

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## **This month:**

### **€6 MILLION allocated to new Fire Stations for West Wicklow**

Wicklow County Council welcomes the announcement of funding for two new fire stations to be built in Dunlavin and Baltinglass under the Government's new multimillion Fire Services Capital Programme. This represents a combined investment of €6 million for the two fire stations.

In addition, Wicklow has been allocated two new fire appliances to maintain and improve the quality of the fleet.

### **FUNDING OF NEARLY €170,000 ALLOCATED FOR WICKLOW'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Wicklow County Council welcomes the recent announcement of capital funding for two properties in County Wicklow under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

The HSF scheme is co-ordinated by Wicklow County Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The core aims of this fund are to enable larger scale conservation works to be carried out on historic structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encourage the regeneration and reuse of historic structures, and to support the conservation of historic structures for community benefit.

HSF funded works promote the use of traditional materials and craft skills, supporting employment in specialist conservation trades and aligning fully with the aims of the scheme to enable larger-scale conservation, sustain heritage skills, and build climate resilience in historic structures.

### **Funding boost of over €500,000 for Archaeological Monuments in County Wicklow**

Wicklow County Council welcomes the recent announcement of €544,415 in funding for archaeological monuments in County Wicklow through the Community Monuments Fund 2026.

The Community Monuments Fund (CMF) aims to conserve, protect and promote monuments and historic sites, encouraging access and making them more climate resilient through supporting essential repairs.

Seven projects for Wicklow have been approved

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## Social Development

### Housing

	March 2026	March 2025
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	83	95
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1312	1356
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	19	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	18	21

### Allocation of Social Housing

	March 2026	March 2025
Wicklow County Council	22	7
Approved Housing Bodies	10	4

### Social Housing Supports List

The number of households that are seeking social housing supports is 2,078. This number is constantly changing as there is a number of applications awaiting processing, see number of applications on hand below -

### Social Housing Applications

	March 2026	March 2025
Customer Care: New Applications	3	15
Customer Care: Awaiting Information	44	60
Customer Care: Awaiting Processing	44	30
Housing: Awaiting To Be Logged & Then Processed	79	50
Housing: Awaiting Further Information	117	67
Housing: Awaiting EHO	26	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>228</b>

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\*These figures show an increase in the volume of applications on hand; this is due to the inclusion of figures showing the number of applications received at the Customer Service Hub prior to being sent to Housing for processing.

## Social Housing Stock

	March 2026	March 2025
Tenancies Occupied	5167	5042
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€357,477.44	€340,747.87
Arrears	€2,336,442.46	€2,998,222.34

## Rent

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

## **Social Housing Support – Allocations made in 2025 Data (includes nominations to Approved Housing Bodies)**

	Wicklow County Council
Total Allocations from Waiting List	248
Total Allocations from HAP	119
Total Allocations from all other transfer lists	31
<b>TOTAL (includes AHBs)</b>	<b>398</b>

Reasons for Refusals 2025	1st
Applicant no longer interested in area of choice	32
Applicant indicated they are already in suitable accommodation	1
Applicant refused offer of accommodation which they deemed unsuitable to their needs	12
Offer made in low demand estate	10

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Offer refused because a flat was offered rather than a house	5
Offer refused because of location of house in estate	21
Offer refused because applicant already residing in private rented accommodation with State support	4
Other	
TOTAL	85

## **Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)**

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

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

## **Assessment criteria**

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

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

March 2026, Wicklow County Council continues to work in partnership KARE, St John of God & Sunbeam to deliver properties under the disability category of social housing need. Wicklow LA also continues to work with Sunbeam House Services, to bring active projects to completion.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Rathnew	1	Delivery Q2 2026	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivery Q2 2026	CAS

## **2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme**

	To Date	March 2026
Applications Received	494	4
Completed	125	1

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Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

## Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Not Started	In Progress	Completed but not yet tenanted	TOTAL Vacant	TOTAL Completed in 2026
<b>Arklow</b>	7 (+3)	0 (-5)	1 (-2)	<b>8 (-4)</b>	<b>6 (+4)</b>
<b>Baltinglass</b>	0 (-3)	11 (+2)	8 (-1)	<b>19(-1)</b>	<b>3 (0)</b>
<b>Bray</b>	2 (-5)	4 (0)	6 (+5)	<b>12 (0)</b>	<b>1 (0)</b>
<b>Greystones</b>	3 (-3)	3 (0)	6 (-2)	<b>12 (0)</b>	<b>3 (+2)</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	6 (+3)	13 (+2)	7 (-1)	<b>26 (-2)</b>	<b>3 (0)</b>
<b>2026 Totals</b>	<b>18 (-4)</b>	<b>31 (+1)</b>	<b>28 (-1)</b>	<b>77 (-6)</b>	<b>16 (+6)</b>
<b>2025 Totals</b>					<b>142</b>
<b>Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock</b>		<b>Figures in brackets indicate change on previous month</b>			<b>1.6 (-0.1)</b>

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



A Local Area Term Maintenance Framework for Planned Building Maintenance and Refurbishment Works was setup in April 2024 and has a 2-year term. 17 contractors were appointed under this Framework to cover Wicklow's five Municipal Districts for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and

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adaption grants. Also, the Housing Direct Labour Team complete a proportion of housing upgrades as part of the Voids Programme. This framework will be renewed in 2026.

## Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

Scheme	Current Status
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme: 3 group housing units and 17 social houses	This three-unit group housing scheme forms part of the Housing Capital Works Project at Barndarrig. The Part 8 planning application for this project was approved in October 2025. Design team appointed in March 2026, construction expect to commence Q3 2026
Vale Road, Arklow	This is a two-unit group housing scheme. The Part 8 planning process is complete. TAU funding approved and design team appointed.
Ballinteskin – 2 extensions	The tender for the construction contract has been awarded, and the contractor has commenced works. It is expected to reach substantial completion by Q4 2026.

## Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

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

## Energy Retrofit Program

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

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

EERP	Numbers carried out as of March 2026
Houses complete	0

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Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

## **Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects**

### Hillview, Wicklow Town

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

### Farrankelly Close, Greystones

Stock condition surveys (+Addjust) have been completed at Farrankelly Close. Phase 1 of the works to install new windows and doors to 11 properties has been delivered with associated improvements to insulation and ventilation completed by the Greystones MD team. Tendering is ongoing for Phase 2 of this works programme to include for the delivery of windows and doors for the remaining properties. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in Q2 2026 and the windows installed in Q3/Q4 2026.

### Fitzwilliam Apartment Complex, Wicklow Town

Fire remedial works have been substantially completed, and the facility is now back in operation.

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

Grant	Home Adaptations
Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) completed March 2026	6
Housing Adaptation Grant complete March 2026 (HAG/MAG/HOP)	154

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

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## Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out 2026 to date:
Targeted and complaint inspections	110

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

Notice Type	Notices currently active:
Improvement Notice	8
Prohibition Notice	1

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

## **Stock Condition Surveys (SCS)**

Wicklow County Council completed 381 stock condition surveys on local authority properties to date. This formed the basis of drawdown of planned maintenance funding from the DGLGH in terms of surveys, electrical inspections, electrical upgrade works, heating upgrade works and replacement of windows and doors.

## **Mortgage to Rent (MTR)**

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

There are currently 104 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
57	52	12

## **Local Authority Home Loans up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Received	Approved in Principle
7	0

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## Local Authority Home Loans up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
16	5

## Homeless Services

### Homeless Figures for March 2026

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/03/2026	Year To Date	As at 31/03/2025
No of New Presentations	17	103	36
No. of Repeat Presentations	7	33	9
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	3	34	15
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	22	114	49
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	3	15	3
No. of Children	5	59	34
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	4	28	7
Family Circumstances	16	51	8
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	8	0
Mental Health	1	4	0
Risk of Homelessness	6	61	34
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	0
Addiction Issues	3	7	2
DV/DA	0	3	1
Medical Issues	1	4	1
Overcrowding	0	2	3
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	0	1	1
ASB:	0	0	0
Rough Sleeping*	3	9	2
Sofa Surfing*	8	15	5
Staying with Family*	0	7	9
Staying with Friends*	1	7	5

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/03/2026	
Families	16
Adults	36
Children	44
Single individual	12

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	27	29	24	9	4	9	0	7
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2026								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	26	18	6	5	1	2	7

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 694 households (484 families & 208 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st March 2026. (268 homeless cases, 379 prevention cases to date and 48 direct provision). 175 properties were sourced by WCC.

## **Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies**

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

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

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

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

### Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

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## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

## Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

## Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

## Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 19 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

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## Community

### Community Awards Scheme (CAS) 2026

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

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

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

Please note only one application per organisation was considered.

Applications closed on 13th March 2026 due to large volume of applications are still being processed for assessment.

### Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026

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

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

County Wicklow has received €199,043.66 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2026.

The Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is responsible for allocating funding through this scheme. Applications must relate to one or more key priority areas identified in their LCDC's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be eligible for consideration.

Applications are now closed expecting announcement from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht June 2026.



### IPB Pride of Place Competition 2026

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

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

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Pride of Place recognises and rewards communities who are making a real difference—big or small—to enhance everyday life where they live. Whether it's improving local spaces, fostering inclusion, protecting biodiversity, or championing creativity, this competition honours the dedication that fuels community pride.

## 2026 Competition Categories

There are 13 categories this year, offering a place for every type of community initiative:

1. Population 0 - 300
2. Population 300 - 1000
3. Population 1000 - 2000
4. Population 2000 – 5000
5. Population over 5000
6. Creative Communities
7. Climate Action and Biodiversity
8. Community Youth Initiative
9. Inclusive Communities
10. Community Wellbeing Initiative
11. Community Tourism Initiative
12. Age Friendly Communities
13. Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates

Based on the expressions of interest received, Wicklow County Council will shortlist and nominate groups to represent the county in Pride of Place 2026.

Application forms and guidelines are available from Wicklow County Council's website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community>

Applications can be emailed to [prideofplace@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:prideofplace@wicklowcoco.ie) by the deadline: **4:00pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Please note that we are unable to accept applications submitted after the closing date.



## **County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme**

Attended AF Libraries national training online with Wicklow Library staff 9th March.

**Age Friendly Alliance:** Meeting took place taking place 10th March. MABS Wicklow services gave a presentation. Next meeting 16th June 2026.

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**OPC Executive Committee:** Met 20th March in Clermont, with great progress on the Age Friendly Strategy OPC actions. There are 3 subgroups working on 4 actions in the Strategy.



Meetings Held 2026	Future Meetings
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> May
20 <sup>th</sup> March	
2	8

**Care & Repair, County Wicklow Partnership:** ongoing linking in with the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator, Age Friendly Ireland & CWP to keep updated.

**Age Friendly Ireland Public Realm Steering Group:** This group is updating the current Age Friendly Ireland [Public Realm Guidelines](#) and consists of the Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager/Access Officer, along with key national stakeholders. Consultants are O'Herlihy Access Consultancy. Met 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Over 55's Climate course:** The Age Friendly Programme Manager along with the Climate Action Officer Wicklow County Council are running a Climate Action Programme which is run by Jacinta Barrins. This six-week programme held 4 of its 6 sessions over March. Final sessions will be held in April.

