employment/self-employment /social entrepreneurship opportunities.

In 2020 Bray Area Partnership supported 26 Local Community Groups and 497 disadvantaged individuals, 41% of whom were from designated disadvantaged areas. Co. Wicklow Partnership supported 15 Local Community Groups and 351

disadvantaged individuals, 33% of whom were from designated disadvantaged areas.

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, continued to oversee, monitor and manage the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering this programme. The LCDC was greatly assisted in this task by the SICAP Sub-group.

## County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network continued to facilitate public engagement and participation throughout the county and act as a conduit through which Wicklow County Council connected with community, social inclusion and environmental groups. Throughout 2020 it participated in a wide variety of public consultations and policy submissions at local, regional and national level.

At the end of 2020 Wicklow PPN had in place 35 Representatives sitting across 18 Committees/Boards within the county and local authority including Strategic Policy Committees and Joint Policing Committees. (A full list of Committees and Representatives available on Wicklow PPN website)

Wicklow PPN played a pivotal role during the 2020 pandemic. It was an active participant on the Wicklow Community Response Forum and was a key point of contact in highlighting community issues/concerns and sharing information and supports.

Wicklow PPN also established and facilitated a working group for people and organisations working to promote disability access and awareness-raising which later integrated into the new WCC Disability Access & Inclusion Group. The PPN also worked with the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer to develop a mapping tool for community groups to link their work to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## Activity Performance Indicator 202

Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

A Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2020 = 357

B Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2020 = 72

C Number of organisations (registered in 2020) opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = 8

2020 Highlights:

Strategy	Status
Healthy Wicklow	The Healthy Wicklow Strategy was launched



<b>Strategy (Integrated action with CYPSC)</b>	on 4th March 2019. The Healthy Wicklow Plan 2019 – 2021 received €184,000 funding for implementation
<b>County Wicklow Food &amp; Beverage Strategy (Integrated action with Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC)</b>	<p>The County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy was launched at a food showcase event, the 'Feast from the East' in April 2019. The strategy is being implemented by the Committee along with Birnie and Associates Ltd. funded equally between Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Partnership. Progress underway on the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Wicklow Food Story</li> <li>• Development of Wicklow Food and Beverage Branding</li> <li>• Creation of a key messaging plan</li> <li>• Creation of a food activity calendar</li> <li>• Creation of a website</li> <li>• Delivery of business networking events</li> <li>• Food Poverty and Sustainability</li> </ul>
<b>County Wicklow</b>	LCDC steering group established to direct this

<b>Migrant Integration Strategy</b>	action. Development of the strategy was completed in 2020
<b>Children &amp; Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) Plan</b>	LCDC input into the development of a new CYPSC plan



#### Healthy Ireland Vision

A Healthy Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

#### The four goals of Healthy Ireland are:

Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.

Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities.

Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing.

Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.

Healthy Wicklow Programme 2019 – 2021 Round 3 consisted of the following actions, for which €205,385 was received in funding for implementation and for the employment of a co-ordinator.

- Action 1 - Healthy Town Blessington Sports Recreation Partnership
- Action 2 - Meet and Eat Wicklow Dementia Support Group
- Action 3 – Social Prescribing Bray Area Partnership
- Action 4 – Health & Wellbeing DEIS Schools Bray Area Partnership
- Action 5 – Physical Activity For All Sports Recreation Partnership
- Action 6 – Urban Outdoor Recreation Initiative Sports Recreation Partnership
- Action 7 – Community Kitchen Healthy Families Bray Area Partnership
- Action 8 – Support Children & Young People Wicklow Traveller Youth Group
- Action 9 – Fostering Health & Wellbeing for Families County Wicklow Partnership
- Community Mental Health Fund – Social Prescribing County Wicklow Partnership & Supporting Community Mental Health Initiatives

Wicklow County Council as part of the Governments Keep Well Campaign received an allocation of €67,225 to be split across three themes. The amounts and themes and are as follows:

- Your County - € 20,168
- Switching Off/Being Creative - €30,251
- Staying Connected (Community Call) - €16,806

## Goal 4:

A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

County Wicklow Partnership and Bray Area Partnership have taken the lead with this goal and are rolling out training and support programmes for a number of social enterprises in the county

## Socio-economic Integration

The LCDC also continue to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. These include:

- LEADER
- The Children and Young People Services Committee
- The Joint Policing Committee
- The Public Participation Network
- The HSE / National Office for Suicide Prevention
- 

## EU Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

The themes of the LEADER Programme are:

Theme	Sub theme
Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Tourism</li> <li>• Enterprise Development</li> <li>• Rural Towns</li> <li>• Broadband</li> </ul>
Theme 2: Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Youth</li> <li>• Basic Services</li> </ul>

Inclusion	•
Theme 3: Rural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity</li> <li>• Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources</li> <li>• Renewable Energy</li> </ul>

The LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme in the county, and hold the LAG meetings separate from the LCDC meetings. County Wicklow Partnership is the implementing body for the programme. The Local Authority is the lead financial partner for LEADER in County Wicklow with responsibility for the programme both administratively and financially.

## Meetings

7 LAG meetings took place in 2020:

January, February, April, June, July, October and December

Approximately 7 Evaluation Committee Meetings took place in the period between January and December 2020.

## Progress

An independent review of Wicklow's LDS was undertaken by an external consultant between November 2019 and March 2020. From the review of the LDS it yielded a number of recommendations and giving the remaining balance of funds, coupled with the high level of interest on hand and planned in-house LDS strategic

work for 2020 there was no further requirement to amend Wicklow's LDS budget except with the provision under Circular 11-2020 provided for greater budgetary flexibility to move between Themes and Subthemes due to the challenges being experienced as a direct impact of Covid-19.

The 2020 budgetary progress report indicates Wicklow's project commitments on 31st December 2020 are €4,840,670, which includes provisional approvals.

There was a large volume of rolling Expressions of Interest received in 2020.

Funding for the implementation of the Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy was secured through the LEADER Food Initiative in October 2019. This project is now underway and has yielded several additional collaborative and individual food and beverage projects for Wicklow in 2020.

Under the current LEADER programme, all project approvals are due to be made before the end of 2020. Due to the disruption to community and economic activity in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not been possible for all LAGs to meet the project approval deadline. Taking this into consideration, and in response to a number of requests for an extension of the timeline for project approvals, the Minister is extending the deadline for project commitments under the 2014-2020 programme to 31st. March 2021

There is a new Transitional **LEADER** Programme which will commence on 1st April 2021. Only projects approved on or after this date will be eligible for funding under the Transitional LEADER

programme. However, project animation may commence from 1st January 2021. Projects under the Transitional Programme must to be approved by the LAGs on or before 31st December 2022, with all projects to be completed before 31st December 2023. Final claims for payment must be submitted to the Department no later than 30th June 2024

### Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service provides a wide range of services and facilities, across its 13 branch library network. The mobile library also visits 30+ locations on a fortnightly basis. In addition to borrowing & lending books, DVDs, talking books and music CDs, the following services are available:

- Online stock, such as e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio books, e-newspapers from across the world, e-languages and self-learning courses
- Public computers
- Wi Fi for the public to use their laptops, tablets or devices
- Online catalogue of all 330 libraries in Ireland
- Twice weekly request service delivery and collection of stock from those 330 libraries – directly to each branch
- All above is free, and there is no longer any library fines for overdue items!
- 

### “My First Library Card”

Before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Wicklow and Kildare County Council Library Services co-operated in the “My First Library Card” initiative. This was launched in Blessington library, with the objective of encouraging parents of all newborns and children aged 0-5 to join the library. A special “My First Library Card” was designed and promoted in both counties, with grant aid from Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). Public Health Nurses across Wicklow and Kildare distribute brochures and information on the project to the parents of newborns at their first meeting and encourage parents of all children up to the age of 5 years to get a library card for their child, with the ultimate aim of having all children “reading ready” by the time they commence primary school.



### 2020 – a Year Like No Other!

While the first weeks of the year got off to a roaring start, with lots of events in all our libraries, the challenges brought by Covid-19 meant library staff had to use their imaginations to re-invent the service to ensure it was meaningful and relevant to its users.

- Online stories via Zoom and uploaded to YouTube were weekly occurrences
- National, annual initiatives such as “Spring Into Story Time” and

"Summer Stars" were promoted virtually

- Craft workshops, quizzes, short story, poetry, limerick and other literary competitions featured throughout the year



The following is just a sample of activities from our larger libraries:

## Arklow Library



### Signed Stories

Themed  
Book Bundles

Musical Instrument Loans

Online storytime  
& craft sessions

throughout the year

Music Taster  
Workshops

Irish Sign Language

Weekly Conversation Group

## Bray Library

Back Garden Seed  
Saving

in Bray Library's  
garden

Weekly  
Age Action  
Computer Classes

'How to Get Your Book Published'  
classes

Engineering  
demonstration  
for  
Engineers Week

'Inside Out Nutrition'  
with Healthy Ireland

Weekly  
CoderDojo  
Workshops

## Greystones Library





Christmas Stories **Science Week** Events

'How to Build a Bug  
Hotel'  
for your Garden!

*'Create a Poem in the  
Shape of a Christmas Tree'  
Competition*

Arts & Crafts **'Felting' Craft Workshop**

**Heritage Week** webinars

**Lego Technic**  
Workshop

**Maths  
Week  
Events**

## Blessington Library



**Computer, Tablet &  
Smartphone classes** with  
Age Action **Liz Weir** - Stories  
of Folklore &  
Magic

**'Operation  
Transformation' talks  
with Healthy Ireland**

**'Way With Words'**  
Festival in early March

**Poets –**  
Colm Keegan, Martin Dyar & Lorna Breen

**Niall de Burca (storyteller)**

Christine Dwyer Hickey

**Dermot Bolger**  
in conversation

**Blessington Heritage Trail quiz**

**Tovortafel 'magic table' classes for adults with intellectual disabilities**

**Baby Sign Language  
workshop**

**'Benefits of Healthy Living' talk**  
with Karl Henry

Christmas Arts & Crafts

**Chair Exercise Classes**  
for older Adults & people with illnesses

**Zoom Book Clubs  
for Adults & Children**

## Wicklow Library



Stress  
Management  
Workshop

Story Times

**Book Clubs  
for  
Adults & Teens**

*Summer Stars  
Reading Packs*

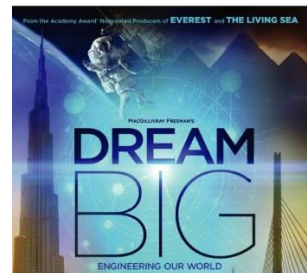
**Elf on the Shelf**

*Robotics  
Workshop*

Heritage Week  
Puppet Making  
Workshop

## Engineers' Week (Feb 29 – March

6) occurred just before the first lockdown.



## Lego Workshops

at Arklow Library  
and  
Dunlavin Community  
College

**Robotic Workshops**  
at Wicklow Library

## Engineers' Week

29th Feb to 6th March

*Structures to build  
using marshmallows  
and spaghetti*

**Balloon Rocket  
Building Session**

**"What it means to be  
an Engineer"**

at various branches and  
Avoca National School

## Library Services during Covid-19

Libraries were aligned with cultural centres, as part of level 1-5 restrictions. This meant that while the nation was at Level 1 or Level 2, our libraries were opening for studying or browsing, Level 3 was reduced to “Click and Collect”, while at Level 5, services went online. By ensuring that safety measures were put in place during the initial closed period, all Wicklow libraries were in a position to re-open or respond to national recommendations as per the national “traffic light” system.



When Level 5 restrictions were introduced in October, Wicklow County Council introduced a library home delivery service. A fortnightly rota was put in place, covering all towns and villages in the county. This has been greatly appreciated by its recipients. Emphasis has been placed on delivering books to people living alone, but a little more flexibility is allowed where time allows.

## Increase in Access to Electronic Resources

Library staff were busy throughout the year, promoting our online services on social media, including e-books, downloadable audio books, e-magazines/ e-newspapers, and e-languages. This resulted in usage stats for 2020 being double those of 2019 (70K v 35K). Statistics show that Wicklow County Council recorded the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest national usage of these resources per head of population (after Cork City).

## Assistance with Home Schooling

Our library service took out subscriptions to 3 online databases in 2019, aimed at helping students’ literary and mathematical development – “Touch, Type, Read, Spell”, “Lexia” and “Mathletics”. By the end of 2019 teachers from all 120 schools in county Wicklow had received training in these resources. During the 2020 lockdown, we were in a position to provide licences and support to students, direct from home. Funding for this was partly grant aided through the Department of Rural and Community Development’s (DRCD) “Dormant Fund Account” grants. These resources have been much appreciated by families, in assisting with home schooling.



## Links with Syrian Families

17 Syrian families have found homes in county Wicklow in 2020. Our library service and “Respond” (implementation partners of the Refugee Resettlement Programme) met with 2 of these families in Arklow library in September. The families received “welcome packs” and were made familiar with the library service. In the future, their local library can help as a starting point to discover services, provide assistance in learning English and be a welcoming space for cultural events.



## Project Postcard



Hello



ADDRESS

Wicklow Libraries Project Postcard

From



This project is an initiative of library staff as part of the national Covid Resilience Programme – “Staying Connected”. In the lead-up to Christmas, primary school children were encouraged to write to nursing home residents or loved ones, here or abroad.

This postcard was designed to be diverse and give scope for creativity. Almost 50 schools and more than 20 nursing homes in County Wicklow participated.

## Home Energy Saving Kits

Wicklow County Council Library Service has invested in Home Energy Kits which



may be borrowed by the public, free of charge. They are available at each of our 13 libraries, enabling people to access the energy efficiency of their home. Each kit contains a fridge/freezer thermometer, a humidity meter, a thermal leak detector to identify any draughts or air leaks and a plug-in energy monitor.



## ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

Wicklow County Archives Service holds a unique collection of Wicklow records relating to the administration of the County and the people's interaction with this administration. They offer a rich research resource for the family and local historian, as well as academics and researchers of wide and varying interests.

Among the jewels of the collection are the 17th and 18th century Wicklow Borough records - offering a snapshot of Wicklow life in the mid-1600's. The County

archives also holds the records of the Grand Jury, the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, rural and district, Town and County Councils as well as private collections.

## Wicklow Genealogy Service

The County Archives offers a genealogy research service, researching and advising those with Wicklow roots, and promoting the County as a key destination to those on the "roots trail". Our parish records database establishes family lines and their connection with the Wicklow landscape. Wicklow is a member of [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie). This research site contains over 20 million Irish records from 30 Counties.

## Archives & Genealogy Programme 2020/21

Digitisation projects:

Wicklow UDC Minute books now Online - The records of Wicklow Town Commissioners and Urban District Council dating from 1847 are the latest collection to be added to our online digital archives at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>. These 19th century local government records, along with our digitised Grand Jury and Workhouse records, give us a flavour of life in our county towns and districts at this time.

## Conservation Programme

Programme of archives conservation continues with the repair and conservation of a second item from the Archives' oldest collection, the Wicklow Borough Corporation Minute Books (dating from early 1600s).

### Special Projects:

Bicentenary of Henry Grattan's Death – History Ireland Podcast

The famous parliamentarian Henry Grattan lived in County Wicklow. His beloved home of Tinnehinch in Enniskerry is where he spent his twilight years. To mark the bicentenary of his passing, History Ireland partnered with the County Archives Service and Bray Cualann Historical Society to mark his Wicklow connection with a specially recorded Hedgeschool panel discussion on Grattan's life and work. Historians David Dickson, Patrick Geoghegan, Sylvie Kleinman and Tim Murtagh reassess his often misunderstood legacy in this fascinating discussion now available on our community archives network *Our Wicklow Heritage* at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/henry-grattan-podcast>

9th century – ongoing project with a view to creating an online resource for those with roots in Wicklow/Cumberland mining heritage or an interest in industrial history/heritage.

## County Wicklow Heritage Website

Online community archives are part of a network of websites created by the National Museum of Ireland. The Wicklow site *Our Wicklow Heritage* is a partnership of the Heritage, Library and Archive services with local heritage sites from Donard, Glendalough, Bray and Delgany.

Wicklow Together Apart campaign "building a people's archive" collection of *Lockdown 2020* stories, photos, and poems hosted on *Our Wicklow Heritage* – initiative a collaboration of Wicklow Library, Heritage and Archives Service - <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/together-apart-wicklow-2020-stories>

Wicklow Decade of Centenaries Programme 2020-2023

Wicklow historians' articles for War of Independence/Civil War period

A key project for 2020/21 is the County Archives project for Wicklow Decade of Centenaries – a series of commissioned articles by Wicklow historians and historical societies telling the story of County Wicklow during the years 1914-1923. Launched for Heritage Week 2020, these articles are hosted on *Our Wicklow Heritage* online community archives and this content will form the basis for a publication and exhibition in 2021.

Wicklow in the Revolutionary Period Podcasts

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As part of our Wicklow Decade of Centenaries: The Historians' Project - Wicklow County Council's Archives Service is delighted to present Wicklow in the Revolutionary Period - two new podcasts produced by History Ireland Hedgeschools. Drawing from the themes of their fascinating War of Independence articles on our community archives site Our Wicklow Heritage at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/> are our very own Wicklow historians Rosemary Raughter (Greystones), Brian White and James Scannell (Bray) along with John Dorney (editor of 'The Irish Story') in conversation with "school master" Tommy Graham about Wicklow's unique experience during this turbulent period. The latter covers North Wicklow while Wicklow historians Jim Rees, Sheila Clarke, Kevin Lee and Brendan Flynn

discuss the experience in the south of the county in a second podcast.

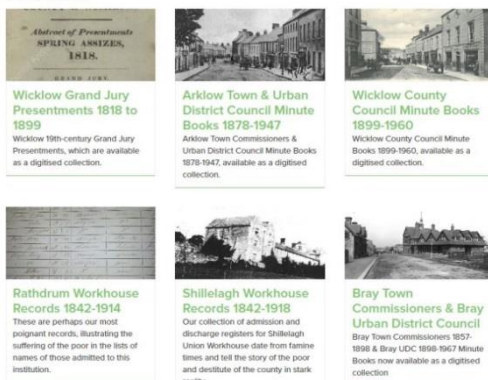
## Records Management Programme

Member of the Wicklow County Council Records Management Group, developing a records management programme for Wicklow County Council, with reference to the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records published by the LGMSB – in the process of being updated by the LGMA.

Member of Wicklow County Council GDP Governance Group – working with each department to ensure compliance with Data Protection Act 2018

## Digitised Collections

Popular collections now digitised and freely available here, including 19th century Grand Jury and council minutes. More to follow soon...