**Age Friendly Ambassadors Day:** Tralee, 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Age Friendly Technical Advisor, Seán Keane:**

Age Friendly Housing Delivery Q1 2026	On Site	Design Stage	Part V/ Turnkey 2026	Completed 2025
	26	58	12	17
*Numbers Design Stage Subject to Change, numbers include Disability Units UD+				

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**Walkability Audit** in the GAA grounds in Aughrim, Echelon Park took place Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Echelon Park are one of 4 successful GAA stadiums around Ireland to pilot a project through Age Friendly Ireland. The aim of this project is the continued implementation of age friendly practices through the GAA's network of club and county structures and to further develop its stadia to achieve age friendly recognition. 15 individuals met on the day to survey the Park and meet after the walk to discuss their findings.



## Comhairle na nÓg

Youth Council have received over 250 responses to their transport survey already. The survey is open to anyone of any age who uses transport in Wicklow.

The group are also twinning with a diverse group in Dublin California, an area that comprises of 55% Asian American and 13% white American. Young people are seeing their friends impacted and are aware of the importance of mental health at these times. -1 Good Thing Dublin is a planned joint project. The groups met online in March.



## Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- **Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC)** Met 24<sup>th</sup> March. Next meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> May.

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- **Customer Hub disability awareness training:** dates set for 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May in Council Chambers, to be facilitated by Laura O'Callaghan
- **Website Accessibility:** Met with Communications team 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Funding agreed for Inventise to make necessary adjustments required for current Wicklow.ie website to ensure it is as accessible as possible. New website is being planned, which DISC will have an active part in development of to ensure maximum accessibility from the start. Next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026.
- **Universal Design Training** be rolled out 4<sup>th</sup> March to 20 staff members in County Buildings.
- **Access Officer queries:** dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan and externally, as appropriate.
- **The Sunflower Lanyard** aims to support people with hidden disabilities. In February, 90 lanyard & card packs were distributed, as well as 100 wristbands (50 adult & 50 children), 50 children-sized lanyards, a starter pack box & 4 large posters to Triple A Alliance group.
- Planning meetings for **Walkability Audit** to take place in conjunction with KARE in Tinahely, with date set for 30<sup>th</sup> April for the event.
- **Communication Boards:** Replacement of vandalised sign in Meadowvale, Arklow now in place. Work in ongoing to get rest of planned signs in place for every playground in the county.



Healthy  
Wicklow



Sláintecare.  
Healthy  
Communities

## Healthy Wicklow

### **Social Farming**

Cheshire Home Shillelagh will hold a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April to explore the potential of Social Farming through visits to two local farms in Tinahely and Arklow. The purpose is to assess whether farm-based activities could be adapted to support the needs of their clients, particularly in promoting wellbeing, independence, and social inclusion. During the visits, discussions will focus on accessibility, safety, and the range of meaningful activities that could be offered, such as animal care, gardening, and outdoor skills.

### **Food Poverty**

Rathdrum Food Partnership will host a community awareness event in Rathdrum Library on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Topics at the event will include budgeting, food waste, Healthy Food Made Easy demonstration and shopping tips.

### **Wicklow Travellers Group**

Over the last number of weeks, Wicklow Travellers Group worked closely with local youth groups to promote the importance of healthy hydration. Through interactive and engaging sessions, young people explored the benefits of drinking water and learned about the high sugar content in fizzy drinks, helping them make more informed choices. As part of the programme, participants also decorated their own

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Healthy Ireland water bottles, encouraging a sense of ownership and pride in maintaining healthy habits. The initiative was both educational and creative, supporting positive lifestyle changes in a fun and accessible way.



## Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership

The members of Wicklow's Local Community Safety Partnership were officially appointed by the Minister of Justice on 1st December 2025 and the first meeting of the LCSP was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2025.

Chair: Cllr Tom Fortune

Vice Chair: Selena McKenzie

### **Meetings held in 2026:**

LCSP – 2 meetings

LCSP Steering Group – 3 meetings

Domestic Violence Working Group – 1 meeting

Roads and Road Safety Working Group - 1 meeting

Anti-social Behaviour Working Group - 1 meeting

The adopted minutes of both Partnership and Steering Group meetings are published on the Wicklow County Council website, on the Local Community Safety Partnership page under the Community section. <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/LCSP>

## **Wicklow Local Community Safety Plan**

A Community Safety event is being held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April in the Arklow Bay Hotel 11am to 2pm. On the day there will be safety talks, information stands and demos. This event is being organised to launch the series of public consultations being held throughout County Wicklow.

Surveys are being drafted and will be published and circulated throughout Wicklow during the consultation period. Focused consultations are also being coordinated.

### Six public consultations for the Community Safety Plan have been organised as follows:

Tue 6th May - St Brigid's Hall, Carnew, Y14 X953, (7pm – 8.30pm)

Mon 12th May – (KARE) The Lalor Centre, Baltinglass, W91 XW57, (7pm – 8.30pm)

Wed 14th May - Little Flower Hall, Bray, A98 WK35, (7pm – 8.30pm)

Mon 19th May - Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, A63 FX72, (7pm – 8.30pm)

Tue 10th June - Áras Lorcáin, Arklow, Y14 R822, (7pm – 8.30pm)

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Mon 15th June - Kilian House Family Centre, Greystones, A63 CK06

(LCSP Public meeting followed by Public Consultation 6pm - 8.30pm)



## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP funding support was endorsed by Wicklow LCDC March meeting for the Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership CARA (Care & Repair) social enterprise project. €2,500 was allocated to this worthwhile project which provides home maintenance services to older people. The practical services enable clients to remain safely in their homes and communities while the direct contact and interaction help to reduce social isolation and strengthen community connections. The grant will be used for tools, PPE, business equipment, office supplies, maintenance and marketing materials.



## Public Participation Network

The Government's Local Democracy Taskforce delivered its final report in March to Minister James Browne which may result in significant changes to how local government operates. A well-considered submission was made by Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) to the Taskforce during last year's consultation phase.

Wicklow PPN Annual Members Survey: Overall feedback was positive and constructive. Members value Wicklow PPN's work, particularly communications, advocacy and funding support. The main challenges for member engagement relate to capacity, time and accessibility rather than lack of interest. Summary of survey findings available on PPN website.

Consultations & Funding streams: 2 local and 6 national consultations currently open for feedback. 14 funding streams currently available for applications.

See [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information, including newsletters, funding streams, public consultations, events, daily updates and membership.

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## Planning, Economic & Rural Development

### Local Plans

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

### **Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework (Proposed Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan) – this is the new form of LAP**

This Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan is to incorporate the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework. The draft LPF went on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day was held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. 67 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's (CE) Report on submissions received was prepared and issued to the Elected Members. The CE Report was considered by the Elected Members at the Wicklow County Council meeting of the 13 April 2026. Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the draft LPF were made. The PMAs are currently being prepared to be published. The PMAs will be on display for 4 weeks with submission invited.

The draft LPF and plan process to date can be viewed here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Arklow/Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-to-the-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

### **Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2026 (Variation 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan) – this is the new form of LAP**

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan is the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2026. The draft LPF went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report on the submissions received was prepared and was issued to the Elected Members in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report was considered at the Council meeting on the 06 October 2025. Proposed Material Alterations to the draft LPF were proposed by the Elected Members and went on display from 24 October 2025 to 21 November 2025 with submissions invited. 86 submissions were received. A second CE report was prepared on the

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and the report was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. This CE report was considered at the Council meeting of the 9 February and the Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole LPF was adopted on the 9 February 2026, and it is in effect from 9 February 2026. It is available online and can be viewed [here](#).

The LPF making process and the adopted LPW is available here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Greystones-Delgany/Greystones-Delgany-Kilcoole-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-4-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

## **Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025**

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting on 12 May 2025; this plan came into effect on 23 June 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 07 October 2025. The plan as altered is available to view online.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew-Local-Area-Plan-2025-2031>

## **Blessington Local Area Plan 2025**

The Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 16 June 2025; this plan came into effect on 28 July 2025.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Blessington>

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

The pre-draft public consultation for this plan has been completed, and work is being carried out on preparing the draft LPF. The LPF will be done through a variation of the County Development Plan.

There is no specific date to publish the Draft Bray Municipal District LPF.

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

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## **National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 2025)**

New Ministerial Guidelines on *NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements* were published on the 29 July 2025 on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) with the aim of updating development plans to reflect the requirements of the Revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and achieving a significant acceleration in housing delivery. The Guidelines provide for an increased annual housing growth requirement for County Wicklow, and an 'additional provision' mechanism to support the zoning of additional lands in areas where it can be justified.

As set out in these [new NPF guidelines](#), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared on the implementation of these guidelines and issued to the members for their information. Workshops were held with the Elected Members on 25 and 27 November 2025 to discuss the CE Report. Wicklow County Council have commenced a staged response to implement these Guidelines. Initially Variation no. 5 was adopted and 'Call for Sites' process to consider upzoning lands for residential development is currently underway.

### **Variation No. 5**

The Proposed Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 went on display with submissions invited from 5 December 2025 until 16 January 2026. 119 submissions were received. A CE Report was prepared on the submissions received and was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. This CE Report and the Proposed Variation was considered at the full County Council meeting on the 30 March 2026, and the Variation was adopted as the fifth Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

More information is available here -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-5-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

### **Call for Sites**

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

A 'Call for Sites' consultation portal was created to assist those wanting to send in a submission. Drop -in services were also held in County Buildings to provide assistance during the consultation stage. The "**Call**

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

for Sites” consultation was open from December 2025 to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Over 200 submissions were received and are currently being reviewed, with the view to preparing a Proposed Variation of the County Development Plan. It is anticipated that this Proposed Variation will be commenced in Q3 2026.

More information is available here -

The online consultation link is <https://call-for-sites-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

## **Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028**

### **Variation No 2**

Variation No. 2 is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan. Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 07 October 2025. The plan as altered is available to view online.

More information is available here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-2-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

### **Variation No 3**

The Variation is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the Blessington Local Area Plan. Variation No. 3 was made and came into effect on 16 June 2025.

More information is available here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-3>

### **Variation No 4**

Variation No. 4 is to incorporate the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework (LPF) into the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028. Variation No. 4 was made and came into effect on 09 February 2026.

More information is available here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Greystones-Delgany/Greystones-Delgany-Kilcoole-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-4-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

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## Variation No 5

Variation No. 5 revised the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets, and a number of related housing objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Written Statement to implement the new NPF Guidelines (see above). The Proposed Variation was on display from 5 December 2025 until 16 January 2026 with submissions invited. 119 submissions were received. The CE report on submissions received was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. Variation No. 5 was made and came into effect on 30 March 2026.

## Proposed Variation

See the section on Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2025 above.

This Proposed Variation is to incorporate the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework into the County Development Plan. The Proposed Variation/draft LPF went on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day was held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. 67 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's (CE) Report on submissions received was prepared and issued to the Elected Members. The CE Report was considered by the Elected Members at the Wicklow County Council meeting of the 13 April 2026. Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the Proposed Variation / Draft LPF were made. The PMAs are currently being prepared to be published. The PMAs will be on display for 4 weeks with submission invited.