Group of prisoners outside Wicklow Gaol



## Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

This includes the operation, maintenance and improvement of the following outdoor leisure facilities.

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow:

- Arklow : Seaview Avenue, Arklow.
- Arklow : St. Peter's Place, Arklow.
- Arklow : South Green, Arklow.
- Arklow: Heatherside, Vale Road.
- Bray : Ballywaltrim, Bray (opened 2020).
- Bray : Fassaroe, Bray
- Bray : Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road, Bray.
- Bray : Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray.
- Bray : Sidmonton Park, Bray.
- Bray : Seafront, Promenade
- Wicklow Town : Ballynerrin.
- Wicklow Town : Hill View.
- Wicklow Town : The Murrough.
- Rathnew Children's Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park
- Baltinglass Recreation Park and Playground.
- Blessington Playground, Business Park, Blessington
- Carnew Playground
- Rathdangan Playground
- Enniskerry Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.
- Greystones Playground, Mill Road, Greystones
- Kilmacanogue Playground, Rockfield Park.

- Laragh (opened 2020)
- Newcastle Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle.
- Newtownmountkennedy Children's Playground
- Newtownmountkennedy (Playground and Scouts Den)
- Roundwood (opened 2020)

## Skate Parks: -

- Arklow Skate Park, and MUGA at Seaview Avenue.
- Wicklow Town Skate Park and BMX Circuit and MUGA at Seafront, The Murrough.
- Blessington Skate Park, at Business Park, Blessington
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, and Athletics Track at Charlesland Greystones.
- Baltinglass Skate Park

## Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow County Council in partnership: -

- Aughrim Playground.
  - Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue.
  - Ashford Community Park Playground
  - Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, Charlesland, Greystones.
  - Dunlavin Playground.
  - Eden Gate Playground, Charlesland, Greystones.
  - Grangecon, Playground.
  - Knockananna Playground.
  - Rathdrum Playground.
  - Shillelagh Playground
  - Tinahely Playground and MUGA
-



**Roundwood Playground Opening**



**Laragh Playground Opening**

## Pride of Place Awards 2020 - Co-operation Ireland 'All - Island'

Four Wicklow groups were nominated for the "Pride of Place" Awards which went ahead this year online, honouring communities across the island for their work during the Covid – 19 crisis.

Dubbed the "Oscars of the Community Sector", the "Pride of Place" Awards are an annual competition organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. It

promotes and celebrates the best in community development and recognises the selfless efforts of people in making their local area a better place to live work and socialise. Wicklow's entries - Ashford Community and Heritage Centre; Arklow Meals on Wheels; Carnew Bia Abhaile and County Wicklow Volunteer Centre were among the 82 groups that were nominated in 2020. The 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awards which was to be hosted by Kerry County Council took place

online due to Covid – 19 and was hosted by RTE's Marty Morrissey.

## Blessington E-Greenway

AECOM Consultant Engineers were appointed by the Council to bring the project through all the stages of design to construction. A number of site walkovers for the entire route were carried out by WCC and ESB staff.

Through the process of route identification and agreement with ESB, the construction works of the scheme was changed from the original scheme, these elements include route change, a new bridge, increased path width, lake shore protection works, a bridge underpass, some tree removal and a new surface type of macadam. These additional works increased the cost of the scheme to a sum of €15 million. In December 2020, the Department of Transport gave a commitment to funding the project to the sum of €15 million.

These project changes for triggered the need for Environmental reports up dating. These Environmental reports are as follows -

Ecological Impact Assessment  
Appropriate Assessment Screening  
Archaeological Impact Assessment  
Outline Construction Environmental  
Management Plan  
Environment Impact Assessment Screening

The above reports will be finalised in the first quarter of 2021.



Pride of Place, Carnew meals on wheels volunteer



## WICKLOW SPORTS AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

### Overview

- Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership was established in 2008, supported by the then Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative. Representatives from a variety of Agencies, Organisations and Community Groups involved in sport, physical activity, outdoor recreation and community development make up the Board of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.
- The main functions of Wicklow Sports & Recreation include: -

### Information provision

- Wicklow Sports & Recreation is involved in the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling a sports directory and database, identifying needs and resources to form the basis of

### Pride of place, Arklow meals on wheels Volunteer.

local planning and establishing a consultative sports forum.

### Education & Training

- Wicklow Sports & Recreation provides opportunities for education and training at a local level, including generic training courses in areas such as Code of Ethics, First Aid and Active Leadership, while also supporting the delivery of sports specific courses in conjunction with National Governing Bodies of Sport.

### Implementation

- Wicklow Sports & Recreation implements a range of national programmes to encourage participation e.g. Buntús, Women in Sport, Go for Life. Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport and Physical Activity, Schools Sport, Youth Sport and Sport Inclusion. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will also implement sports programmes in the context of the local strategic plan for sport and physical activity and in line with Sport Ireland priorities.

## Actions undertaken in 2020

- Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership assisted in the delivery of a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting participation in sports and physical activity;
  - Safeguarding courses run in 2020: 13 courses delivered with 197 participants.
  - Inclusive courses: Inclusive courses: Courses ran with a disability or inclusive focus included two Autism in Sport courses, Disability Inclusion training, Disability Awareness in Sport training and Get Autism Active Seminar. These courses were run in different areas in the county along with online training and included 71 people.
  - Parkrun: Arklow Junior Duck Pond parkrun was a new addition in 2019. This parkrun has an average attendance of 128 per week. The other parkruns facilitated by Wicklow Sports and Recreation partnership include Avondale Forest parkrun with 62 people on average each week, Bray junior parkrun with 51 on average each week and Russborough parkrun with 45 on average each week.
  - Older Adults: A number of initiatives have been rolled out with a specific target on older adults, namely, Power for Parkinson's, Activator poles workshop, Activator Poles for Parkinson's, Aquafit 55+ and numerous exercise classes focused on COPD groups in partnership with the HSE.
  - Older Adults: Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership designed an exercise booklet targeted at those cocooning at home and can be completed in the comfort of your own home. The booklets were distributed through various Meals on Wheels, Community Groups, Care & Nursing Homes, Garda Stations and Municipal Districts and also e-mailed to people interested. Over 1300 booklets have been distributed.
  - Women in Sport: The following initiatives have been rolled out under Women in Sport;
    - Buggyfit in 3 venues with 32 participants. The programme was also delivered online via zoom due to covid-19.
    - Women's Only Aquafit was a 6 week programme that took place in Coral Leisure Centre, Arklow. 12 participants took part
  - Physiotherapy Intervention Programme in partnership with the HSE in Newtownmountkennedy - 5 week online rehabilitation programme aimed at people with knee osteoarthritis. 8 participants took part in this programme.
  - Virtual Beginners Yoga – 5 week programme, ran twice a week one morning and one evening with 30 participants taking part.
  - Direct Provision Centre: Wicklow Sports and Recreation partnership delivered programmes in the direct provision centre in The Grand Hotel, Wicklow town and Rathmore, Ashford in 2020 namely;
    - Dance Camp – One week Dance Camp in both centres where 30 children took part.
    - National Play Day 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Wicklow Sports & Recreation
-



Partnership supplied 3 play packs to both Direct Provision Centres with 60 children taking part in activities on the day.

## Disability & Inclusion Programmes

- Virtual Couch to 2K – 16 participants
- Inclusive Family Home Circuit Booklet distributed to Special Schools and families in June & July and to HSE Adult Day Care Services on their return in August 2020.
- Special Schools Programmes
  - Inclusive Tag Rugby
  - Enjoy Tennis Programme
- Collaboration with State and Community Groups for provision of exercise programmes and events for their inclusive audience
  - Lucena Services – Online Yoga 6 week programme x 2 courses
  - Triple A Alliance – ASD Teen Rockclimbing & Abseiling events – 20 participants
  - National Fitness Day 24<sup>th</sup> September – ASD Kids event for 5-8 year olds - 6 participants
  - Sunbeam House Services – 4 week Step Challenge in November/December with support from Carers at home and support workers. .

## Mental Health Intervention

- Reintroduction to exercise – A 10 week reintroduction to physical activity was rolled out in Shoreline Greystones in conjunction with the Occupational Therapist in Newcastle hospital. 6 people took part in the programme and the sports

partnership will look to expand this work in 2020 to other centres.

- Woodlands for Health - Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership continues to support the Woodlands for Health project with the coordinator sitting on the National steering group representing the Local Sports Partnerships.
- Community Events – A number of Community events were facilitated through the Sports and Recreation Partnership; Operation Transformation - January 2020 saw Wicklow Sports Partnership host three Operation Transformation walks in the county. Bray, Blessington and Arklow were the venues for 2020 with approximately 350 people taking part overall.
- Couch – 3K - Wicklow SRP ran this programme for 2 sessions of six weeks from May to the end of July. Seventy five people took part and received #ActiveWicklow t-shirt once completing the programme.
- Open Sea Swim Event – Wicklow SRP in conjunction with Swim Ireland held an open water 1 mile and 500m swim event in Wicklow Harbour Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Each participant received a Swim Ireland medal and Wicklow SRP goodie bag.



20 juveniles and 20 adults took part in the event.

- Virtual 5K Santa Dash – Took place around the county 19th-20th December. 600 people took part and on completion received a Wicklow SRP Santa Dash medal.
  - European Week of Sport took place from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September. Wicklow SRP ran numerous virtual and face to face events throughout the week from Online Nutrition Talks with Daniel Davey with 50 people taking part. POUND Fitness on Bray Promenade of which 20 people in attendance. Virtual 5K walk/run which 280 signed up and took part and on completion receiving a Wicklow SRP V5K medal. Dance with Zoe in the Abbey Grounds in Wicklow Town where 10 people took part, Sunrise Yoga and a Dip on the Ocean on Bray Promenade which 20 took part and to finish off the European Week of Sport a Sunset Yoga and a Dip in the Ocean on Greystones South Beach. Overall 400 people took part in these events hosted by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.
  - Schools:
    - Glow Football - Wicklow SRP in partnership with Bray Sports Promotion Unit ran a six week Glow Football programme in Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Bray. On the final week of the programme we ran a Glow Football Blitz, had a DJ and gave out refreshments. Over forty children took part in the programme.
    - Primary and secondary schools cross country took place in Avondale Forest Park, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Over 800 children took part with Wicklow SRP providing two plaques for the winning schools.
- Bike Week:
- This year's Bike Week was a huge success which saw twenty fun-filled events across Wicklow with over 1200 people taking part and catering for all age groups and abilities. Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership organised a number of community events along with engaging with a wide range of schools, organisations and club. We are also pleased to have had events in a wide spread of geographical locations around Wicklow promoting bike week despite the challenges of Covid 19. Community events comprised of the following:
    - Mountain Bike Tasters
  - Wicklow has the fantastic advantage of having many Mountain Bike (MTB) enthusiasts and wonderful woodland and designated areas to explore on a Mountain Bike. To increase the participation in this activity and show newcomers how to use their locality, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership collaborated with Michelle Muldoon, the 2018 Enduro World Series Masters Champion, qualified mountain bike coach and resident of Wicklow. On Saturday 26th there were two separate events with a teenage taster for the age group of twelve - sixteen starting the day off from 10am -12pm and Women's
-

Only Taster. Michelle started with a safety briefing along with bike and helmet checks before hitting the trails of Ballinastoe Woods.

- Women Only adult session with a safety briefing and bike check once again. Fifteen women were divided into two groups a beginners and intermediate. Silvia Gallagher external tutor for Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership took the beginners group and Michelle took the intermediate. There was a huge interest from participants so following on from the taster sessions Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership will be developing a 6-8 week mountain biking programme with both Michelle and Silvia delivering the programme

- Maintenance workshops

- Three fully booked evenings of free workshops were held in The Sports Room, Wicklow Town during bike week. These were aimed at helping cyclists learn how to manage and fix small repairs on the bikes such as puncture repairs, how to change tubes, take wheels on and off quickly as well as tips on how to keep a bike running smoothly.

- Blessington Greenway Cycle

- Three morning cycles of Blessington Greenway were organised in conjunction with HD Fitness taking tours to cycle the Greenway to help promote Bike Week. All tours were fully booked as these cycles were limited to fifteen people under the Government Covid guidelines. We had people from all over Wicklow take part, some of whom had never been on the Greenway before and were blown away by

the scenery and layout. Each group had a leisurely cycle down the stunning Greenway with bike rental, tea/coffee and treats as part of the tour

- 'Cycle with Us'

- The final day of Bike Week saw 15 people join in a fun leisure cycle from Wicklow Town to Ashford with a stop for refreshments and a chat before returning on the quiet meandering back roads. This was the curtain event to what was a very successful bike week.
- Dormant Accounts Allocation: Wicklow sports and recreation partnership received funding for their development officer and also an innovation project to develop a trails app on walking trails around Wicklow.

## Planned actions for 2021

- Launch of a new Sports Partnership strategy.
  - Volunteer development and support programmes.
  - Arklow Sports Hub Launch
  - Older Adults exercise classes throughout the county
  - Women in Sport focused exercise initiatives
  - Disability Inclusion focused events
  - Provision of Safeguarding, First Aid and disability inclusion training
  - Facilitate a Disability Inclusion activity camp
  - Roll out of an outdoor recreation campaign
  - Distribution of Sports Grants
  - Promotion and co-ordination of Active School Week, Bike Week, Operation
-

Transformation and other National initiatives

- Develop partnerships with other bodies for the strategic and targeted provision of physical activity throughout County Wicklow
- Support target groups to become more physically active
- Continue to educate the population on the importance of physical activity in daily life
- Increase awareness of Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership and the opportunities it provides to stakeholders and target groups.
- Continue to roll out the various Programmes undertaken in 2020.
- Healthy Ireland initiatives development
- Review of intervention programmes delivered by Wicklow sports and Recreation Partnership.
- Development of online resources for use in the community.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Web: [www.wicklowlsp.ie](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie)

## Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, youth arts, community arts and festivals. Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the county. In 2020 measures were adapted to support the arts sector survive, adapt and sustain themselves through the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges that are to be faced as a result of the global pandemic. All of the measures provided are in line with the Arts Plan Growing the Arts in Wicklow 2020 – 2025.

## Arts Act Grants

The Artist Award Scheme, Arts Groups and Organisation Award Scheme and the Arts Festival Award Scheme target artistic practice in all disciplines by people and groups from or based in Wicklow. The Individual Artist Award was reviewed and adapted to reflect the reality of cancellation of performances, event and presentations of work which artists would undertake. This Award Scheme had additional investment of 50% in 2020 to assist artists to sustain themselves, capacity build and undertake new approaches to presenting their work to adapt to Covid-19. The Arts Festival and Arts Groups / Organisations awards proceeded but with adaptations. Many Arts Festivals cancelled for 2020 to reflect the uncertainty in decision making and presenting, others Wicklow County Council supported conducted place holding Festivals which were online only and others achieved a hybrid event programme where the events were partly digital with some limited audience participation. At the end of 2020 all grant schemes were further reviewed with additional changes and Covid-19 adaptations made to reflect the on-going challenges faced by the arts sector.

### (1) Artist Support Award Scheme

The objective of this Support Scheme is to assist artists develop their practice and to make a significant contribution to the professional life of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow. Eight artists were awarded 20,000 in 2020.

### (2) Arts Festival Award Scheme

Applications were received in respect of high quality programmes by local, national and international artists presented within the applicants' Festivals. The predominant art form presented within the Festivals was music. Other events included literary events, visual arts and opportunities for arts participation. Three

applicants received a total of 14,500.00 in 2020 which was 50% more than was awarded in 2019.

### (3) Arts Group and Organisations Award Scheme

The objective of this award scheme was to support arts groups/organisations in the realisation of an arts project or programme to support their artistic development. It was the intention of this award to fund in total or in part a project/programme to result in realising/showcasing of new work. Applications were accepted for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/ implementation of a new arts project or programme. A total of two applicants were successful and received 3,750.00 for their work in 2020. This fund saw the most impact from Covid-19 as many projects were unfeasible given that schools, groups and organisations were not in a position to meet in person and not all practices translate well to online methodologies.

#### Strategic Projects – Awards

These awards were to support the development of new work in Wicklow by both residents of Wicklow and those from outside Wicklow. The Arts Office completed the application process for Strategic Project Awards, which supported the collaborative development and delivery of new high quality projects during 2021. The selected projects were by artists Alchemy Music for a programme involving 38 arts practitioners in Wicklow from musicians to writers and film makers, Katerina Cussen who will work with Marino NS, Mary Coughlan with her band and Broken Talkers, Paul Gaffney for a visual arts and architecture project, Liing Heaney for an emerging exhibition, Martha Breen for a literature stage adaption, Shaking Bog Festival, and Anna Newell for her work with children with complex needs. The appointment of artists to this Scheme works one year in advance. The total investment in 2019 for projects in 2020 was 60,000.00. The total investment in 2020 for projects to be delivered in 2021 was just over

108,000. The increased investment in the Scheme is as a result of additional funding for Covid-19 received by the Arts Council and Creative Ireland.

#### Public Art – Bray Commissions

The Per Cent for Art Scheme is a government funded programme whereby an additional fund of up to 1% of the cost of publicly-funded infrastructure of building, can be applied for by the client (typically a local authority, school, hospital, the National Roads Authority, the OPW) to commission original, site and context specific works of art. The 1% is subject to a cap of €64k. The fund is available across all government departments and supports the commissioning of artists and artworks across all contemporary art forms.

Finance was received in 2020 to commission new work for the N81 Road re-alignment. Due to Covid-19 the implementation of this commission will be commenced in early 2021.

Additional investment in the public art scheme will be received in County Wicklow as a result of additional public housing schemes which received approval for development in 2019/20. The programme for these commissions will be rolled out over the coming three years as construction on the sites begins. A national review of the Public Art National Guidelines was due to take place in 2020, however that will be delayed until 2021 as a result of Covid-19.

#### Music Generation Wicklow

Ann Nolan reported that children and young people in Wicklow were engaged in regular music performance education with 31 musician tutors employed on a weekly basis. Due to Covid-19 these plans needed to be flexible for 2020. There was a hybrid approach to tuition fully in line with the Government National Road Map for Living with Covid-19. There is a part time administrative role

which has been identified filled also in 2020 to support the programme roll out.

## Culture Night

A fantastic programme of arts and cultural events took place on Friday 18h of September, as part of Culture Night. The public were invited to participate in free music, theatre, literature, dance, visual arts, storytelling, and film activities and events as well as talks and tours for all of the family. There were a limited number of events in the outdoors which took place. The remaining programme saw beautiful arts presentations online.

## Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is a five year all-of- Government initiative, from 2017 to 2022, to place creativity at the centre of public policy. For more information see <https://creativeireland.ie/en> In 2020 to reflect the changes in Covid-19 resourcing communities to engage in the arts became even more important. To reflect that there was a 50% increase in funding offered by Creative Ireland. In addition Wicklow benefited from an additional 28,000 for two special projects applied for. The programme involved capacity building with Festivals, rolling out training supports for artists and the delivery of artist development and community programmes in the arts, culture and heritage.

## Keep Well Campaign

The Arts Office delivered music performances in the Festival in a Van to Nursing Homes just prior to Christmas in West and East Wicklow. In addition a partnership was developed with Music Network to develop a music instrument tuition programme for adults over 55 years to re-engage with an instrument that they might once have played and

receive tuition. The investment is for Sonamus to deliver individual music tuition lessons to 15 participants from throughout County Wicklow as well as supporting them to access a music instrument if they don't have one. All of these were offered free to participants as part of the 'Switching Off and Getting Creative' Strand of the Keep Well Campaign.

## Enterprise and Corporate Services

Key Strategy Objective 3: Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure:

“To develop infrastructure and measures that will sustain the best quality of life for our citizens in a strong economic competitive environment of the highest quality; support interagency collaboration and capitalise on County Wicklow’s unique attributes, harnessing efficiently the entire resources of the County to develop employment opportunities”.

Key Strategy Objective 4: Organisation Development and Financial Matters:

“To maximise and develop the potential of our human resources, fulfilling our duties under Health and Safety, to adhere to the highest stand of governance, integrity, transparency and accountability and to develop new technologies to continuously innovate and improve the delivery of a cost effective, efficient and high quality of service to our citizens”.

### ACCESS

In accordance with the National Disability Act 2005, the Access Officer for Wicklow County Council ensures that their services are accessible for people with disabilities by providing integrated access to mainstream services where practicable and appropriate. The Disability Act 2005 places a specific obligation on public bodies to make public buildings and services accessible to people with disabilities by 2005.

Wicklow Local Authorities Access Group  
(WLAAG)

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WLAAG continued to support and advise Wicklow County Council on access issues throughout 2020. This group, which consists of people with disabilities and representation of disability organisations resources the Local Authority with experts in the area of disability and access. The Access Office is in regular contact with both local and national groups and organisations dealing with access to ensure that Wicklow County Council are meeting their obligations.

## Audit Committee

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under Section V of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005. Following the May 2019 local elections, the Audit Committee was re-established. The membership of the committee now comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Mary Kavanagh
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh

The functions of the Audit Committee are prescribed in Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include:

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor's Report or Auditor's Special Report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the Authority

- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authorities performance of its functions
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Committee (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented its Annual Report for 2019 to the Wicklow County Council in February 2020.

In the report, the Committee welcomed the receipt of reports on the following assignments during the year:

- Report to NOAC – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report
- Review of Accounts Payable
- Review of Stores and Machinery Yard Operations and Value for Money
- Review of Pre-Letting Repair Costs
- Review of Staff Travel & Subsistence Payments
- Review of the Operation of Low Value Purchase Cards

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2014 the Local Government Auditor was invited to address the Committee. This annual meeting is a constructive opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues and for the Local Government Auditor to discuss his statutory audit report on the Council's Annual Financial Statement.

## Enterprise and Economic Development

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County Wicklow is a great place to live, visit and do business in. As one of the most rapidly growing counties in Ireland, Wicklow has unlimited business potential, some of which can be seen through the significant expansion and development the County has undergone in recent years. Strategically located less than one hour from Dublin, with easy access to the M50, national motorways, Dublin Port and airport, the County has many benefits to offer by way of idyllic location, infrastructural development, proximity to Universities and Institutes of Technology.

The Enterprise Unit of the Council is responsible for the promotion and marketing of County Wicklow and its towns as a location for enterprise and job creation. It promotes and assists in the development of enterprise centres and acquires land to facilitate industrial and commercial development. The unit plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the County and is committed to growing a further education base in conjunction with IT Carlow at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew.

The Council works closely with other development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and maintains and broadens links with potential industrial/commercial developers/promoters to achieve job creation and economic growth. It promotes County Wicklow as a premier film location through the County Wicklow Film Commission.

The staff of the Enterprise Unit are available to guide and assist potential business developers who

may be considering Wicklow as a business location. Initiatives to promote the County as a place to locate were undertaken virtually throughout 2020.

## Development of Enterprise Centres

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies and in conjunction with local chambers of commerce works closely with existing enterprise centres in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park comprises 74,000 sq. ft. of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. In this centrally located Wicklow facility there is a wide range of workspace units, research & development, manufacturing and distribution and food production training in sizes from 180 sq. ft. up to 5,000 sq. ft. along with hi-spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room.

The Arklow Business and Enterprise Centre is a community initiative set up to provide workspace for new embryo and small expanding businesses together with a range of support facilities. The centre offers approx. 30,000 sq. ft. of workspace consisting of 14 small/medium sized production units and 14 offices and facilitates 34 businesses.

An exciting new development for Arklow was delivered in 2020 through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund called ABEC @ the Courthouse. This facility houses a modern blend of co-working space and traditional office space in a town centre location. This results from a collaboration between

Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC) and Wicklow County Council.

ABEC @ the Courthouse plans to support the growing demand for employees who want to cut down on long commute times and work in an Enterprise Hub which meets the needs of a modern, professional and flexible work environment with high speed eFibre access.

### Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the construction of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum including essential infrastructure on the site including roads, roundabout, utility ducts and pipes, fencing, entrance pillars and gateway.

The first business has been operational on site since late 2014. The Enterprise Unit is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

The Council has some varying size landbanks at a number of locations throughout the County including Baltinglass, Dunlavin, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Ashford. The Council will work with all relevant stakeholders to develop these lands in a strategic and sustainable manner.

### Economic Development Unit

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is the vehicle charged with implementing the economic actions contained in the Local Economic and Community

Plan (LECP) including objectives in the areas of Food, Film, Tourism, etc.

The vision of the Economic Development Unit is for a County which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes and prioritises sustainable development and protects and enhances the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage.

### Networking & Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2020 the Economic Development Unit met with representatives of Enterprise Ireland and the IDA, Fáilte Ireland, the Office of Public Works and other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal networking continues with the local businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Town Teams to assist in tackling the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic and to promote and develop business and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow.

### Actions delivered in 2020:

#### **Food Strategy**

County Wicklow Partnership with the support of Wicklow County Council, were awarded LEADER funding for the implementation of the County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy. Jonathan Birnie Associates (JBA) with the help and support of many food and beverage producers and providers worked throughout 2020 to implement the objectives of the strategy.

The main aims of the County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy include:

- to tell the Wicklow Food Story,

- to develop a Food Activity Calendar (Business to Consumer),
- to increase Food Stakeholder Networking (Business to Business),
- to get Local Food to Local Consumers,
- to provide appropriate business supports.

Arising out of the strategy the Wicklow Naturally brand was created and the development Wicklow Naturally Website created. The Wicklow Naturally network representing Food and Beverage producers, the hospitality and tourism sectors was established.

Wicklow Naturally October Feast encompassed a full calendar of activities showcasing food and drink producers and all they have to offer. Approximately 35 events (physical and virtual) were planned and while many of the physical events were hit hard by Covid restrictions, the online events were tremendously successful.

## Film

Work began on the new Enterprise Hub facilities at Wicklow County Campus which will comprise a new two-storey building linked to refurbished courtyard cottages, conference facilities in the former school chapel and administration offices in a section of former dormitory at second floor level in the school block.

Consultants were appointed to develop the County Wicklow Film Strategy which will set out a blueprint for how Wicklow County Council can support the development of the screen industry in the County.

## Business Breakfast Briefing

As part of its ongoing commitment to Economic Development, Wicklow County Council hosted the 2020 Breakfast Briefing in Druids Glen Hotel attended by leading local and national businesspeople. The theme of this year's event was: **"Endless Opportunities for Living, Leisure and Business in County Wicklow."** Presentations were provided to the business community on the various

activities carried out by the Council, with particular emphasis on enterprise and economic development. Opportunities for County Wicklow around Offshore Wind were discussed with guest speaker Mr Mike Seaton, Director of Development for SSE Renewables.

## Climate Action

Applications were made under the Climate Action Fund in respect of Wicklow and Arklow Harbours aimed at ensuring both harbours benefit from any development of the offshore wind energy industry.

## Town Re-Opening Committees

Following a pilot scheme carried out in Bray, Town Re-opening Committees were established in each Municipal District with the purpose of supporting businesses as they re-open and to encourage members of the community to support local business.

## Accommodation Working Group

A study was commissioned on all tourism based accommodation available in County Wicklow. This report will build on Fáilte Ireland's Accommodation Toolkit and contribute in terms of information and advice to the preparation of an Accommodation Prospectus aimed at attracting the development of tourism accommodation in the County.

## Tracks and Trails

Wicklow County Council engaged the producers of Tracks and Trails to redevelop some of the existing County Wicklow based programmes for use on the Wicklow.ie website and social media. Filming also took place on two additional trails - the Bray Head to the Great Sugarloaf Trail and the Tinahely Trail.

## Wicklow Passport

A Wicklow Passport aimed at encouraging locals and visitors to explore Wicklow was introduced by the Wicklow Tourism Alliance. Loosely based on the 'Camino Passport' in Spain, the Wicklow Passport is

a series of stamps that can only be collected at the respective towns or villages represented on each stamp.

## **Eco Trail**

The Ecotrail event for 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. Ecotrail has generated an amazing level of interest with over 1,500 registered runners, showcasing Wicklow as a prime outdoors destination.

## **New Visit Wicklow website**

A new visitwicklow.ie website was developed to enhance the visitor's browsing experience, make it as user-friendly and easy to navigate as possible and includes an extensive menu bar offering instant access to the various sections of the site.

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

Fáilte Ireland, along with strategic partners OPW, NPWS and Wicklow County Council engaged with Consarc Consultants to develop a tourism masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and a Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow.

## **Urban/Rural Regeneration Development Funding (URDF/RRDF)**

### **URDF**

There were three URDF projects underway in 2020; Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square and the Bray Public Transport Bridge.

URDF applications were also submitted in May 2020 for the Regeneration of the Arklow Quays, Bray Harbour Regeneration and the regeneration of Wicklow's Waterfront.

### **RRDF**

Work is ongoing on the Baltinglass Town Centre Regeneration project which was awarded €2.7m under RRDF. The project focuses on two key elements; Restoration of the Courthouse with its reuse as a library/heritage centre and Digi-hub, with outdoor event space and public realm enhancements.

Wicklow County Council was awarded funding of €357,750 in respect of Newtownmountkennedy for the design and plans for upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities. The funding will be matched by a 25% contribution from the Council's resources bringing the investment to over €500,000. This funding builds on the €150,000 that Newtownmountkennedy received in 2018 from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which funded streetscape improvements in the town.

An application was submitted to seek funding through the RRDF for the development of a multi-use Community and Enterprise Centre in Rathdrum, with increased connectivity through improved road and pedestrian access and enhancements to public realm. The proposed development will help to stimulate further growth in social, community and economic activities in the wider Rathdrum area.

## **Funding for Public Realm Enhancements**

In October, Wicklow County Council was allocated funding of over €3.3million to cover 25 projects supporting pedestrian and cyclist movement and to enhance accessibility in towns and villages by the National Transport Authority. The funding was allocated under the July Jobs Stimulus Plan announced by the Government last and was among measures designed to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and build economic confidence in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

## **Shop Local Campaign**



Wicklow County Council promoted a 'Love Wicklow, Shop Local' campaign to encourage people to shop locally in the run up to Christmas. The Love Wicklow, Shop Local campaign also linked in with other initiatives around the county including Look for Local by Wicklow (LEO), Wonderful West Wicklow, Think Local, Buy Local in Greystones, Shop Local, Spend Local, Stay Local in Bray, Shop Local Arklow and Shop Local Wicklow and the campaign was also consistent with the Visit Wicklow and Fáilte Ireland Christmas promotional campaigns.

## County Wicklow Economic Think Tank

### County Wicklow Economic Think Tank

County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) is a collaborative initiative between Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow and local businesses. The purpose of the CWETT was to determine how Wicklow can attract and nurture business and promote sustainable economic development that creates jobs in the County. Wicklow County Council is now engaged in implementing the actions identified by CWETT under the following headings;

- Brand
- Film
- Marketing and Communication
- Recreation and Retail
- Industry and Infrastructure

The actions proposed by CWETT are embedded in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 - 2023.

## Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee held one meeting in committee and two online meetings in 2020 due to Covid 19.

Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to 'arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.' Due to Covid 19 the Wicklow County Council were unable to hold public meetings.

JPC Working groups have been set up to implement the objectives of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing 6 year Plan under the 4 key areas identified:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- (4) Communications.

These groups meet approximately 3 to 4 times a year. Each committee has a Chair and the administrative support is provided by an official of Wicklow County Council. The committee is supported by representatives from An Garda Síochána and comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stakeholders outside of the JPC such as Muintir na Tire, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.





## Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council subscribes to a dynamic and interactive Health and Safety process.

Accordingly the Health and Safety Office avails of every opportunity to reflect these principles in terms of consultation, training and the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management System.

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, City & Guilds Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans amongst others.

Policies and procedures in Wicklow County Council are constantly being reviewed in line with new best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Staff participation in the process is encouraged and the input of the Safety Representatives is valued.

## Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act, 2014 came into effect on the 14th October, 2014. This Act

abolished the requirement to pay a fee when making a request.

The Freedom of Information Acts assert the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals.

The Act established three new statutory rights:

A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;

A legal right for each person to have official information relating to himself or herself amended when it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and

A legal right to obtain reasons for decision affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 97 requests during 2020. A disclosure log detailing all non-personal freedom of information requests can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).

## Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts, Wicklow County Council is charged with preparing and publishing the Register of Electors for the County every year. The total local government electorate on the 2019/2020 register was 99,229. Progressively smaller electorates apply in the case of Elections to the European Parliament, the Dáil and the office of Uachtarán na hÉireann where citizenship requirements exist.

The Council strives to provide a comprehensive and accurate Register of Electors to facilitate the democratic process at election time. Through extensive local advertising and initiatives, both web based and traditional, coupled with the efforts of a well-trained and resourced team of 32 field workers covering the county, a Register is produced

which is tested at each election. Every opportunity is provided to any qualified person to be included in the Register.

The team of fieldworkers are employed to visit every household in the County during the months of July/August/September each year. If there is no reply at the door, a personalised calling card is left along with a FREEPOST voter registration form for the householder to return to the Franchise section of the Council.

Existing electors who have not been met at the door by the fieldworker or who have not replied via the registration form left at their residence, will be contacted in writing during the last 10 days of October informing them they will be removed from the final register unless they contact the Franchise section of the County Council before 25th November.

The Budget provision includes for payroll and travel expenses for the field-staff and office staff along with local advertising, postage and printing.

### Training and Development

Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and elected members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them. The delivery of training was particularly challenging during 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions.

Staff members also regularly attend seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise. Seminars and conferences moved to online platforms in 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions.

The Council also encourages and assists staff to undertake relevant further education at all stages of their career.

### Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000
Leas- Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000
SPC Annual Allowance	€30,000
Annual Representational Allowance	€530,966.03
Councillors Annual Allowance	€231,838.48
Foreign Conferences	€0.00

### Ombudsman

Any person who feels that he/she has been unfairly treated or is not satisfied with a decision on a complaint by the local authority may contact the Office of the Ombudsman. By law the Ombudsman can investigate complaints about any of the local authority's administrative actions or procedures as well as delays or inaction in your dealings with the local authority. The Ombudsman provides a free, impartial and independent dispute resolution service.

The Ombudsman referred 25 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2020.

## County Wicklow Film Commission

The County Wicklow Film Commission is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county.

Funded by Wicklow County Council, the film commission is based in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, but represents the whole county.

The main objective of the County Wicklow Film Commission is to market and promote the county as a film location for any kind of audio-visual or content creation production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production, gaming, animation or music promo. The film office assists any project regardless of the size of the budget with the aim of bringing economic benefits to County Wicklow.

As a secondary objective the County Wicklow Film Commission is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity.

In 2020 County Wicklow once again experienced high levels of production activity. Over 400 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television.

The County was used by a large number of international and national feature film and television productions. Feature films, high end television productions and numerous adverts that used Wicklow locations include:- House Hunters (Sugarloaf) Modern Love (Wicklow Town), Holy Island (Arklow), Joan Verra (Wicklow Town), The Men Who built America (Wicklow Town), Valhalla (Ashford), The Drowning (Enniskerry).

Services on offer to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and location suggestions through personalised web brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

The Action plan that came out of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank identified the film industry as of great importance to the local industry. Objective 4 of the Action Plan is to capitalise on the Immediate Economic Opportunity in the Film Industry through a number of actions: To develop a Film Industry Cluster in County Wicklow (a hub for film making and ancillary industries).

Establishing the appropriate infrastructure and supports to attract and sustain the film making industry in Wicklow requires a collaborative approach, facilitated and supported by Wicklow County Council. Such an approach will enable the County to realise the potential value from film making directly plus film tourism, accommodation services and other support services.

## County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy

During 2020 Wicklow County Council engaged Saffery Champness, working with Nordicity, to prepare a Screen Sector Development Strategy for the period 2021 - 2026.

The Strategy will assess the County's financial, human, physical and cultural capital and help to develop policies for strengthening the County's position in respect of each.

In particular, the strategy will look at areas such as:

- ✚ A business and economic case analysis for the new Content Creation Enterprise Hub for Wicklow.
- ✚ Attracting foreign direct investment (including marketing and promotion).
- ✚ Support for the indigenous screen content creation sector.
- ✚ Developing screen tourism.
- ✚ Support for the development and training of local screen sector creatives and crew.

The Strategy will be published in Q2 of 2021.

## Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional development and continues to be developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 55 acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms, a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, EI, the Local Enterprise Office, County Wicklow Partnership and the Chambers of Commerce to achieve the vision and to create a high quality environment for a thriving business quarter on the campus.

## Strategic Plan 2016-2022

In 2017 The Wicklow County Campus Strategy Document 2016-2022 was adopted with the following headings:

1. Academic Portfolio and Learner Population
2. Enterprise and Economic Development
3. Management and Organisation
4. Physical Infrastructure
5. Financial Planning

## Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with IT Carlow is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses which delivered online during 2020 due to COVID 19. In 2020 there were 450 students registered with Wicklow County Campus for part-time evening courses and this figure is expected to grow considerably over the lifetime of the plan for the campus with the introduction of new academic programmes. In 2020 the 12<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony took place online with some 200 graduates. Some 1600 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since the commencement of this partnership in 2006.