The draft LPF and plan process to date can be viewed here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Arklow/Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-to-the-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

## Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

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

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2026 were published on 31 January 2026 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

**Submissions to Final 2026 RZLT Maps.** The final map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land are invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council to change the

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zoning of this land until 1 April 2026. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2026 liability on foot of such a request. 1 submission was received.

Refer to the following link for further details; <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Making-a-rezoning-request>

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

**Submissions to Draft 2027 RZLT Maps.** The draft map for 2027 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2027. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – were invited to make submissions by 01 April 2026 regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map. 8 submissions were received.

The RZLT process has two parts:

- 1) **Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax.** This is undertaken by local authorities through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps as outlined above.
- 2) **Administration of the tax.** This will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners. Please click the following link for further information: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/rzlt/index.aspx>

The following link provides some general information on the RZLT process including a short information video:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/RZLT-General-Information>

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQs:

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

## **Vacant Site Levy**

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

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

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

Further information regarding vacant sites is available at the following link:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Derelict-Vacant-Sites/Vacant-Sites>

## Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 March 2025	To 31 March 2026
Received (Valid)	236	243

A total of 88 valid applications were received during March as follows:

Type of Development	Number
Individual Houses	12 (11 Rural)
Housing Developments*	07
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	06
Other Developments**	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>

Housing Developments - PRR26/60237 – Mixed Use comprising 46 no. residential and 4 no. commercial at Charvey Lane, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

PRR26/60240 – 16 residential units at Ballinahinch, Ashford, Co. Wicklow

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

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Decisions issued in respect of 88 applications in March 2026:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	03
Other Developments	82
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
RED III	02
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>

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

	31 March 2025	31 March 2026
Total Number of decisions issued	210	250
Total Number of decisions to grant	181	220
% Grant Rate	86%	88%
No of applications withdrawn		9 (8 refer to rural house)

## Applications Lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

### Substitute Consent

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant &

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buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bonded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.

## E-Planning Project

The Eplanning system has been in place since 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

From **1<sup>st</sup> January to March 2026**, we received a total of 245 valid applications of which **196 (80%)** were received through the Eplanning portal and 49 (20%) were received in hard copy.

For the **month of March**, a total of 90 planning applications were received of which 14 (15.56%) were hard copy applications and **76 (84.44%) were received online**.

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

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of March via the Eplanning portal including:

- A number of one-off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Proposed development of a new 172msq standalone gym building including lobby, gymnasium, and toilets with associated ancillary works in Greystones
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Construction of 7 x 2/3-bedroom duplex's, bike and bin store, in Roundwood Village
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Development of 1 no. industrial / warehouse building (approx. 905.5 sqm GFA and 10 m in height) including approx. 764.5 sqm warehouse space with ancillary office space in Rathnew
- Construction of 16 no. 2 storey, detached, semi-detached and terraced, 2-bedroom houses, and all associated site development works, in Ashford
- Retention of 8 no. 1 bed apartments at first floor level as constructed in Roundwood
- Phased extension to the existing quarry, located to the south/south-east of the existing extraction area, in Upper in Dunlavin
- Two REDIII applications - installation of an air-to-water heat pump system installation of an air-to-water heat pump system, including external heat pump unit(s) and enclosure, and the installation of an LPG storage tank in Glenealy and Rathdrum.

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## Planning Enforcement – March 2026

Enforcement Files	Total
New Files	7
Advisory Letters	14
Warning Letters	6
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	1
Closed	2

## Derelict Sites as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

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

### Heritage Office

**County Heritage Plan (CHP) Work Programme:** Funding applications for County Heritage Plan Fund from Heritage Council prepared and submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Confirmation of €20,000 funding received from Heritage Council for Community Archaeology role. Awaiting County Heritage Plan allocation.

**Historic Towns Initiative (HTI):** Application for Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Wicklow prepared in association with Wicklow Town Team and submitted to The Heritage Council on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Confirmation that application was successful, €50,000 secured. Tender documents in preparation.

**Wicklow Heritage Forum:** Four meetings scheduled for 2026. Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March in Russborough, next meeting June.

**Built Heritage Funds (Architecture):** Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes. BHIS 2026 allocation of €175,000 for County Wicklow confirmed for 18 projects. HSF 2026 applications assessed and forwarded to National Built Heritage Service by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Funding confirmed for two projects; Russborough House €101,817 and Old Lacken Schoolhouse €66,433.

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**Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology):** Applications to the Community Monument Fund invited and received from the public by end of January 2026. Ten applications from County Wicklow prepared and submitted to National Monuments Service in mid-February. Await outcome.

**Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN):** Co-ordination of *Our Wicklow Heritage* (county Wicklow online community heritage archive) plus a network of 11 groups in County Wicklow in association with WCC archives and library services and in partnership with National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. Next In person Wicklow group meeting to be held in Donard in April. Three Wicklow groups (Blessington, Delgany & Donard) awarded ICAN grants for equipment and activities

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

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

## Town Regeneration

### 1.0 Town Teams

There are eight Town Teams in County Wicklow: Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, and Wicklow.

### 2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, was selected as the first town in Co. Wicklow to develop a Town Centre First (TCF) Masterplan. This masterplan was published in 2023. The plan identifies opportunity sites within the town core for redevelopment.

#### 2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy was one of 26 towns nationally selected under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town received €30,000 in funding to support the development of its Town Centre First Plan.

The final plan was successfully launched in December 2025

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## 3.0 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

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

### a) Blessington:

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

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

### b) Wicklow Town:

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

*Update:* Three public consultation workshops were held in August, September, and October 2025, giving the community the opportunity to share ideas for improving the area around the Black Castle. The final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District and published in December 2025.