All events and meetings held throughout 2020 continue to promote Clermont as a unique and exceptional venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the Institute of Technology Carlow. The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public





### Actions Undertaken in 2020

In 2020 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of projects on the Campus, including:

- Installation of a kitchen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Clermont House for tenants use.
- Establishment of a recording room for use by tenants.
- Upgrade of broadband facilities for tenants.

A 'Community Employment' worker continued to assist with the maintenance and caretaking of the buildings and grounds.

Ongoing maintenance works were carried out during the year such as roof repairs and electrical works.

### Development of a Content Creation Enterprise Hub

In January 2020 the Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew was approved REDF funding in the sum of €1,4m

through Enterprise Ireland. The estimated cost of this project is in the region of €3m. and Wicklow County Council is committed to providing the balance. The development of this remote working hub is one of main objectives in the Mid-East regional Enterprise Plan.

Consultants were appointed for the Architectural Design, Project and Design Preparation in 2019 and the Part 8 Planning approval was secured in February 2020.

This new Enterprise Hub will comprise of a new 2-storey building linked to the refurbished courtyard cottages, conference facilities in the former school chapel and administrative offices in a section of former dormitory at second floor level in the school block. The facility will provide approximately 10,000 sq. ft of private and co-working spaces in a dynamic and synergetic environment for creative/media cross-fertilisation. It will offer specialised and customised, sector specific business supports that drive start-ups and economic growth. Construction is scheduled to start in 2021 and the launch for the Hub is planned for quarter two in 2022.





## Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Offices were established in April 2014 to enhance the national enterprise support model for small and micro businesses. This new partnership model builds on the 20 year success of the City and County Enterprise Boards. The Local Enterprise Office commenced operations within the Wicklow Local Authority structure in April 2014 under a Service Level Agreement between the Local Authority and Enterprise Ireland.

### Mission Statement:

The aim of Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide high quality supports for business ideas in County Wicklow.

The Local Enterprise Offices serve as a “first-stop shop” to provide support and services to start, grow and develop micro and small businesses in each local area. The Local Enterprise Office is strategically charged with stimulating economic activity at county level through the development of indigenous enterprise potential in the county. The key focus of the Local Enterprise Offices is to maximise opportunities for job creation and retention, attained through:

- creating and raising local enterprise awareness and developing an enterprise culture and community-based enterprise activity;
- providing a single/first point of contact service to the business community - providing business advice, direction and

signposting, business counselling and mentoring;

- providing support to private sector and community initiatives to secure the establishment and/or expansion of commercially viable micro-enterprise projects;
- providing comprehensive pre-and post-start-up supports to new and expanding micro-enterprises;
- influencing the allocation of resources for micro-enterprise from EU, private and public funding sources
- promoting the general economic development of their areas.

The following supports and services are offered through the Local Enterprise Office:

### Supports for micro business include:

- Information Provision
  - Supports for business networks including Network for women business owners (NEW)
  - One to one Business Advice clinics
  - Assignment of mentors to companies
  - Financial support to boost sales via Trading Online Vouchers
  - Technical Assistance Grants
  - Exhibitions & trade shows
  - Access to Microfinance Ireland loans
  - Student Enterprise Programme
  - Business and IT skills training programmes & Seminars
  - Leadership and management capability programmes, such as Lean for Micro and
-

the Management Development Programme for Owner / Managers.

- Grant funding for eligible companies

The Network of LEOs (31) design and develop a number of programmes that are implemented by all the LEOs across the country. These include:

- Student Enterprise Awards
- National Enterprise Awards to showcase local business excellence
- Showcase, the international trade fair for the crafts industry in the RDS
- Food Academy, a specialised training programme for food producers run in conjunction with Board Bia.
- A LEO marquee showcasing LEO clients at the National Ploughing Championships
- Local Enterprise Week with training and events for clients at all levels of business growth.
- Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur programme

The LEO Wicklow also has a role to play in the formulation of local economic development plans for the County, aimed at maximising the opportunities for enterprise and capitalising on the features in the County that offer sustainable competitive advantage.

### Impacts in 2020:

- Due to COVID 19 lockdowns and it's impact on the national and local businesses, The LEO remit was widened to support a larger

cohort of SMEs with their business continuity plans and to provide a wider range of supports which resulted in a sharp increase in demand for supports across the various offerings.

- LEO Wicklow provides a critical frontline service to support small business with their business continuity throughout the COVID pandemic.
- The LEO remains open for business but public reception is closed for walk ins. All engagements are online or by phone.
- Dealt with 1300 new enquiries.
- Delivered one to one business advisory meetings to 761 entrepreneurs.
- Assigned a mentor to 176 companies.
- Provided business and business IT skills training to 1420 participants across all 64 training workshops, specialised clinics and events and seminars compared to 832 in 2019
- Provided Start Your Own Business training to 90 individuals.
- Provided Management Development to 18 businesses.
- Approved over development grants to 31 eligible enterprises.
- Approved export grants to 4 eligible enterprises
- Assisted 18 businesses to apply for MicroFinance Ireland funding.
- Received over 548 Trading Online Voucher grants and approved 425.
- The Business Continuity Voucher (BCV): a new scheme launched to assist SMEs with

their business continuity impacted by COVID lockdowns. 297 BCV applications received in Wicklow. 283 were approved to work with mentors from the panel or use their own consultant towards a Business Continuity Strategy, value of this scheme is €377,850. The others were either withdrawn or assisted with other supports such as the Microfinance Ireland loan application.

- Also assisted eligible businesses through the Micro Enterprise Assistance Fund and the Client Stimulus Scheme.
- To assist clients get Brexit Ready, the LEO provided a large range of supports, mentoring and customs training in 2020.

### Priorities for 2021:

- Focus on assisting enterprises at risk from Brexit and impact of COVID 19 restrictions.
- Maximise the opportunities for entrepreneurs from National programmes and new initiatives at local and regional level.
- Further develop an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in County Wicklow.
- Heighten awareness of the services available to businesses locally and nationally and help develop relationships between businesses and these service providers.
- Generate awareness of the LEO brand and services.
- Target supports at client companies in the LEO Wicklow portfolio with a view to maintain employment levels, stimulate

further growth and job creation.

- Provide progression pathways for client companies to access Enterprise Ireland services and supports.
- Provide a suite of capability building supports while focusing on Innovation, Financial capability, Productivity, Export, and Competitiveness thus adding value and bringing benefits to business and increase productivity.
- Provide the Lean for Micro and the Green Lean for Micro programme to mitigate impact of climate change.
- Support employment creation in the county through investment in eligible businesses.
- Support economic development aimed at job creation in the County.
- Engage with partners at local and national level to design and deliver enterprise creation and support initiatives.

### Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan 2020

County Wicklow and the East Coast Region is at the heart of the screen content sector and the international opportunity, with an existing internationally recognised screen industry. Wicklow County Council's objective to develop a Content Creation Enterprise Hub is one of a number of objectives in the Regional Enterprise Plan 2020. Other objectives include the development of a string screen sector cluster in Mid East and to develop a network of remote working hubs throughout the region. These would include the Clermont Enterprise Hub, the Baltinglass Hub and the Arklow Courthouse Hub.

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## ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Jenny Bell

### District Members:

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)

### Council Members

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Councillor Peir Leonard (IND)

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### District Manager:

Colm Lavery

#### District Administrator:

Claire Lawless

#### A/District Engineer:

Robert Mulhall

#### Executive Engineer:

Tony Quirke

#### Technician:

Stephen Howes

#### Assistant Staff Officer

Sinead Boddy

#### Clerical Officers:

Jenny Seabrooke

Julie Kenny (Retirement in March)

Pauline Canavan

Orlagh Hall

### Contact Details:

Arklow Municipal District Offices,  
Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

Telephone: 0402 42700

Email: [arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Area: 48,380 hectares

Population of District: 26,185

Arklow Municipal District (AMD) covers 26% of roads in County Wicklow (598 KM) being the second highest District in the County. AMD includes Arklow town, Aughrim, Rathdrum, Avoca, Redcross, Ballinaclesh, Glenmalure and Annacurra.

The offices are open to the public from 9.00 – to 4.00 pm each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, roads etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, parking fines, leases etc.

Following the Government announcement in March in relation to COVID 19 the office of Arklow Municipal District remained open to the members of the public from 9.30am-12.30pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm and by appointment only at Level 5 Restrictions.

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial

grounds, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

- Access and Inclusion Committee - Councillor Miriam Murphy

All functions were carried out in line with government guidelines.

## Community Sector

### District Meetings

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings in “The McElheron Chamber” on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting.

- Number of Press Releases issued 2020 = 4
- Awarding of Estate Development Grants to 14 Resident Associations
- Awarding of Festival Funding to 4 Festival Committees
- Number of Roundabouts in Sponsorship Agreements = 8
- The Members of AMD held one of their monthly meetings in Ballycoog.
- Arklow welcomed the Indian Ambassador, His Excellency Sandeep Kumar, and his Second Secretary Mr. Terence Dick.

Due to Covid-19 the April, May, July, September and October and December meetings of Arklow Municipal District were cancelled. An update meeting was held remotely for the Members during these months. Meetings were held at different venues to facilitate social distancing.

Arklow Municipal District is represented by its elected representatives on the following Strategic Policy Committees

- Community Cultural and Social Development – Councillor Miriam Murphy
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services – Councillor Pat Fitzgerald
- Planning and Development – Councillor Sylvester Bourke,
- Housing & Corporate Estate - Councillor Tommy Annesley
- Economic Development & Enterprise – Councillor Pat Kennedy
- Climate & Biodiversity Action – Councillor Peir Leonard

## Retail / Business Sector Pay Parking

Wicklow County Council continued to operate a pay parking scheme for Arklow Town which includes:-

- Free parking between 9.00am and 10.00 am each morning.
- 15 minutes official grace period at any time of the day.
- Arklow Town continues to offer free parking throughout the town on Saturdays and Sundays.



- Paying for parking in Arklow is faster and easier with Parking Tag. The cashless parking solution allows motorists to park by phone in the town and extend their parking without returning to their vehicle.
- Free parking was provided in all areas of Arklow town for one month during the Christmas period.
- 2 free annual parking permits for businesses whose rates are up to date.

### Town Team Initiatives

Arklow Municipal District works closely with Arklow Town Team which was established in 2017.

The Town Team intends to contribute to the improvement in the quality of life for people living in Arklow and enhance the attractiveness of the Town as a place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

- 10 meetings held during 2020, of which 8 were held remotely via zoom.
- The Arklow, Ireland Ancient Town Project was launched. LEADER funding was sought from County Wicklow Partnership for the project. The project presents the heritage in the evolution of the town from its inception as a Viking camp to its current modern status of an urban town. A timeline graphic is hanging permanently in the lobby of the library. In addition to the timeline graphic there is a leaflet strolling map linked to the timeline map, and detail on the features to be observed
- Flower basket Scheme – 119 baskets purchased by businesses in Arklow Town
- 4 applications submitted to LEADER for funding were successful. The four projects are as follows:
  1. To design and develop a Visit Arklow Website to attract tourists to the town.
  2. River Tourism -Harbour to Headwaters Project.
  3. Installation of a Flower Irrigation system on the 19 Arches Bridge.
  4. Development of a SEA-annagins Seafood Festival.
- Arklow Community CCTV system went live. There are 11 CCTV cameras strategically placed around the town at locations between Upper Main Street to Lower Main Street, River Walk and the North Quay
- A new branding and marketing campaign for Arklow is being designed.
- Three bus shelters were installed at Knockmore, Ferrybank and Saville Cross, Rathdrum. A grant of €15,000 was secured under the Community Enhancement Programme 2019 to purchase bus shelters as an age friendly initiative.
- Arklow Town Team organised a very successful Ladies Lunch in the Woodenbridge Hotel to celebrate Little Christmas on 6th January. Proceeds from the event were divided between East Coast Samaritans and an Arklow Town Team project.
- An event hosted for International Women's Day was held on the 8th March in the Arklow Bay hotel. Guest speaker was Senator Marie Louise O'Donnell. Guests were treated to two fashion shows from local boutiques Faybella and McMullan's who spoke about the challenges and rewards of being a woman

in business. The music duo Acoustic Heart provided the entertainment. A raffle was held on the day and all proceeds went to Arklow Active Retirement as a contribution toward a digital project.

- A Kynochs Memorial Park Plan was designed and used by Arklow MD to apply for funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

## Tidy Towns

There are 5 active Tidy Town Committees in Arklow MD – Arklow Aughrim, Clean up Aughrim, Rathdrum, Avoca and Ballycoog.

Arklow Municipal District acknowledges that the great effort by teams of volunteers around the District who work hand in hand with Council staff, it is crucial to the success of villages and towns in leagues/competitions such as the IBAL and Tidy Towns.

## Events & Awards

A new Arklow Christmas Trail was launched. Arklow MD facilitated the Arklow Christmas Festival. AMD continues to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking in the run up to Christmas. New Christmas lights were purchased for the Christmas tree in the town centre.

## Town Reopening Committee was set up

A joint initiative between local stakeholders across the community working in partnership to help restart the local economy in Arklow, including members of Arklow Town Team, Arklow Chamber of Commerce, Wicklow County Council and An Garda Síochána.

The following actions were carried out:-

- A Business Register was set up.
  - A Business pack highlighting the business supports available to all through the various Government announced initiatives was distributed.
  - Standard temporary ground markings offered, in order to help businesses implement queuing measures to encourage social distancing
  - Research into holding a new organic Farmers Market in the town is being carried out.
  - A Shop Local Campaign was launched. A competition was held to design a new shop local logo. Aisha Sheridan was the overall winner.
  - A public survey for the town was carried out. The survey was conducted to gauge interested parties views on how best to support the local economy in the context
-

of applying for stimulus funding to reopen our town centres.

### Twinning

Twinning helps to develop a better understanding of other nationalities and cultures. In addition to educational, cultural and sporting exchanges, partnerships with international communities have led to lifelong friendships, to business exchanges and commercial opportunities.

Arklow Town is twinned with two towns:

- Châteaudun
- Aberystwyth, Wales

Arklow Municipal District continues to support the Twinning Committees.

### Playgrounds

Signage to comply with government guidelines was put in place in all playgrounds in response to Covid 19.

### Infrastructure Projects 2020

#### Discretionary Projects

Mountain Bay, Arklow - Installation of new public lighting

Avonbeg Heights, Ballinaclash – Refurbishment of concrete footpaths (50m)

Ballygannon, Rathdrum – Refurbishment of macadam footpaths (120m)

Woodbine Avenue, Arklow - Refurbishment of concrete footpath (80m)

Marian Villas/Fr. Redmond Park/Peters Place, Arklow - Refurbishment of macadam footpaths (80m)

Highfield, Templerainey, Arklow - Refurbishment of macadam footpaths (50m)

Connery, Avoca – New concrete footpath (70m)

St. Peters Place, Arklow – Refurbishment of concrete footpath (70m)

Barndarrig – New concrete footpaths (70m)

St. Patrick's Terrace, Arklow – Refurbishment of concrete footpath (40m)

Ballycoog, Arklow – New concrete footpath (25m)

Blackberry Glade, Arklow - Resurfacing of Junction (40m)

Harbour Court, Arklow - Public Lighting of new pathway

Cherryfield – Refurbishment of concrete footpaths (40m)

Rory O'Connor Place – Refurbishment of macadam cul-de-sac (60m)

### Pedestrian Crossings 2020

1. Wexford Road Roundabout, Arklow
-

2. Knockmore Roundabout, Wexford Road, Arklow

3. Saville's Cross, Rathdrum

#### Other Infrastructure Projects within Arklow Municipal District

4. Detailed design process for the Parade Ground Public Realm Project complete and work is due to start in quarter two of 2021.

5. Refurbishment works completed on the Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub Project in 2020.

6. Part 8 planning secured for the development of the Avonmore Link Bridge Project. Design is complete and contracts are awarded. Works are due to start in 2021.

Works undertaken in 2020 using central government funding in Arklow Municipal District included the following:

#### Road Improvement Works:

There was approximately 12km of road improvement works carried out in 2020:

R752 Avoca to The Meetings @ Tinnahinch (850m)

R752 The Meetings to Rathdrum (800m)

R-752 Rathdrum to Laragh @ Ballyhad (2km)

R-750 Sea Road, Arklow (1.1km)

L-2191 & L-6192 at Johnstown, Arklow (1.5km)

L-2137 Aughrim to Aughavannagh (1.4km)

L-2901 Abbey Street & Yellow Lane, Arklow (1km)

L-2127 & L-6125 Kirikee to Rathdrum @ Ballyteigue (2.2km)

L-6125 Tanseyclose, Rathdrum to Kirikee (600m)

L-6183 Cronebeg, Aughrim to Tinakilly, Aughrim (600m)

L-64021 Kilcarra West (300m)

L-21801 Tower Avenue, Avoca (350m)

#### Safety Improvement Works:

6. R-747 Arklow to Woodenbridge - 800m of crash barrier
- 7.

#### Drainage Works

8. L-2180 Ballinacor, Beech Road, Arklow
9. R-754 Kilpatrick, Redcross
10. L-2172 Templerainey, Arklow
11. R-753 Cronebeg, Aughrim
12. L-6147 Ballymorris, Aughrim
13. L-2196 Kilahurler, Arklow
14. L-2191 Ballyduff, Arklow
15. L-2190 Coolgreaney Road, Arklow
16. L-6402 Kilcarra, Arklow

## Local Improvement Schemes:

- 17. Shroughmore, Conary
- 18. Raheen, Shelton

27. R-752 The Meetings to Rathdrum footpath – 4km

28. R-752 Avoca to The Meetings footpath refurbishment works – 2.2km

29. L-2137 Rednagh Road, Aughrim – Retaining wall and footpath – 120m

## Community Involvement Schemes:

- 19. L-61981 Coolbawn, Aughrim

## Routine Maintenance (Surface Dressing):

There was approximately 17km of road surfacing works carried out in 2020.

- 20. L-6195 Kilcarra West to Kilahurler (4km)
- 21. L-2197 Ballykillageer – Kilcarra West (2.7km)
- 22. L-6169 Mongnacool – Kilqueeney (1.7km)
- 23. L-6182 & L-6184 Ballymorris Lower – Kilqueeney (3km)
- 24. L-6184 Mongnacool – Garnagowlan (1.2km)
- 25. R-747 Arklow to Woodenbridge (1.7km)
- 26. R-754 Avoca – Ballinacor (2.9km)

Additional works undertaken in Arklow Municipal District during 2020 using funding from the National Transport Authority included the following:

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## **BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Patsy Glennon (FF)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Avril Cronin (FG)

#### Members:

Councillor Gerry O'Neill (IND)

Councillor Edward Timmins (FG)

Councillor John Mullen (FF)

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)

### Municipal District Staff

#### District Manager:

Breege Kilkenny

#### Acting District Engineer:

Dermot Graham

#### Blessington Area Engineer:

Patrick Byrne

#### District Administrator:

Garvan Hickey

#### Technician:

Con Cashen

#### Assistant Staff Officers:

Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office)

Andrea Connolly (Blessington Area Office)

#### Clerical Officers:

Ann Marie Butler (Tinahely Area Office)

Eamonn Phelan (Blessington Area Office)

Denise Smith (Blessington Area Office) since April 2020

### District Offices:

#### Blessington Area Office:

Address: Civic Offices,  
Blessington Business  
Park, Blessington, Co.  
Wicklow W91 RTV0.

Telephone No: 045 - 891222

E-mail: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

#### Tinahely Area Office:

Address: Council Offices,  
Coolruss,  
Tinahely,  
Co. Wicklow  
Y14 AY19.

Telephone No: 0402 - 38174

E-mail: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

### District Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August. Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting. Due to the effects of the Covid- 19 pandemic and

the requirement for social distancing a number of Baltinglass Municipal District meetings in 2020 were held in local community centers around the Municipal District.

## General

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal District is 25,267 (18%). Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads.

Baltinglass Municipal District has two Area Offices in Blessington and Tinahely – Public Counters are open to the Public from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Motor Tax Office is open in Blessington Civic Offices on Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and provides a valuable service to the local area.

## Strategic Policy Committees:

- Community Cultural and Social Development – Councillor Vincent Blake
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services – Councillor Vincent Blake
- Planning Development and Environment – Councillor Gerry O'Neill and Councillor Edward Timmins, Councillor Patsy Glennon
- Economic Development and Enterprise Support – Councillor Avril Cronin
- Wicklow County Council Access and Inclusion Committee – Councillor John Mullen

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school traffic warden services, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

Wicklow County Council was allocated additional funding by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the development of the Blessington Greenway. Baltinglass Municipal District is looking forward to working with the different sections of Wicklow County Council to bring this exciting project to fruition.

Members of staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District. The efforts of the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication was reflected in the success of local villages and towns in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) and the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards.

Estate Development Grants were awarded to eighteen successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District.

The Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided Discretionary Funding to various projects:

## Footpath Works:

- Footpath renewal works at Kevin Street, Tinahely.
- Footpath works on Hacketstown and Tinahely Roads, Knockananna
- Footpath works at Knockananna Crossroads, Knockananna

- Footpath works in Dunlavin graveyard
- Footpath works in Donard graveyard
- Footpath works in Rockypoole Crescent, Blessington
- Footpath works at Dunlavin school
- Footpath works Main Street and Oak Drive Blessington.
- Installation of kerbing for possible future footpath on Ballinglen Road, Knockananna

### Drainage Improvement Works:

- Drainage works at N81 Hempstown, Blessington
- Drainage works at Baltiboys, Valleymount
- Drainage works in Hollywood Village
- Drainage works at Ballygobban

### Public Lighting Projects:

- LED upgrades on the N81 in Blessington and Baltinglass
- New public lights on Graigue Road, Kiltegan

### Knockroe Bend Realignment N81

Works commenced on site in Mid-September 2019 at N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme. The Realignment Scheme involves the upgrade of the N81 National Secondary Road at Knockroe Bend over approximately 1 kilometre. The scheme has been prepared to improve road standards, to implement an improvement in the road safety performance of this section of the N81 and reduce the occurrence of collision's by realigning and widening the road at this location. Project is now

substantially completed and fully open to traffic. Contractor completed remaining landscaping works in December 2020. Remaining works to be completed in early 2021 includes safety barriers raised in Road Safety Audit.

### Baltinglass Roads Programme 2020

Road No	Road
Road Maintenance Works (Surface Dressing)	
L8364	Kilmallum road
L8861	Tulfarris Road
L4282	Knockarigg road
L8296	Ballinacrow to Davidstown
R759	Sally Gap
L4310	Griffinstown
L8316	Cowpasture
L2260	Ballygobban
L3273	Englishtown
L7740	Tullowclay
R747	Kilmurray Lower
R748	Hillbrook
Road Improvement Works	
L8291	Kill to Coolinarrig
L4371	Threecastle Road
L8352	Togher Road
L4303	Grangecon
L4310	Tournant to Tuckmill
L4284	Knockarigg
L8265	Ballineddan Road
L8349	Luglass Lower
L2026	Silverhill Road
L7390	Cemetery Road (Bell's Lane)
L7758	Knockananna to Knockagilky

L7259	Kilamoate
R746	Ballingate
L7258	Kilcarney Upper to Slievenamough
L7258	Kilcarney Lower to Upper
R747	Kevin Street, Tinahely
R747	Aughrim Road, Tinahely
L72274	Valley Heights, Carnew
L77602	The Hollows, Tinahely
Community Involvement Scheme	
L32056	Mangan's Lane, Tinahely
L32091	Lambert's Lane, Ardnaboy, Knockananna
Local Improvement Schemes	
Knocklow, Tullow Carlow	
Killinure, Tullow	
Drainage Works	
L8306	Dunlavin
R758	Baltyboys
L8346	Hollywood Village
L8306	Griffinstown, Dunlavin
L43014	Stratford
L2260	Ballygobban
R749	Coolruss, Tinahely
L7239	Coolkenna
R725	Boley, Shillelagh
R747	Kiltegan Village
L7277	Holdenstown

## Other Projects:

- Maintenance and improvement of roads in various parts of the District
- Resurfacing of carpark at Manor Kilbride Community Hall
- Memorial erected in Tournant Cemetery, Dunlavin
- New village signs for Knockananna

- Purchase of lawnmowers and maintenance equipment for Baltinglass Abbey, Baltinglass Graveyard and Kiltegan Tidy Towns
- Installation of Driver Feedback Sign on Coolafancy Road, Coolboy
- Resurfacing of the carpark at Crainerin Graveyard, Rathdangan
- Installation of two Park benches on Knockananna Walking track
- Completion of Knockananna Walking Track, Knockananna
- Junction Safety Improvement works at Knockananna Crossroads, Knockananna
- Wonderful West Wicklow Campaign
- Blessington Reopening Campaign

## Christmas Lights

Contributory funding for Christmas Lights was provided to a number of community groups around the Baltinglass Municipal District. The aim of the scheme is to support the excellent work being done around the Municipal by community groups.

## Blessington Town Team

Baltinglass Municipal District works closely with Blessington Town Team to make Blessington a better place to work, shop, socialise and live in. The Town Team has six key working groups as follows;

- Tidy Towns and Public Realm
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Business
- Tourism
- Culture and Heritage
- Projects

In 2019 Future Analytics were commissioned to undertake a Blessington Town Health Check Phase 2 to inform future community and socio-economic planning and development in the town. This Health Check has now been signed off on by Blessington Town Team and the focus is on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

Baltinglass Municipal District is a member of the Blessington Access Group and is working with all members on the implementation of the Blessington Street Route Accessibility Audit which was completed by Universal Access. Due to the impact of Covid -19 and associated restrictions implementation of the actions contained in the Health Check and the Access study were delayed and will be a priority for 2021.

### Blessington Covid – 19 Community Response Group

A Blessington Covid-19 Community Response Group was set up as a sub group of the Town Team. It was only possible to have one face-to-face meeting on 13th March, other meetings were held using available technology. Members of the group consist of representatives from Wicklow County Council, Garda Siochana, First Responders, Fire Service, HSE, Business Network and Blessington and District Forum. Getting accurate and timely information out to the community especially the most vulnerable across Blessington and surrounding area was seen as vital and

therefore the first actions of the group were the following

- Setting up a Facebook page for Blessington Town Team
- Establishing a Twitter Account
- Development of ‘Hello Neighbour’ campaign.
- Design and distribution of Posters for ‘Hello Neighbour’ campaign with contact details for key people
- Design and distribution of ‘Hello Neighbour’ flyers

The posters were put up in public buildings and businesses around the town and at entrances to all estates. It was decided to call the community support initiative “Hello Neighbour” as volunteers would provide support in their local area. We wanted everyone to know that they have a community around them that is willing to help and that no person or family is alone at this uncertain time.

It was decided that the Group would focus on the following activities:

- Co-ordination of the activities of various local bodies responding to the needs of the community during the Covid-19 crisis.
- Local dissemination of national information in relation to dealing with the crisis.
- Dissemination of reliable local information.
- Acting as the local Blessington district contact point for the Wicklow Community Call Centre and



for the Wicklow Branch of Volunteering Ireland

- Creation of a list of previously Garda vetted Covid volunteers and their allocation to selected areas throughout the district.
- Identifying potentially vulnerable persons and including their details in the list maintained by the Garda Siochana Community Unit.
- Providing a variety of supports directly to individual vulnerable persons principally through a network of volunteers and our 'Hello Neighbour' campaign.

In the 'Hello Neighbour' campaign each volunteer undertook to identify any potentially vulnerable persons in their zone. These were then directly offered personal assistance by their local volunteer for matters such as shopping, medicine collection or just a friendly word. This initiative was hugely effective and particularly well received by the community. Apart from the extensive practical assistance provided over the following weeks and months the Group received several messages from people indicating that while they did not require this service they found it very reassuring to know that it was there if they did.

Blessington Town Team and Baltinglass Municipal District is very grateful to the team of over thirty volunteers who have selflessly given of their time and continue to do so.

### 'Begin Together Awards'

Blessington Town Team submitted an entry to the Bank of Ireland 'Begin Together Awards'. The Begin Together Awards recognize businesses and communities who have come together to support local recovery and rebuilding in response to Covid-19. The judging took place in October and as a result of everyone's hard work Blessington came second to Kinsale in the population category 4,001 to 7,000 and Kinsale went on to be the overall national winner.

### Special Projects

- Following the easing of restrictions the Blessington Reopening Committee was established.
- In order to support local businesses and service providers a "Wonderful West Wicklow" campaign was run to encourage people to spend locally.

### Events

Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support the West Wicklow Festival which held a number of concerts online this year due to the pandemic and brought a wide range of world class artists to an online audience across Wicklow. Baltinglass Municipal District continued its support for the Coollattin Canadian Connection which continues to develop the relationship between Wicklow and Canada.

### ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES

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**Stratford on Slaney Village:** Resurfacing and relining of Main Streets in Stratford on Slaney and reconstruction / renewal of defective footpaths. This project was completed in October 2020.

**Dunlavin Kilcullen Street and Stephen Street.**

Resurfacing and relining of Main Street and Stephen Street Dunlavin. This project was completed in early December 2020.

**Grangecon Village**

Resurfacing and relining of Main Street in Grangecon. This project was completed in November 2020.

**Lacken School**

Relining car, bus and disabled parking zones at Lacken school. This project was completed in October 2020.

**R747 Baltinglass**

Upgrading of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing outside Scoil Naomh Iosaf Primary School. Works have been completed and we are awaiting completion of the electrical connection.

**R725 Shillelagh**

Upgrading of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing outside Garda Station. Civil Engineering works have been completed.

**R725 Carnew**

Upgrading of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing outside the Bank and Post Office on the Main Street. Works have been completed and we are awaiting completion of the electrical connection.

**Hollywood Footpath Scheme**

Provision of 350m of new footpath, lighting and kerbing to link Hollywood School and Village to bus / transport facilities on N81. This project due for completion in January 2021.

**Installation of electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) in the Blessington area**

Wicklow County Council propose to install electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) in the Blessington area in early 2021. The proposed EV Charge Points are to be located at Blessington Main Street – the Square Blessington and at Wicklow County Council Area Office.

**L8306 Griffenstown, Dunlavin.**

Climate Action funding was provided for protection measures for the road at Griffenstown which was vulnerable to severe weather events. Works have included embankment stability measures to prevent slippage, including drainage works to prevent road flooding and resulting slippage below the road surface. This project was completed in October 2020.

**L3260 Barnamelia.**

Climate Action funding has been provided for protection measures for the road at Barnamelia Gap (Aughrim to Rathdangan Road) which was vulnerable to collapse and slippage due to the high volume of forestry related HGV's using the road coupled with severe weather events. Works proposed include piping the section of road affected to reduce the depth of the open drainage channel and prevent slippage. Additionally it is proposed to install concrete aprons close to junctions where there are heavy turning movements to prevent damage to the road edge. Some works were completed on site in November 2020 and materials for the balance of the project have been procured.

## BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Steven Matthews (GP) (until Feb 2020)  
Councillor Anne Ferris (LAB) (from March 2020)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Anne Ferris (LAB) (until Feb 2020)  
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG) (from June 2020)

#### Members:

Councillor Joe Behan (IND)  
Councillor Melanie Corrigan (FG)  
Councillor Erika Doyle (GP) (From Feb 2020)  
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG)  
Councillor Grace McManus (SF)  
Councillor Dermot O'Brien (SF)  
Councillor Rory O'Connor (IND)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### Director of Services:

Thomas Murphy (until Feb 2020)  
Lorraine Gallagher (from Feb 2020)

#### District Engineer:

Liam Bourke

#### Executive Engineer:

Stephen Fox

#### Executive Engineer:

Avril Hill (Sep – Dec 2020)

#### District Administrator:

David Forde

#### Technician:

Dominic Gillian

#### Contact Details:

**Address:** Civic Offices,  
Main Street,  
Bray,  
Co Wicklow,

**Telephone No:** 01 2744900

**Fax No:** 01 2860930

**E-mail:** [braymd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braymd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Population:** 35600

Bray Municipal District covers 180km of roads in County Wicklow. The number of social houses within the district is 1360.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Bray Main Street, Civic Centre.

The offices are open 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday (excl. bank holidays). The cash office is open Mon – Wed 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm and Thurs & Fri 9am – 5pm (excl. bank holidays). The motor tax office is open Tues – Thurs 10.30am – 2pm. Due to Covid restrictions these hours are subject to change.

#### District Meetings

The members of Bray Municipal District hold their district meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm with the exception of August when there is no meeting. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

## Roads Programme 2020

Road Name and/or Townland Name	Area of work (sq.m)
<b>Restoration Improvement</b>	
Glencree Road	8000
Lackandarragh-Hostel Road	12000
Bray Road, Enniskerry (21 bends)	1600
Vevay Road Putland-Church Roads	5050
Meath Road, Bray	700
Convent Ave, Bray	400
Raheen Park	800
Richmond Park	2100
Charnwood	720
Glenthorn	1055
Sugarloaf Crescent	400
Waterfall Road Bahana	2900
Red Lane	1310
Killough Lower	560
<b>Restoration Maintenance</b>	
Ballybawn-Killough Lower	6500
Old Long Hill	8000
Ballyorney-Tinnahinch	6600
Quill Road	9750
Monastery Road	7200
Glencap Road	1700
Waterfall Road Ballinagee	8865

### Roads Programme – Restoration Improvement

The majority of the Roads Restoration Improvement works have been completed for the year except for Rynville Manor, half the width of the Vevay Road between Charnwood and Church Road and reconstruction of defective concrete roadway at Convent Avenue. Tenders were awarded for these works a considerable time ago. However, due the workload of many civil

engineering contractors since the summer they have been unable to deliver on many of the smaller projects. Consequently these works will not be completed this year and will have to be reviewed in the context of the available funding in 2021

### Roads Programme – Restoration Maintenance

Surface dressing in the Bray District was completed on 12<sup>th</sup> August, except for the R760 at Tinnahinch, which had been excluded due to the closure of the Little Newtown Road for bridge repairs. An overlay of the failed surface dressing on Monastery Road has been completed. Asphalt preservation treatment of roads at Earlscliff, Swanbrook, Hollybrook, Belmont and Old Connaught View completed.

### Other Road Works

Essential pavement and road drainage repairs have continued. New drainage works planned for the Glencree Road and Loreto Ave have been postponed and will be subject to available funding in the new year. Drainage work at the Scalp is committed before the end of the year.

Safety improvement Works funding was used for vehicle restraint barriers on the 21 Bends early this year. Contract has been awarded for antiskid surfacing at R755 Killough Upper and the 21 Bends but has also been delayed due to unavailability of contractor and low temperatures for this type of work.

Footpath construction along the R760 Ballyorney Road and Pinewood Close is progressing.

### NTA Active Travel Stimulus Measures

Six projects were approved in Bray and a time extension has been granted for projects commenced. The Strand Road Aquarium work is already completed and has created a safe route for cyclists until the Seafront Plaza Scheme commences.

The Bogmeadow Car Park and Bus Terminus Scheme was substituted for Aravon Court Laneway. The car park layout and most of the drainage has

been completed and is waiting on the outcome of the Part 8 for a new bus terminus and entrance before work resumes. Work is progressing on the Strand Road North & Marine Terrace and the Greystones Road, Windgates Cycle Track Schemes. Convent Hill, Vevay Road realignment works, the contractor has failed to commit to a start date so this work has been deferred until the new year. The Sans Souci Wood Accessibility Scheme has also been deferred. It is still waiting on land owner agreement before the scheme design is finalised. The NTA have committed to future funding of both of these projects.

### **NTA Projects**

A contract was awarded in August for the Seafront Plaza Scheme. The contractor has applied for a road opening licence and is anticipated to commence works on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The ground investigation report has been completed for the Bray Transport Interchange. Utility design details and construction tender documents progressed will resume based on information gathered.

The BusConnects Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor final public consultation webinar took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The scheme proposes major works along the Dublin Road and Castle Street to facilitate improved bus transit time along the route. The final date for submissions on all of the Dublin Core Bus Corridor proposals is 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Public Realm Projects for 2020 included**

#### **Bog Meadow Car park**

Some small works have been completed on the site around the perimeter, installation of additional drainage and the laying of kerbs and work is expected to resume on the remaining following the approval of the Part 8 application, for a new bus terminus and entrance, at the ordinary meeting of Bray Municipal District held on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

#### **Memorial Lighting**

A lighting designer has been engaged to provide a quotation to develop a lighting concept. A site visit was carried out by the lighting designer at dusk and they are due to report back.

#### **Seafront Toilet Upgrade**

A survey is to be carried out and examine what works for this budget are possible for improvements to facilities.

#### **Peoples Park Improvements**

Contract has been awarded for pollinator friendly bulb planting within the park, these works are expected to be completed for the 2021 spring season.

#### **Public Realm Framework**

The District Engineer will be examining locations that may require some public realm upgrades. The Health Check Report will be examined for any possible projects. Some artist impressions will then be commissioned.