## 4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

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

a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. Construction works are progressing. A change of scope and extension of time has been forwarded to the Department and a response is imminent.

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- b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. Construction works are progressing and should be completed by the extended deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- c) Murrrough Pump Track – complete

## 5.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

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

### Main Scheme Funding

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

Funding agreements to be put in place and tendering process to begin in March 2026

### Project Development Measure

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

Funding agreements to be put in place and tendering process to begin in April 2026

Feedback has been sought from the Department regarding the schemes not chosen for progression

### **Health checks**

Quotations were sought for Health checks for two towns: Carnew and Wicklow. A successful tenderer has been chosen by the advisory committee, and the applicants have been notified. Once the documentation has been signed and sealed, the health checks will begin

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## Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

### (Department of Rural and Cultural Development and the Gaeltacht, DRCDG)

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

### **Blessington RRDF (Category2)**

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

A meeting between WCC's Capital Delivery Team (CDT) the Department's RRDF Team of the took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The Department requested some further information on the Councils proposals for Blessington and how they align with the original RRDF Application and grant of funding. The Department were accepting of the fact that a Town Centre First (TCF) Plan had been developed in line with the Departments guidelines since the awarding of the RRDF Grant and that it had been prudent to wait until that process had been completed to progress the RRDF further during the same time period to ensure the RRDF complimented the TCF Plan. The requested further information was sent to the Department on the 9<sup>th</sup> March and a response is expected during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> March. Despite numerous reminders, no response has issued from the Department to date.

### **Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)**

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

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

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

Discussions have taken place with regard to potential RRDF project entries. Deadline for entries is 28<sup>th</sup> July 2026

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

**(Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)**

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

## **Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3**

Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow). The two properties identified in Wicklow have since had refurbishment works commenced on them by their owners and are no longer available for purchase. Two further properties are now to be identified and this process has commenced.

Meetings have been held with 4 no property owners of sites on the Main Street Arklow. All parties are to submit both short-term plans for dereliction and also longer-term proposals for development and reuse of these sites. This work with these owners is ongoing. One of the sites identified has been cleaned up and is on the market. Works are to start on another site in January, we understand there has been some activity on site.

A review of other sites across Arklow, at locations previously highlighted by An Taisce, has been completed and correspondence and next steps for all these properties will be finalised shortly. A number of formal notices have issued to owners of properties in Arklow. A review is also taking place of sites in Wicklow Town, with a view to addressing a number of sites that may be deemed Derelict.

## **Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)**

A revised business case was sent to DHLGH in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for both the proposed land based and marine works. The

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department have approved this scheme to progress to the next stage: Planning and Design. Tenders will be placed on eTenders in the coming weeks.

The approval covers the Planning and Design stages only at this stage.

## **Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)**

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

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

Discussions have taken place with regard to potential project entries. Deadline for entry is May 1<sup>st</sup> 23026

## **Tourism**

### **Wicklow Gaol**

Extensive electrical upgrade is underway at the Gaol. As per Conservation Management Plan and electrical inspection, extra lighting and interpretation is being removed to allow for the building to 'speak' again.

Following the recent fire safety plan for Wicklow Gaol, tendering process is underway to appoint a supplier to install a completely new fire safety system. This system is to include new fire detection, alarm system, emergency lighting, fire doors and compartmentalisation. Works are to be started as soon as possible and will be prioritised to potentially allow partial opening of the Gaol.

A new operator is being appointed, and plans are being made to allow a series of events in the courtyards of the Gaol for the summer season if safe to do so, and subject to planning permission.

### **Wicklow Naturally**

Wicklow Naturally has been successful and will receive financial support from the 2026 Rural Innovation Development Fund. The funds will be dedicated towards bringing local foods and drinks, local agri-food and local crafts to the 'Taste of Wicklow' event scheduled for early July.

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## **Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)**

The latest draft has been received and is being reviewed. Various actions are already under way including the Glendalough Masterplan, Screen Tourism Study or Access & Movement Assessment.

## **Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan (VEMMP)**

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

## **Economic Development**

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

Progress continues at the Abbey Grounds. The phased implementation of the Destination Towns project remains on track, ensuring the steady delivery of new public amenities throughout the remainder of the year.

### **Special Projects**

**Avondale Business Park:** Site sales at Avondale Business Park continue to move forward with two disposals being brought before the Council at their next meeting this month. Options to develop the required supporting infrastructure on-site are currently being explored.

**Strategic Enterprise Lands:** Strategic enterprise land in County Wicklow remains under active review, with assessments continuing to determine suitable use.

**The GRID:** The appointment of a new operator is nearing completion, and a formal handover with the current operator is in progress. Office occupancy has increased to 70%, with the Phase 2 fit-out currently underway to prepare the remaining units for occupancy.

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**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** Site registration is in its final stages, with the Law Agent currently concluding the remaining procedural elements. This follows successful engagement with the Property Registration Authority, and a resolution is anticipated shortly.

## **Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)**

Support was recently provided to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, alongside the National DMAP team, in hosting a regional consultation and local stakeholder engagement event held in March regarding the National DMAP for ORE. The event was well attended. The next meeting is scheduled for April and will feature presentations on permitting updates for the Arklow Bank Wind Park, as well as a 'state of the nation' update regarding the roles and remits of the various agencies supporting the offshore wind sector.

## **Skills Strategy**

Delivery of the Wicklow Skills Strategy is now underway. Momentum continues with the rollout of priority 2026 projects and the advancement of supporting strategic frameworks. The Taskforce is set to reconvene in April to review further progress.