#### **5 Year Tree Replacement Programme**

The Council is developing proposal for the staged replacement of trees within the town center. Discussions are ongoing with consultants regarding tree pit design, location & species selection.

#### **Upgrade of Ballywaltrim Facilities**

The refurbishment of Ballywaltrim Basketball Court has been tendered and contractor appointed. These works are expected to commence in 2021.

#### **Refurbishment of Seafront Pavilions**

The appointed consultant, Calibre Metalwork, has completed their assessment of the Victorian shelters and submitted their report. The Council are in the process of drafting a scope of works with a view to going to tender in early 2021

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## Footpaths

Herbert Road  
Pinewood Close  
Ballyorney Road

Works are progressing on these footpath schemes.

## Bray Central

Work is progressing well on the site and the structural steel throughout the site is complete. Blockwork and brickwork has also commenced on site.

All Members of Bray Municipal District were invited to visit the site so that they could see first-hand the progress being made. This site visit took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with some of the Members in attendance.

There is a significant increase of late in the level of interest from potential tenants and the letting agents are effectively managing to successfully conduct on site viewings while adhering to HSE standards and safety protocols on site. The development has been rebranded Bray Central which highlights better its Main Street location.



## County Parking Office

Paid parking is in operation in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Towns. Apcoa Parking Ireland Ltd were awarded the contract for the provision of

Managed Car Parking Services for Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Town and this contract has been fully operational since June 2019. Bray Municipal District is responsible for the back office administration for parking countywide.

## Contract signed for Bray Harbour Study

A contract for Bray Harbour Study was signed by Wicklow County Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> January with RPS Group.

The project requires the consultant to carry out detailed surveys, report on the options available to protect the harbour from storm conditions, and to look into options to provide additional berthing facilities, including the possibility of providing a short term drop on/drop off berth for a small passenger vessel plying between different harbours within an hour or so of Bray. The funding for this exploratory work was approved by members of Bray Municipal District Council in 2018. To date the consultants have collected and validated the presence of rocky outcrops along the Bray to Greystones coastline which can impact upon sediment transport and thus sedimentation within the harbour. They will now be progressing with the development of suitable harbour options. This assessment is based on long term spectral wave and hydraulic modelling of the existing Bray harbour area which they have already completed.



In photo seated (L-R) are Frank Curran (Chief Executive), Cllr Steven Matthews, Adrian Bell (RPS Group) and Kristopher Calder (RPS Group)

Standing (L-R) are David Forde (Bray District Administrator), Liam Bourke (District Engineer) and Thomas Murphy (District Manager)

### Initiatives that took place in the Bray Municipal District area during the year

#### Happy to Chat Initiative on Bray Seafront

Signs have been placed at four locations along Bray Promenade indicating “Happy to Chat” benches while observing social distancing guidelines. The idea is to help tackle loneliness and isolation in the community by breaking down invisible walls between strangers. By simply stopping to say hello to someone at the “Chat Bench” could mean much to vulnerable people in the town.



#### Bray's "Positivity Stones"

'Positivity Stones' which aims to help promote positive mental health and wellbeing were installed throughout some of the main public spaces around Bray. The initiative is supported by Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project, Be Well Bray, Comhairle na nÓg, Wicklow County Council and Bray.ie.

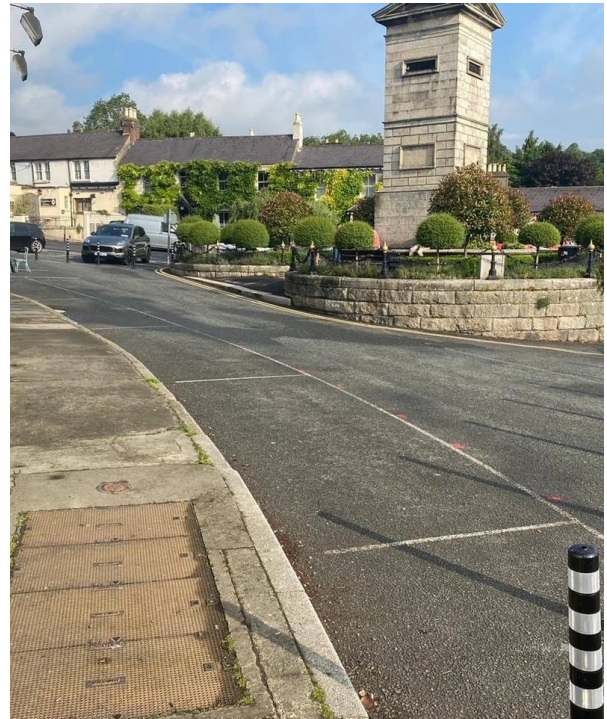
#### Bray Reopening Committee

The Bray Reopening Committee is a joint initiative with local stakeholders across the community, including members of Bray Chamber of Commerce, the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána to plan for a considered, responsible return to civic life which is vital to help to restart the local economy in the town. This is in line with the Government's phased roadmap for reopening the country socially and economically.

As a working group Bray Reopening Committee will continue to work collaboratively in driving a message for the consumers to invest in our town, shop local first and let's have unity in our community.

Some changes that took place throughout the district to ensure a safe space for people to navigate and businesses to operate in





### Beacon of Hope

A beacon of hope shone from the foothills of Bray Head on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April as Easter drew to a close. Lights were shone to the sky from the shoreline, to represent the town standing in solidarity with all of those across the world affected by Covid-19. The display of lights across the sea and towards the skyline continued for around an hour.



The Bray Head light display was engineered by Barry Clarke, Luke Weir and Ryan O'Neill of Retro Drive-In Movies.



### Frontline Workers honoured with Bray Flypast

A flypast by a Rescue helicopter of Bray seafront was held on 25<sup>th</sup> July in a tribute by the Irish Coast Guard and Bray Air Display to recognise the dedication of frontline workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Student nurse Olivia Reidy making a presentation to HSE CEO, Paul Reid, on behalf of Bray Air Display and Wicklow County Council. At back: Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and Tommy Gannon, Irish Coastguard.

**Bray Municipal District Offices turned purple to celebrate the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities.**



## GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Lourda Scott (GP)

**Members:** Councillor Mags Crean (IND)  
Councillor Tom Fortune (IND)  
Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)  
Councillor Jennifer  
Whitmore/Councillor Jodie Neary (SD)

### District Staff:

Director of Services:	Michael Nicholson
District Engineer:	Ruairi O' Hanlon
Executive Engineer	William Halligan
District Administrator:	Myra Porter
Technician:	Joseph Dowler
Assistant Staff Officer:	Orla Greene
Clerical Officers:	Kay Coughlan
	Lily Davis
	Andrea Egan
	Orlagh Jones

### Contact Details:

#### Address:

Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

**Telephone No:** 01 – 2876694

**Fax No:** 01 – 2877173

**E-mail:** [greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Population:** 26,323

Greystones Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and a small part of Newtownmountkennedy. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in county Wicklow

(64,840 KM). The number of social house within the district is 616.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Mill Road, Greystones.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except during the month of August.

Greystones Municipal District welcomed new Councillor Jodie Neary in February. Councillor Neary was co-opted as a replacement following the election of Councillor Jennifer Whitmore to Dáil Éireann.

In addition to general maintenance works in the district, a number of road improvement projects were completed during the year funded by the Department of Transport. These included restoration and improvement works at Blacklion, Rathdown Road, Mill Road, Bellevue Heights, Woodlands Avenue, Redford Park in Greystones. Road improvements were also completed on Glen Road & Church Road and Blackberry Lane, in Delgany and Woodstock road in Kilcoole.

Footpath improvements were carried out at Burnaby Heights, Oaklands, Woodlands Avenue and Kimberly Road in Greystones and also at Beachdale in Kilcoole, which included bridge improvement works and Church Road in Delgany. Bus stops were improved on Mill Road and new bus shelters were installed on Mill Road and on the R761 at Applewood Heights.

Road safety improvement works were completed which were funded by the National Transport Authority - Active Travel Measures. Off road cycle lanes were provided on the new road by Lidl, to improve road safety in the vicinity of 4 schools and a substantial amount of residential development.



Greystones Tidy Towns teamed up with Greystones Municipal District in a joint initiative to provide a Sensory Garden in part of Burnaby Park. They also received an Environmental Tree Award and a Biodiversity award in Wicklow County Council's Tidy Towns & Environmental Awards for local initiatives. The Council's Communal Garden award went to Greystones Kilcoole Community garden at Shoreline and Delgany Tidy Towns were the recipients of the Water Protection Award. Greystones was awarded first place in the large town category of the Tidy Towns competition for Main Streets, while Delgany were awarded third place in the medium town category and Newcastle was commended in the small town section.

A new Lifeguards Hut was provided on South Beach Greystones in June. The new hut was placed directly onto the beach to bring the Lifeguards closer to the water as the beach has changed and grown in recent years.

South Beach was again awarded Blue Flag status as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality to environmental management and education, as well as safety and services.

The members of Greystones Municipal District provided funding for the following from their discretionary budgets:

- Christmas Lights
- Tidy Towns groups in Greystones, Delgany, Newcastle & Kilcoole
- Greystones 2020 website
- Renovation of public toilet block at Greystones harbour.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues and

members received representatives from Greystones 2020 and Greystones Dog Park campaign.

The development of Greystones harbour, under a public private partnership between Sisk and Wicklow County Council is nearing completion with the opening of the public park including Wicklow's first Dog Park and also the boardwalk in December.

The project has provided major benefits to the community and significant additional amenities. These include a new public square, harbour & coastal protection works and clubhouses and facilities for the sailing club, the ridge angling club, scouts, sub aqua club and the rowing club.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a range of challenges to the district and restricted a number of activities. Greystones Municipal District and Greystones 2020 town team came together to launch a campaign to restart the local economy and support local business as restrictions began to ease in early summer.

There were a wide range of initiatives' introduced, including

- [www.greystones.ie/business-hub](http://www.greystones.ie/business-hub),
- A "Think Local, Buy Local campaign" using local and social media
- Provision of ground markings in order to help businesses implement queuing measures to encourage social distancing.
- Fast track free licensing for outdoor furniture in public spaces
- Changes to parking and pedestrian facilities

Greystones Municipal District installed planters and bollards on Church Road in August to re-allocate public road space to facilitate social distancing and to support local businesses for loss of internal space.

The works which included the removal of 24 on-street parking spaces and incorporated some of the proposals included in the Public Realm Plan produced by Greystones 2020 and were carried out with the assistance of Greystones Tidy Towns included:

- Planter boxes and seats designed and manufactured in Ireland with maritime features of thick timbers which will weather well, influenced by the coastal nature of Greystones. Native trees and plants from the All Ireland Pollinator Plan were acquired from a local garden nursery supplier.
- Two new disabled parking bays and enlargement of two of the existing four loading bays to provide for larger vehicles

Supported by Greystones Municipal District, the annual turning on of the Christmas lights in Greystones was a virtual event in 2020, thanks to the efforts of Greystones 2020 hugely successful 'Light Up Greystones' Campaign. The town came together to produce a live stream Christmas show with over 8,000 views. The show included contributions from local schools and clergy, local celebrities including Hozier and of course Santa. There was also a wide range of interactive family workshops on the day from chocolate making to storytelling.

The local business community supported the wonderful festive decorations around the town. Premises throughout Greystones were decorated with beautiful hand painted images of the 12 Days of Christmas by local artist Mary-Kate Harding. There were over 1km of icicle lights erected and two 30-foot-tall Christmas trees, each adorned with 3,000 lights, one at the train station and one at the Harbour Marina. .

Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, many local annual events organised by Greystones Municipal District, such as the St. Patrick's Day parade and the People of the Year Awards did not go ahead in 2020 and we look forward to organising these popular community events in the future.

## WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor John Snell (IND)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Gail Dunne (FF)

### Members:

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)

Councillor Paul O'Brien (LAB)

Councillor Irene Winters (FG)

Councillor Mary Kavanagh (IND)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### District Manager

Brian Gleeson

#### District Engineer

Kevin Scanlon

#### District Administrator

Joan Sinnott

#### Executive Engineer

Alan Martin

#### Executive Technician

Aidan Doyle

#### Assistant Staff Officer

Anne Marie Kelly

#### Clerical Officers

Sinead Turner

Pauline Myler

Irene Kinsella

#### Contact Details:

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Co. Wicklow A67 YO18

Telephone: 0404-20173

Email: [wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Wicklow Municipal District covers an area of 43,240 hectares which includes the County Town of Wicklow, Rathnew, Ashford, Roundwood, Glenealy, Laragh, Glendalough and Newtownmountkennedy.

The regular functions that the District provides include local authority house maintenance, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, maintenance of parks and open spaces, operation & maintenance of Brittas Bay North & South Beaches and car parks, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school warden service, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

In addition to the general maintenance works in the district, the Wicklow Municipal District has responsibility for 423 kilometres of road and the repair and maintenance of 991 local authority houses in the district. 958 housing repairs completed in the year.

The population of the Municipal District is 28,219.

### District Meetings

The Members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each

month at 3:00 p.m. with the exception of August when there is no meeting held.

In order to facilitate social distancing Meetings from March to December were held by zoom or in Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew.

The Offices are open to the public from 9:00 – 1:00 and 2:00 – 5:00 each day, however during Covid – 19 offices are open 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m. and 2.00p.m. – 4.00p.m. and by appointment only at Level 5 Restrictions.

## Roads and Infrastructure Projects

In addition to general maintenance works in the district the following road improvement and surface dressing projects were completed during the year.

### Road Improvement/Overlay Projects:

- Season Park, Newtown
- Moneystown to Ballycullen
- Laragh East to Drummin
- Ashford Main Street (still to be completed)
- Newtown to Altidore
- Slaughter Hill, Roundwood
- Baltyanima

### Surface Dressing Projects:

- Killiskey
- Ballyhenry
- Tiglin to Tomriland
- Nun's Cross
- Knockadreet
- Ballyduff to Boleynass Upper

- Lickeen
- Trooperstown to Ballard
- Glenmacnass
- Malones Lane Baltyanima
- Ballinastoe
- Threemilewater to Ballydowling
- Ballydowling to Gormanstown
- Ballydowling to Castletimon
- Cullen Lower
- Bonagrew to Brittas
- Kilbride to Ballykeppogue
- Ballinteston to Newtownpark
- Ballycullen

### Footpath Works:

- Ashford – Ballinalea to Mount Usher
- Black Castle, Wicklow Town
- Newtown Main Street

### Other Projects funded from the Members 2020 Discretionary Budget:

- Roundwood Playground parking and path.
  - Wicklow Gap lining
  - Ashford to M11 footpath improvements
  - Roundwood toilets refurbishment
  - Seaview Heights resurfacing
  - Brittas Bay pedestrian crossing
  - Ashford Weir
  - Ballynerrin Playground lighting
  - Rosanna to Ballinalea footpath improvements
  - Traffic Lights Newtownmountkennedy
-

## Roundabout Sponsorship

Two roundabouts have been successfully sponsored in 2020.

- Broomhall
- Merrymeeting

## Local Improvement Schemes:

- Carrigeenshinnagh Lane, Roundwood

## Local & Regional Road Drainage Works:

- Altidore Killinpark
- Monalin Newtown
- Mount John Newtown
- Tongalee
- Ballinteskine
- Gormanstown
- Blainroe

## Promotion of Interests of Local Community

9 Resident Associations in the Wicklow Municipal District benefited from the Estate Development Grants fund of €8,000 in 2020. Applications are invited from Residents Associations of Wicklow County Council Social Housing Estates for funding in relation to the upkeep of green areas within their estates. Private Housing Estates in which there are a number of Local Authority properties may also apply.

## Christmas Lights

The Wicklow Municipal District provided the annual contribution of €20,000 towards the towns Christmas Lights. The switching on of the Christmas lights for 2020 was by way of a virtual event which took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Additional lights were also introduced this year.

## Technical support for:

- Library and Fitzwilliam Square Projects (Urban Renewal and Regeneration).
- Newtownmountkenedy Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- Wicklow Town Historic Lights Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

## Tidy Towns

The Members allocated €11,000 to the seven Tidy Town Committees in its district. Wicklow Tidy Towns were unable to defend their Gold Medal achieved in 2019 due to the National Competition being cancelled for 2020.

Plans to make the town a Sustainable Energy Community are well underway.

Wicklow Municipal District acknowledges the great effort the Tidy Town Committees around the District who volunteer and put in their time to make our towns and villages more attractive and better places to live in. This effort is reflected in the continued successes achieved in the IBAL and the Tidy Towns competitions.

## Retail/Business

To help support local businesses throughout the district a Reopening Committee was established consisting of members of Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce, Wicklow Town Team and Wicklow Municipal District to identify and implement initiatives under a promotional campaign entitled 'Shop Local - Support Wicklow'. The Shop Local Support Wicklow campaign was funded by Wicklow Municipal District and provides for Temporary Public Signage,



a Leaflet Drop to 5,000 households, Shop Local Stickers, Temporary Ground Markings, Banners and a short Promotional Video.



## Twinning

On St Patrick's Day each year Wicklow Town usually experiences a large attendance from our twinned towns of Eichenzell and Montigny however due to Covid -19 the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade did not take place.

Even in these extraordinary times contact was still maintained and for Christmas and New Year a video from John Snell Cathaoirleach Wicklow Municipal District was sent from to the Mayor of Montigny and the associated twin cities wishing them all a Bonne Année.

## Parking

Free parking is available in Wicklow Town between the hours of 9.00am and 10.00am and thereafter there is a 15 minutes courtesy period for those wishing to make a quick stop in the town. The District helps to support the commercial and retail

sector by providing 2 hours free parking on a Saturday and free all day on Sundays. Two hours free parking is provide for the Christmas period and free all day parking at the Murrough Car Park and St. Manntans Hill Car Park. The parking tag app is also available for use and actively promoted by the District.

## Town Team

The Wicklow Town came together in 2016 to promote Wicklow Town and all it has to offer to visitors and residents alike in an effort to stimulate business, growth, and tourism. Wicklow Town Team was initially part of the 'Local Economic Initiative Group' which was set up by Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce

Wicklow Town Team is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. All members are volunteers. The Steering Committee meets once a month and Sub Groups meet as required. The team reports regularly to Wicklow Municipal District.

**Mission Statement:** Make Wicklow Town a better place to live work and play.

The working groups consist of the Chairperson of each working group along with volunteers that includes members Wicklow Municipal District Council. The group have highlighted the areas they felt would have a positive impact on the community from a social, business and leisure aspect.

## Working Groups:

**Digital** - The group successfully applied for funding under LEADER along with Sponsorship for the development and content management of WicklowTown.ie.

**Greenway** - The group are working on establishing a Greenway from Wicklow to Greystones

**Park & Ride** - Improving public transport would greatly enhance Wicklow, therefore the development of a park and ride facility on the N11 servicing Wicklow and its environs is a key priority of the town team.

**Public Realm** - The teams goal is to improve the visual appearance of Wicklow.

**Tourism** - This working group is in the final stages of providing a historical walking trail of Wicklow Town

**Retail** - This group work closely with the Wicklow Town & District Chamber, Wicklow County Council & Wicklow Municipal District on initiatives to revitalise Wicklow Town

**Commercial** - The Commercial team are looking at ways to encourage development in

**Funding:** Wicklow Town Team apply for funding of projects to the relevant funding stream i.e. Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Municipal District, Town and Village Renewal Scheme and LEADER.

## General

Contract Documents for Fitzwilliam Square Improvement Scheme funded from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund were signed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January with Shareridge Civil Engineering Ltd. Works will allow for the lower side of the square to be pedestrianised. Bridge Street will be one way to facilitate wider footpaths, and part of Church Street will be one way from the junction of Bridge Street. The new layout and design will enhance the visual image,

improve pedestrian access and create an attractive urban environment which in turn will be an important factor in the town's success in attracting shoppers and tourists alike.



As Part of the Public Realm works in Newtownmountkennedy 18 mature oak trees were planted.

Works commenced on Wicklow Library. The former bank building on The Mall in Wicklow Town is being converted into a new public library facility incorporating Wicklow County Archive and Local Studies facility.

Wicklow Tidy Towns group were honoured with a Cathaoirleach's reception held in the Town Hall in recognition of their Gold Medal Win in the 2019 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. Wicklow won gold in category E (population of 5,001 – 10,000) and was also named 1<sup>st</sup> in County. District Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen presented the group with a certificate to mark their remarkable achievements.

Two new interpretative boards/lecterns were erected at the Black Castle and Abbey Grounds. A

geophysical survey of both sites was commissioned by Wicklow Tidy Towns and funding was allocated by the Members of Wicklow Municipal District to Wicklow Tidy Towns to undertake the projects. These interpretative boards will also link in with the additional 5 other lecterns for the planned Historical Trail for Wicklow Town.

September 2020 saw the release of “The South Westerlies” to our screens which showed off some of Wicklow’s amazing scenery.

Footpaths provide at Travelahawk and Black Castle making the area more accessible.



Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project won silver in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards. Works commenced on Fitzwilliam Square.

Two new playgrounds in Laragh and Roundwood were officially opened in June 2020.



Church Hill One Way System was introduced in November 2020.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

## Financial Statement

The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure. It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.

## Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2020

Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2020	Income 2020	Net Expenditure 2020	Net Expenditure 2019
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	25,544,424	30,619,318	(5,074,894 )	(3,891,239 )
Road Transportation & Safety	27,064,762	15,565,479	11,499,284	10,882,301
Water Services	6,786,852	6,649,044	137,809	642,408
Development Management	29,548,204	23,275,549	6,272,656	5,929,612
Environmental Services	13,438,087	1,859,432	11,578,655	10,946,273
Recreation & Amenity	9,678,239	1,281,323	8,369,916	7,312,575
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,309,396	665,240	644,157	599,756
Miscellaneous Services	22,069,959	23,079,247	(1,009,288 )	3,672,684
Total Expenditure/Income	135,439,924	102,994,631		
Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			32,445,293	36,094,371
Rates			32,009,800	27,927,545
Local Property Tax			13,720,320	11,983,425
Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers			13,284,826	3,816,599
Transfers From/(To) Reserves			(12,878,616 )	(3,511,325 )
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			406,210	305,273
General Reserve @ 1st January			(2,052,474 )	(2,357,748 )
General Reserve @ 31st December			(1,646,264 )	(2,052,474 )



## Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2020

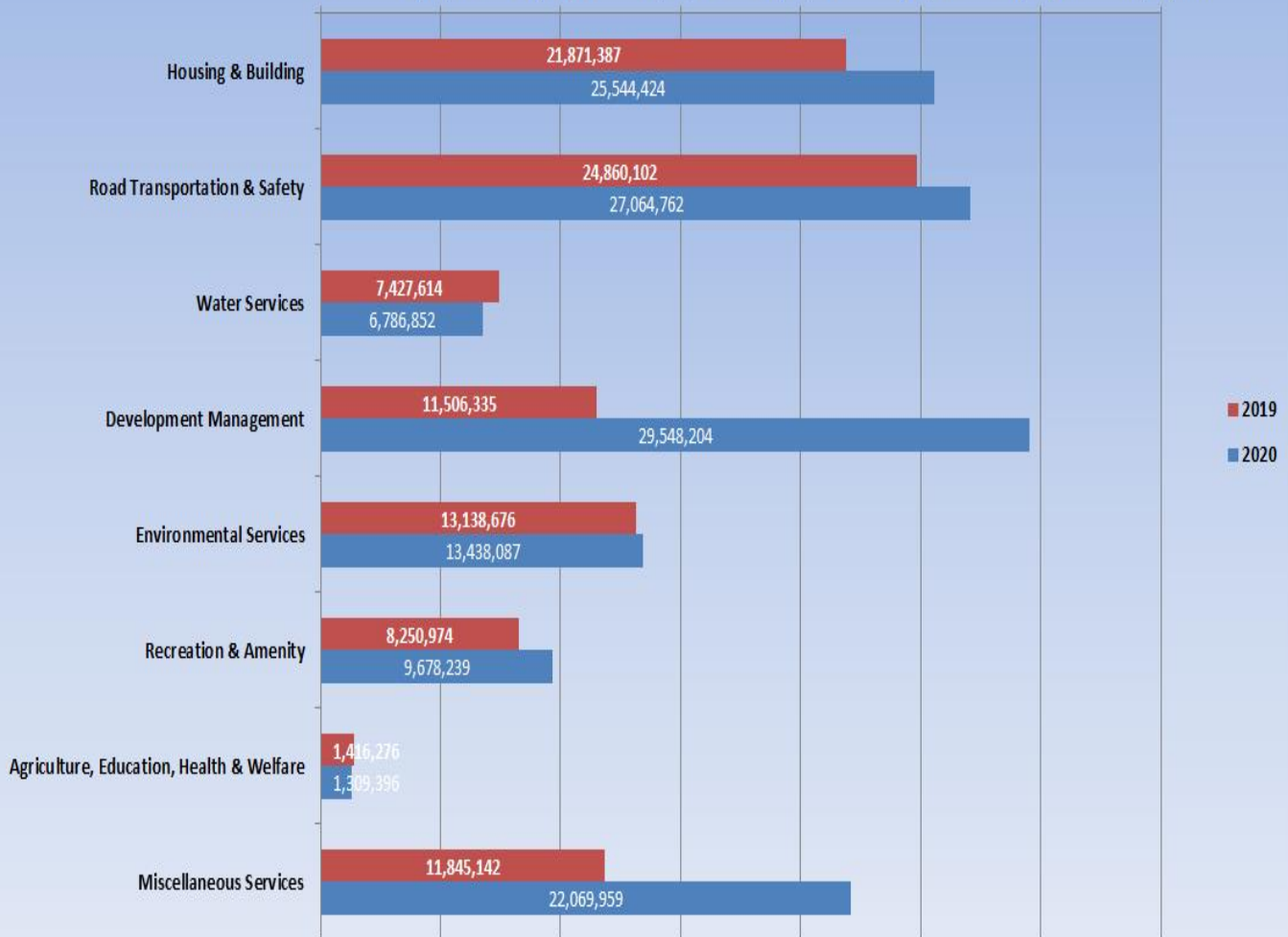
	2020	2019
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	1,179,239,482	1,135,901,664
Infrastructural	1,549,493,552	1,550,762,045
Community	19,069,643	19,069,025
Non-Operational	220,010	220,000
	<b>2,748,022,687</b>	<b>2,705,952,734</b>
<b>Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>66,502,469</b>	<b>53,049,484</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>54,856,408</b>	<b>46,639,601</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	-	161,211
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	43,348,807	54,895,085
Bank Investments	66,285,338	41,140,761
Cash at Bank	1,299,945	-
Cash in Transit	400	400
	<b>110,934,490</b>	<b>96,197,457</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	1,770,327
Creditors & Accruals	35,729,817	23,378,183
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>35,729,817</b>	<b>25,148,510</b>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>75,204,673</b>	<b>71,048,947</b>
<b>Creditors ( Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	71,270,089	69,587,182
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	19,682,297	18,289,543
Other	22,166,232	17,475,345
	<b>113,118,618</b>	<b>105,352,070</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>2,831,467,618</b>	<b>2,771,338,697</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation	2,748,022,687	2,705,952,735
Income WIP	52,068,794	41,109,682
General Revenue Reserve	(1,646,264 )	(2,052,474 )
Other Specific Reserves		
Other Balances	33,022,401	26,328,754
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2,831,467,618</b>	<b>2,771,338,697</b>



## Revenue Account 2020 V 2019 / Comparisons at a Glance

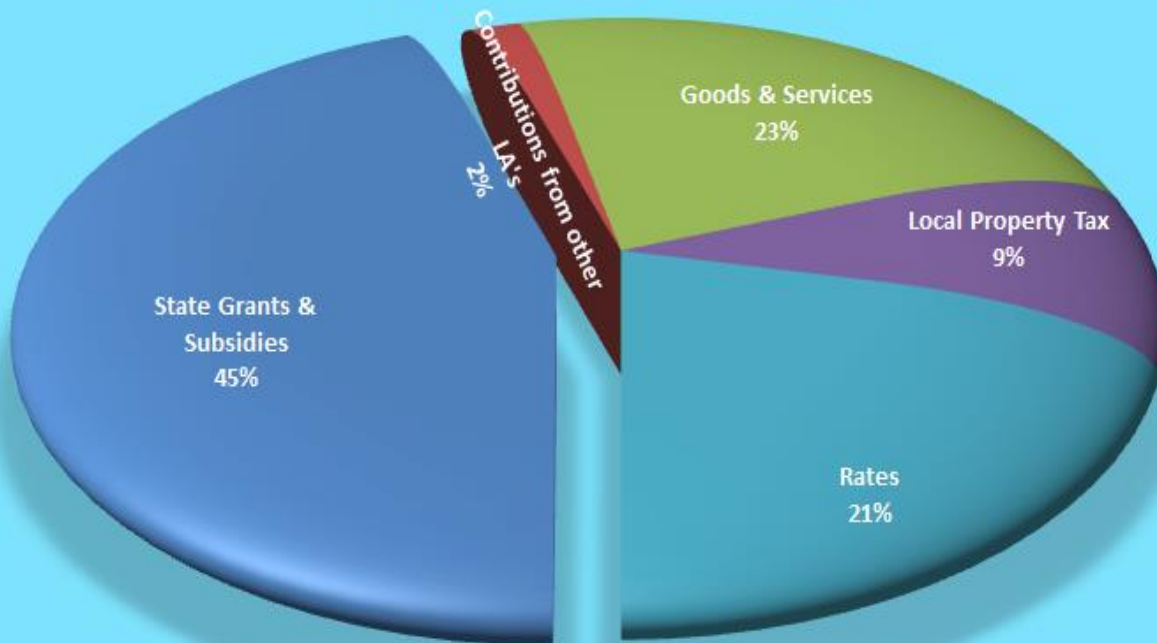
€ Euro

0 5,000,000 10,000,000 15,000,000 20,000,000 25,000,000 30,000,000 35,000,000



**Revenue Income 2020**

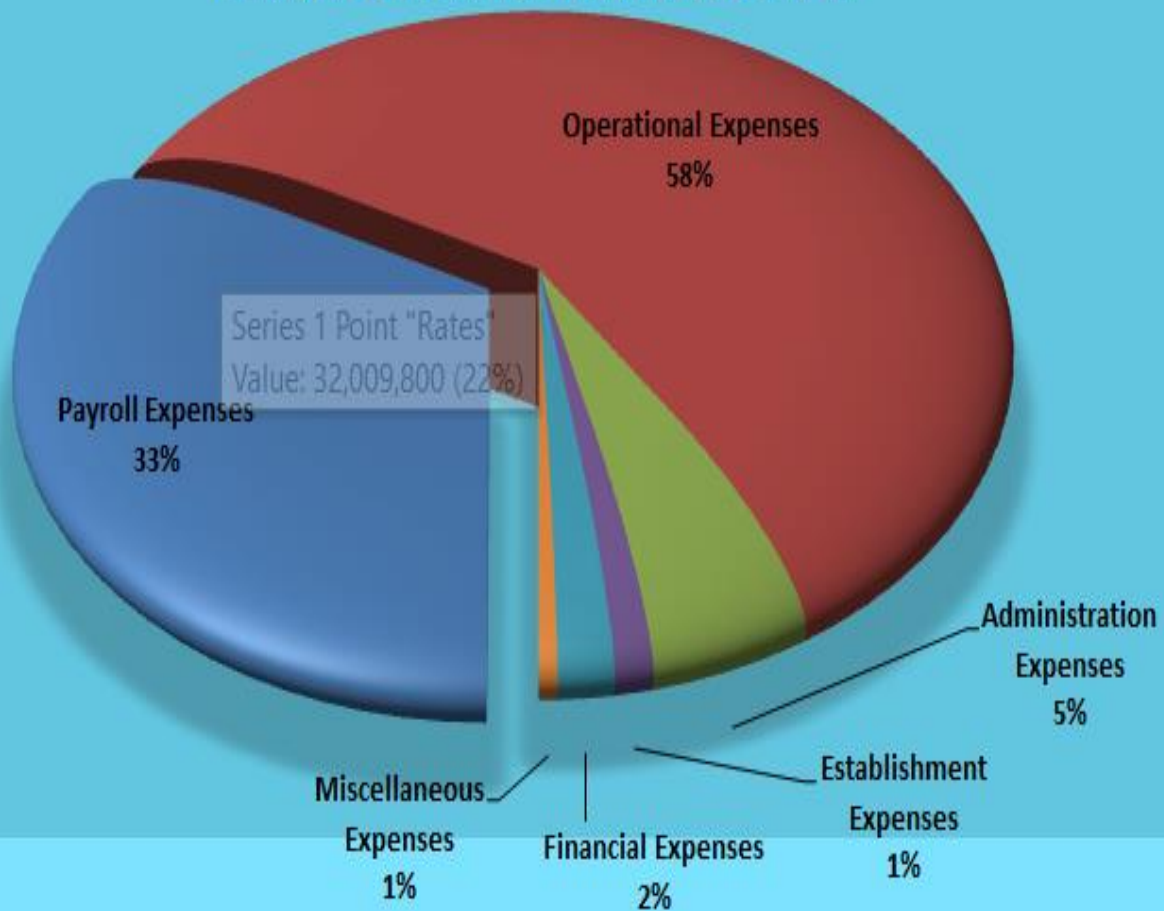
Analysis of Revenue Income	€
State Grants & Subsidies	66,913,846
Contributions from other LA's	2,427,146
Goods & Services	33,653,638
Local Property Tax	13,720,320
Rates	32,009,800
<b>Total Revenue Income</b>	<b>148,724,751</b>

**Analysis of Revenue Income 2020**

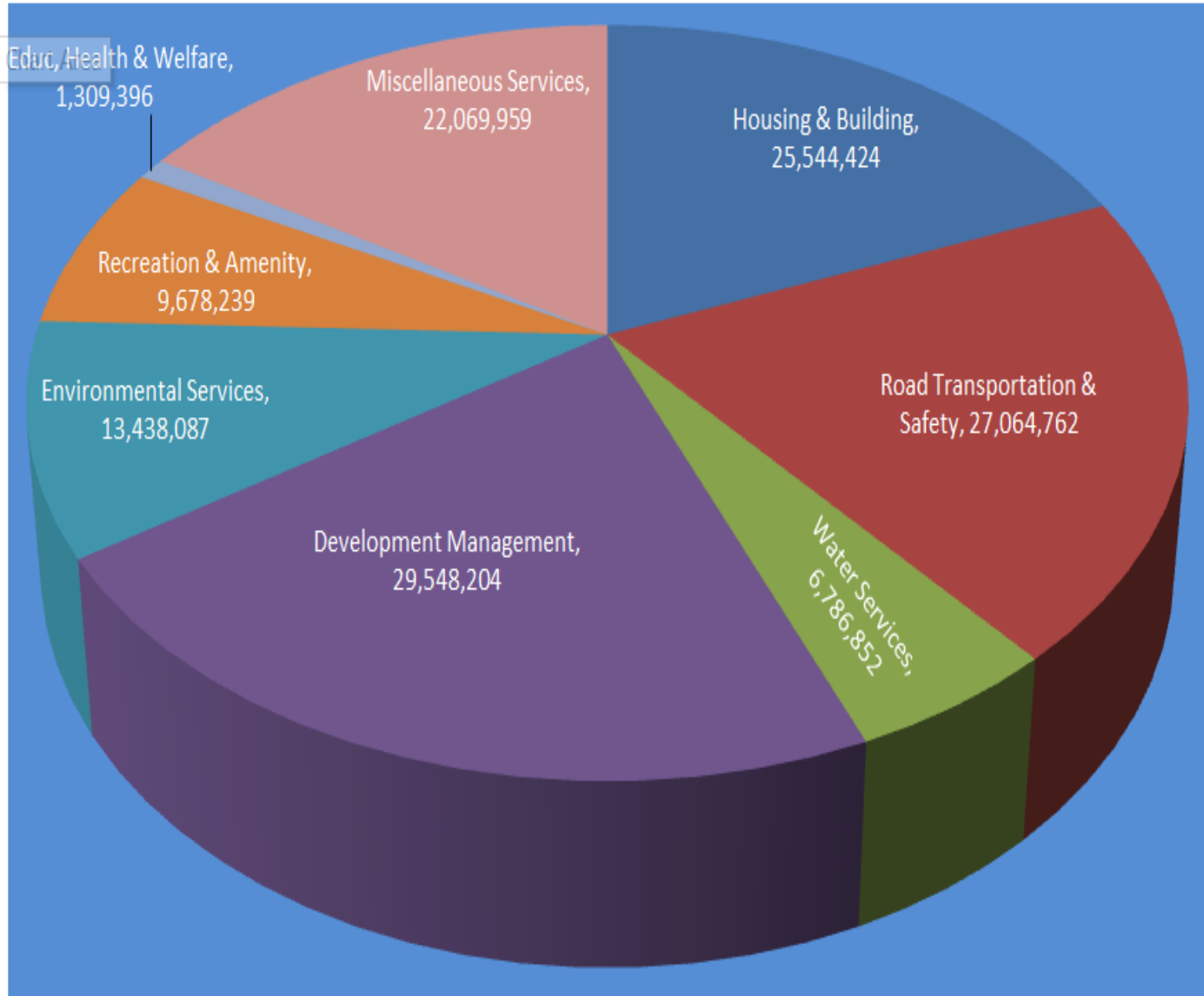
## Revenue Expenditure 2020

Analysis of Revenue Expenditure	€
Payroll Expenses	44,556,264
Operational Expenses	78,629,653
Administration Expenses	7,236,316
Establishment Expenses	1,706,087
Financial Expenses	2,478,213
Miscellaneous Expenses	833,392
Total Revenue Expenditure	135,439,924