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## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
Metrics: Grants	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	14 BEG / 2 Priming / 8 Feasibility / 3 (MEG) Total: 27- <b>€546,033</b>	33	2 (€56,060)
<b>Gross Jobs Created</b>	696	188	-
<b>Net Jobs Created</b>	50	105	-
<b>New Job Commitments 3 Years</b>	N/A	84	5
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
Metrics: Training/ Capacity Building	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	117	90	59
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	156	90	45
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1139	720	276
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	20	20	3
Metrics: Business Advice & Mentoring	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Number of new clients added to database.	580	-	124

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*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	544	270	150

<b>Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Year to Date 2026/27</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1170	1170	1449

<b>Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>No of transfers</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Year to Date 2026</b>
Number of transfers	6	5	-

<b>Lean, Green &amp; Digital Start For Micro Projects</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	15	15	3
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	21	27	10
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	34	27	3
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	5	18	2
Energy Efficiency Grant	9	18	7
RD&I Grants (inc IP) Approved	1	1	1
<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	17	19	6
<b>New Exporters</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	3	3	TBC

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## Activities took place in March/April

### Local Enterprise Week 2026 – A Strong Showcase of Supports and Innovation

Over 200 participants attended 8 events during Local Enterprise Week 2026 March 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>. LEW was a dynamic week supporting businesses through expert insights, practical workshops, and networking opportunities, with a strong focus on digital transformation and sustainability. The following events took place in March:

- **AI Works for Ireland – National Development Summit**  
Explored practical applications of AI in SMEs to improve efficiency, enhance customer experience, and unlock growth opportunities. Provided real-world insights and future trends shaping the business landscape at The Foundry, Google HQ, Dublin.
- **Green Lunch & Learn**  
Focused on energy efficiency and sustainable practices that deliver cost savings and environmental benefits. Introduced businesses to relevant supports and resources available through the Local Enterprise Office at the Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow.
- **Digital Marketing Clinics**  
Supported businesses in enhancing their online presence and customer engagement through structured strategies. Focused on improving digital visibility and driving growth through effective marketing techniques at Clermont House, Rathnew.
- **Future-Proofing Retail – Strategic Masterclass**  
Delivered insights into evolving consumer behaviour and emerging retail trends. Equipped businesses with strategies to remain competitive in a changing marketplace at Tulfarris Hotel, Blessington.
- **ILM Leadership & Management Programme – Manufacturing Sector**  
A leadership development programme aimed at strengthening decision-making and team performance in manufacturing took place in Feb/March in partnership with KWETB. This programme provided practical tools and frameworks to boost productivity and long-term organisational impact.
- **Mentor Engagement and Information Session**  
An in-person mentor information session was successfully held following the conclusion of the tender process, providing an opportunity to meet with selected mentors and gain a clear understanding of their individual strengths and areas of expertise. This engagement will ensure that mentors are effectively aligned to support businesses across key areas such as branding, marketing, finance, and funding, enabling tailored and impactful guidance for participating enterprises.

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- **Student Enterprise Programme – National Final Preparations 2026**

Preparations are currently underway to support the winners of the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior categories from the Wicklow County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme 2026, following their success at the Arklow Bay Hotel, as they get ready to represent Wicklow at the National Finals on 7th May at the Mullingar Park Hotel, with a focus on refining their business ideas and strengthening their presentation and commercial skills.

**LEO Training in April / May:**

- Digital Marketing Clinics
- A Layman's guide to Income Tax.
- Bookkeeping for Small Business
- Finance and Tax Clinics – 5th May
- Start Your Own Business Course – 6th May
- Sources of Finance for Small Business – 13th May
- Sales Strategies for Your Business – 20th May
- LinkedIn for Business – 27th May

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## Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

### HARBOURS AND PORTS

#### WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS

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

GENERAL CARGO DATA 2026	
General Cargo/Container	15
Gross Tonnage	38352

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN 2026			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
500	999	2	1704
1,000	1,999	0	0
2,000	2,999	10	26447
3,000	3,999	3	10201
			38352






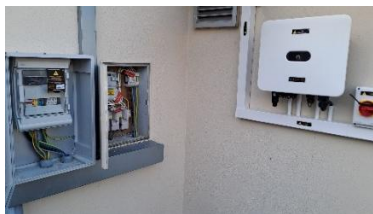
2026 CARGO BREAKDOWN			
CATEGORY	Imports	Exports	Total
Forestry Products	11394.50	1770.16	<b>13164.657</b>
Metals		13165.71	<b>13165.71</b>
	<b>11394.50</b>	<b>14935.87</b>	<b>26330.37</b>

### CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

**Community Climate Action Programme Phase 1:** 19 projects are progressing through various stages with four projects completed in March as follows:

GROUP	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PROGRESS
Blessington Tidy Towns	Native species tree planting	4,000	Project Completed (total allocation 4,000)

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Arklow Tidy Towns	Polytunnel, compost area, LED lighting	23,906.04	Project Completed (total allocation 35,448.14)
			
Newcastle Residents Association	Refill water stations		Project completed (total allocation 21,310.16)
Carnew Community Care	Solar PV installation	Solar PV installation	Project completed (total allocation 54,591.00)
			

The second round of the Community Climate Action Programme, offering €646,000 in funding was evaluated where a total of 27 groups were recommended to receive funding out of a total of 49 applications received to the value of €2.3m. We are currently waiting on approval from the Department to notify these projects.

**E-Mobility Scheme:** A Shared Mobility Hub scheme has been tendered for the County. The scheme includes Bray, Greystones and Wicklow with options to extend to Arklow and Blessington. Bolt is the preferred tender and the council are currently engaging with Bolt.