Analysis of Revenue Expenditure 2020



## Revenue Expenditure by Directorate 2020



### Revenue Income By Directorate 2020

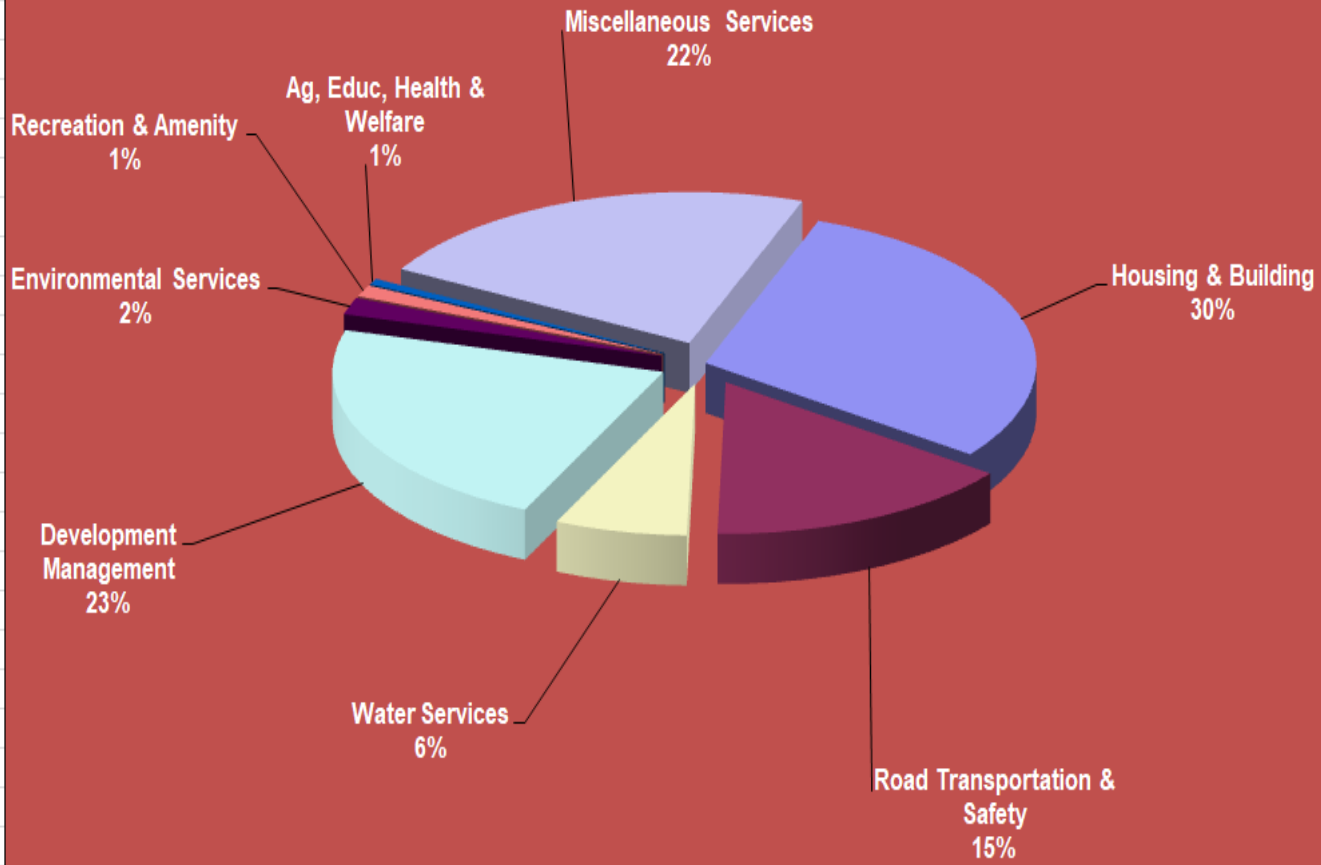
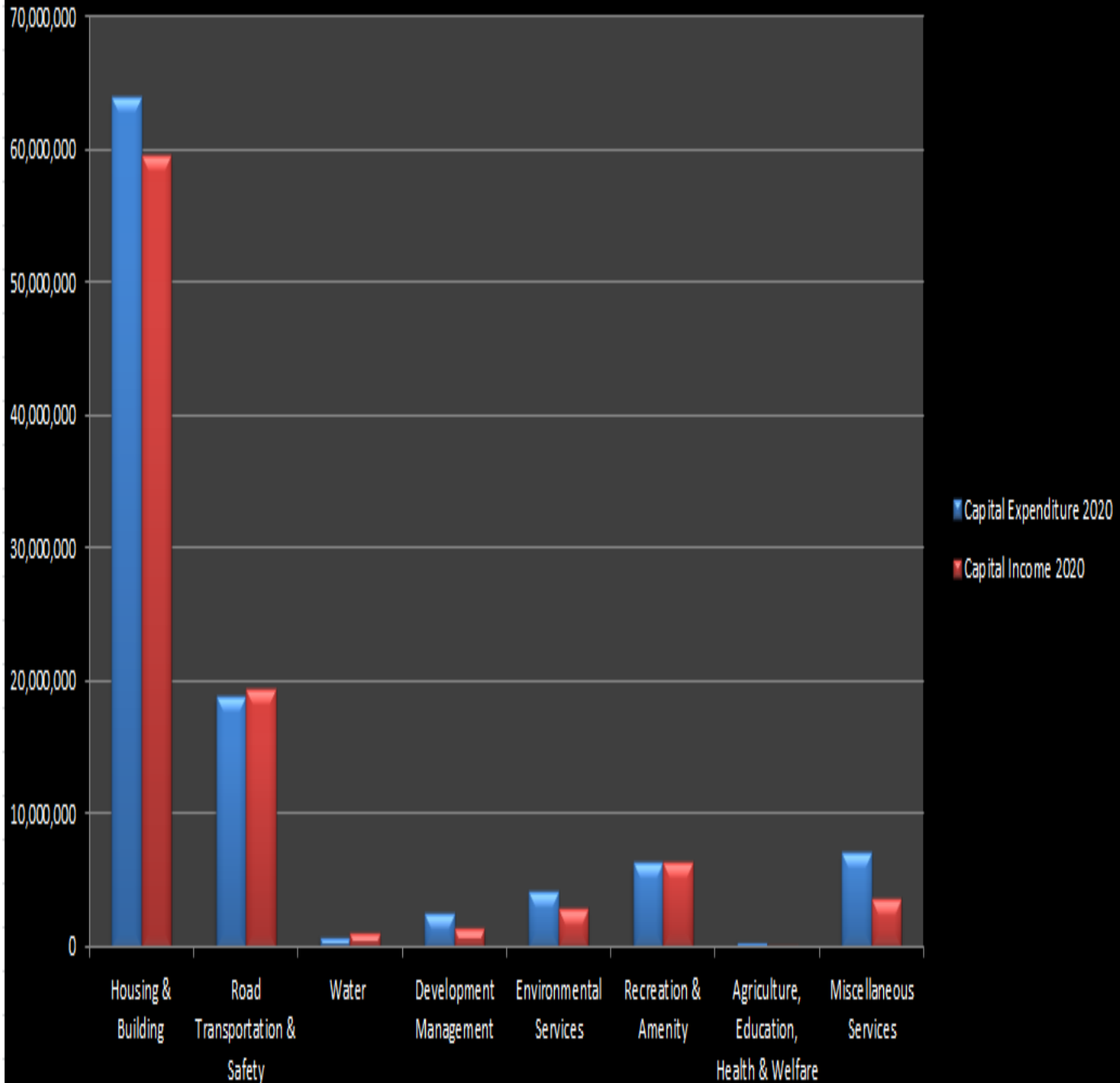




Chart Area

## Capital Expenditure &amp; Income 2020



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS JANUARY – DECEMBER 2020

## Conferences attended by Wicklow County Council Members in 2020

Date	Organising Body	Location	Theme	Councillors in attendance	Amount Claimed (T&S)	Conference/Training Fee	Total Cost
13 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	AILG	Cavan	Module 1	Cllr. Lourda Scott	149.66	100.00	249.66
12- 13 February, 2020	AILG	Cavan	Module 1	Cllr. Vincent Blake	291.03	100.00	391.03
13 – 14 February, 2020	AILG	Cavan	Module 1	Cllr. Shay Cullen	302.93	100.00	402.93
15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	AILG	Waterford	Module 1	Cllr. Gail Dunne	139.81	100.00	239.81
15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	AILG	Waterford	Module 1	Cllr. Pat Kennedy	136.22	100.00	236.22
15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	AILG	Waterford	Module 1	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	132.64	100.00	232.64
13 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	AILG	Cavan	Module 1	Cllr. Melanie Corrigan	139.81	100.00	239.81
15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	AILG	Waterford	Module 1	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	125.47	100.00	225.47
4 – 6 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Tommy Annesley	409.13	100.00	509.13
4 – 5 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Vincent Blake	253.53	100.00	353.53
4-5 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Shay Cullen	377.78	100.00	477.78
4-6 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Gail Dunne	392.11	100.00	492.11
4-5 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Pat Kennedy	273.96	100.00	373.96
5 <sup>th</sup> March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Edward Timmins	142.94	100.00	242.94
5-6 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	253.36	100.00	353.36
4-6 March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	400.19	100.00	500.19
5 <sup>th</sup> March, 2020	AILG	Longford	Module 2	Cllr. John Mullen	174.62	100.00	274.62
7-8 August, 2020	AILG	Sligo	Module 3	Cllr. Gail Dunne	585.53	100.00	685.53
8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020	AILG	Sligo	Module 3	Cllr. Pat Kennedy	265.22	100.00	365.22
11 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020	AILG	Athlone	Module 3	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	133.54	100.00	233.54
7-8 August, 2020	AILG	Sligo	Module 3	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	382.60	100.00	482.60
TOTALS					5,462.07	2,100.00	7,562.07

## Wicklow County Council Members appointed to Committees and Other bodies 2020

Committee/ Other Body	Name	Amount Paid 2020
Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Nil
	Cllr. Avril Cronin	Nil
Regional Health Forum (Dublin – Mid Leinster)	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	Nil
	Cllr. Gerry O'Neill	Nil
	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	Nil
	Cllr. Joe Behan	Nil
Local Authority Members Association	Cllr. Vincent Blake	1,216.45
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Cllr. Gail Dunne	Nil
	Cllr. Rory O'Connor	Nil
	Cllr. Shay Cullen	Nil
Bray Area Partnership	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	Nil
	Cllr. Grace McManus	Nil
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	Nil
Board of Wicklow Enterprise Park CLG	Cllr. Gail Dunne	Nil
	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
Board of Mermaid, County Wicklow Arts Centre	Cllr. Mags Crean	Nil
	Cllr. Melanie Corrigan	Nil
	Cllr. Steven Matthews	Nil

Arklow Business Enterprise Park (ABEC) CLG	Cathaoirleach of Arklow MD Ex Officio	
Wicklow Enterprise Park	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd.	Cllr. Gerry O'Neill	
Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	
	Cllr. Tom Fortune	
	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	430.00
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	
	Cllr. Anne Ferris	253.13
	Cllr. Edward Timmins	59.59
East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force	Cllr. Mags Crean	
	Cllr. John Snell	
	Cllr. Tommy Annesley	



## Returns Report

This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.



### Performance Indicators

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020 (Annual)

Wicklow County Council

Status: Complete

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2020	4544	
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2020 (whether constructed or acquired)	166	10 purchased, 12 Part V purchases, 16 turnkeys & 128 constructed
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2020	9	
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2020	0	
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2020	4701	
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2020	4.89 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2020	230	The higher number of vacants is attributed to impact of Covid 19. It was necessary to "hold" some stock and more difficult to get works done during lockdown periods
	A. Expenditure during 2020 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2020, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€671.90	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€3158619.54	Difficult to get works done during lockdown periods had impact on expenditure levels while Oldcourt Energy Upgrade works were completed.
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2020 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2020	27.96 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2020, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2020	€28304.28	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2020 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	113	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	3160 wk	
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€3198383.62	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2020	6972	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2020	590	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2020 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	98.64 %	
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2020 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	80	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2020	45.00 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2020 as recorded on the PASS system	20	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2020, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	9	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	98.80 %	
	A. (b) The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	98.20 %	
	A. (c) The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	98.60 %	
	A. (d) The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2020	82.60 %	
	B. (a.1) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	0.40 %	
	B. (a.2) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	9.80 %	
	B. (a.3) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	55.10 %	
	B. (a.4) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	34.40 %	
	B. (b.1) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	1.30 %	
	B. (b.2) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	30.90 %	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	B. (b.3) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	50.40 %	
	B. (b.4) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	26.90 %	
	B. (c.1) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	8.10 %	
	B. (c.2) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	29.70 %	
	B. (c.3) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	42.30 %	
	B. (c.4) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	19.10 %	
	B. (d.1) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	7.20 %	
	B. (d.2) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	12.90 %	
	B. (d.3) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	42.40 %	
	B. (d.4) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	20.70 %	
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2020	10.2 km	
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2020	€1854985.00	
	A3. The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€25.31	
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2020	19.0 km	
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2020	€501438.00	
	B3. The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€4.30	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2020	58.7 km	
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2020	€4079865.00	
	C3. The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€13.69	
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2020	68.3 km	
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2020	€1191062.00	
	D3. The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€3.24	
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2020	88.70 %	
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	1.00 %	Data to be provided by EPA
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	88.89 %	
	The number of registered schemes monitored in 2020	8	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2020	9	
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2020	26450	
	B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	90.46 %	



## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2020	2847	
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	2572	
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2020	767	
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2019	492	Figure adjusted from EOY 2019 following move to Dynamics CRM and closing of some old files that were carried from year to year with no hope of solving. The new CRM system allows more accurate recording and reporting.
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was unpolluted or litter free	10 %	Data to be supplied by Tobin Consulting Engineers
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was slightly polluted	70 %	
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was moderately polluted	19 %	
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was significantly polluted	2 %	
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was grossly polluted	0 %	
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2020	39.45 %	
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2020	2	
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2020	16	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2019 and therefore do not require renewal until 2021	25	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved	A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009)	1.00 %	Data to be supplied by the SEAI
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	6039.38 MWh	
	B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	96.32 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	31.30 %	
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	4728	
	Number of SOX-SON lights in the public lighting system	10377	
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	19.35 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 by a builder or developer on the local authority	734	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2020 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2020 undertaken by the local authority	142	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2020	53	
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	66.04 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	35	Strong consistency of decisions by LA indicated. 910 decisions made and only 53 (6%) were appealed. Of these appeals 35 were upheld.

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 that were investigated	179	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2020	171	
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	38.01 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	5.26 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	56.73 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2020	554	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	65	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	9	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	97	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2020 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€27.64	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2020	€3936480	
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	67.29 %	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	27.10 %	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	107	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	72	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	29	
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€39.64	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2020	€5758237	
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	0 min	Retained Service only
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.17 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	0 min	Retained Service only
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.55 min	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	39.30 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	49.51 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	11.19 %	
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	34.77 %	
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	55.47 %	
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	9.77 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	715	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	281	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	354	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	80	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	256	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	89	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	142	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	25	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	1.45	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	388809	Covid19 closures had an immediate and substantial impact on borrower and visitor numbers
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.16	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	33652	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	206365	
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€33.34	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2020 to 31/12/2020	€1.68	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2020	€4749133	
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€239075	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	78.26 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2020	23	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2020	18	
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	20.79	



## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2020	356	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2020	71	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	74	
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2020	747.80	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	2.29 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020	0.16 %	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	4803 day	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020	280 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2020	4.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2020	920.5 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	30% of all paid certified sick leave accounted for by 14 people. (3 with serious long term illness that qualified for extended sick pay limits) 2 staff were unpaid certified throughout the year	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020, divided by the WTE no.	€3712.29	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	Total ICT expenditure in 2020	€2776048	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.05	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 before transfers to or from reserves	135439924	
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2020	10.25	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2020 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.57	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	1459825	Compares directly to 2019 return of 1440368 and relates solely to wicklow.ie Other sites such as bray.ie & visitwicklow.ie would increase total page views to 4.061m
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2020, were following the local authority on any social media sites	80626	Compares directly to 2019 return of 65966. Other accounts such as tourism show followers of 25773
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	59	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	Cookie policy updated on 2 October 2020 & caused immediate drop in statistics. This continued for the remainder of the year but overall figure for 2020 has exceeded 2019	
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2975226	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2686945	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2357748	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2052474	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1646264	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2020 as a percentage of Total Income in 2020 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-1.11 %	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020	€950.96	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	€950.96	
	The 2020 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€148724751	
	The 2020 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€135439924	
	The 2020 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€135439924	
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	79.0 %	
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	90.0 %	
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	76.0 %	
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	81.0 %	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	90.0 %	
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	75.0 %	
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	85.0 %	
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	90.0 %	
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	76.0 %	
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	87.0 %	
	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	88.0 %	
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	80.0 %	
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	70 %	
	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	85 %	
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	80 %	
	A.1 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2018	€13.05	
	A.2 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2019	€6.80	
	A.3 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2020	€9.07	
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2018	87	
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2019	90	
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2020	80	
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2018	57	
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2019	54	
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2020	53	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Finance: M1 to M4</b> Approved	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2018	€1859074.50	
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2019	€968579.93	
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2020	€1256719.19	
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2018	€0	
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2019	€0	
	Total Cost of claims settled under excess for 2020	€35000	One claim with excess applying in 2020
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2018		
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2019		
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2020		
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2018		
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2019		
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2020		
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2018		
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2019		
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2020		
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage (%) of total expenditure on revenue account	13.70 %	
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage (%) of revenue expenditure	32.90 %	
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€18551889	
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2020 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€44556264	
<b>Economic Development: J1 to J4</b> Approved	A. The per capita number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	-28.0850	

## Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Economic Development: J1 to J4 Approved	The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	-40.0	
	A. The per capita number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020	301.9133	
	B. The per capita number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020	73.7230	
	The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020	430	
	The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020	105	
	A. The per capita number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	563.8055	
	The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	803	
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	