**Greystones Disposable Cup Scheme:** Over 7,500 Greystones Disposable cups and a PR campaign was launched where A number of clubs and coffee shops around Greystones are taking part in the scheme. By working together on climate action initiatives like this, it also strengthens the town's commitment to sustainability and positive environmental action. Available at:

- Buoy's Café, Café Grey, K28, NY Eats (Chill'd), Rise at the Cove, Roasted Brown, Spendloves, The Happy Pear, Vicks

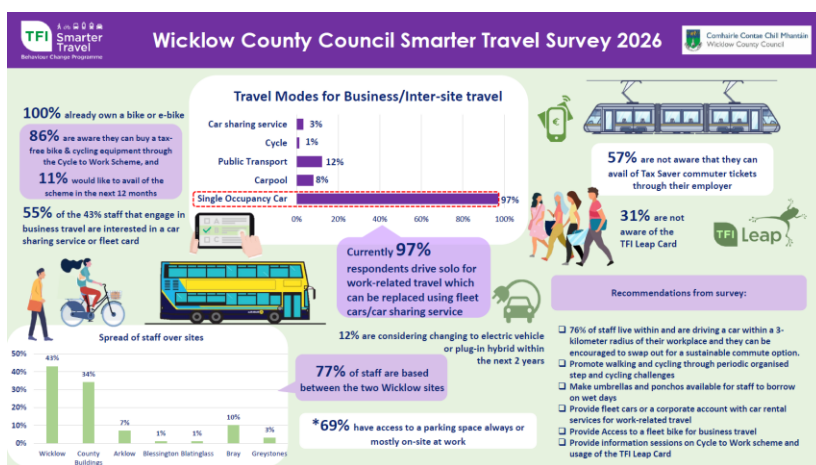
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- Greystones United, Sporting Greystones, Eire Óg Greystones, Greystones Tennis Clubs, Greystones Scouts and Greystones Rugby Club.

**Developer Provided Infrastructure:** Wicklow County Council has received funding approval of €1,274,539 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Garden Village scheme, which consists of 221 dwelling units. This funding will enable the Council to decommission the existing wastewater treatment plant serving Garden Village and construct a new foul sewer and pumping station in its place.

Upon full completion of the scheme, the sewer network will be taken in charge by Uisce Éireann, who will thereafter assume responsibility for the maintenance of the foul sewer system.

Wicklow County Council Have received a Irish Water connection offer for Rath Luain which is currently under review. Rath Luain has a treatment plant for 6 houses.



**WCC signed up for NTA Smarter Travel Charter:** A smarter travel survey completed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February where 271 respondents completed the survey out of 531 staff. A consultant is supporting the roll out of this scheme where a Smart Travel Plan with Actions will be drafted in 2026 for the County Buildings. Recommendations such as the following came from the survey:

- 76% of staff live within and are driving a car within a 3-kilometer radius of their workplace and they can be encouraged to swap out for a sustainable commute option.
- Promote walking and cycling through periodic organised step and cycling challenges
- Make umbrellas and ponchos available for staff to borrow on wet days
- Provide fleet cars or a corporate account with car rental services for work-related travel
- Provide Access to a fleet bike for business travel
- Provide information sessions on Cycle to Work scheme and usage of the TFI Leap Card

**Dark Skys:** A County Wicklow Light Pollution Policy and an Environmental lighting master plan, light assessment report and lighting energy audit for the towns of Clonard, Laragh, Roundwood and Aughrim have been tendered and is currently at standstill period. The reserve core would be located in the southern part of the Wicklow Mountains National Park with a buffer zone of 700 KM around the park where the lighting policy will be developed to reduce the impact of light pollution.

**Spongeworks EU horizon programme:** Following the successful launch of the Spongeworks project a survey was sent out to participants to help identify what level of participation they would like in the project going forward. Work has also been undertaken to procure ecological and hydrological services to undertake on farm assessment and review the current status of wetlands within the catchment.

**Library Projects:** A new library has been tendered for Aughrim village with an aim to contain EV chargers, raingardens, solar power with a battery and a heat pump. The library is aiming to be a Zero Energy Building.

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Dunlavin library is a heritage building currently under works to decarbonise the building including decarbonising the building with a heat pump and underfloor heating. The roof has already been upgraded with insulation and any leaks repaired.

**Climate Action Events:** Greystones Municipal District Community Climate Action Team held a workshop for a community climate action plan on the 24th of March.

A community Climate Action Team has been elected for the Greystones Municipal District Area. This was followed by a Workshop to help develop a Community Climate Action Plan on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. Once a draft plan has been prepared it will be circulated to various community group.

**Wicklow Sustainable Energy Communities:** Greystones SEC launched a Solar Methanal in February and have 25 houses signed up to date.

Arklow SEC is running a series of four information clinics on retrofitting homes with SEAI grant aid. The last of four clinics takes place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April in Arklow library.

It is now planned to work with Wicklow SEC on replicating the information clinics in Wicklow library. Wicklow SEC will host its annual Energy Awareness Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. SEAI will be the main sponsor for the event with Wicklow County Council providing support for the promotion of the event

Greystones Sports SEC is expected to be granted by the SEAI shortly.

**Environment Awareness:** Our 4-month long anti dog fouling campaign continues with primary schools creating strong and engaging posters with messaging to raise awareness of the impacts and threats of dog fouling on the wider community.

**Bray - Jacinta Barrins, over 55s Climate Programme:** A FREE 6-week Climate Course for Beginners for the over 55s, commenced in Bray in St. Peter's Church Hall (behind The Coach Inn), The course is provided by Jacinta Barrins, retired UN Diplomat. This course is run in conjunction with Wicklow County Council and Age Friendly Wicklow for a duration of 6 weeks.



**Wicklow Biodiversity Action:** Wicklow County Council, NPWS and Rathdrum Tidy Towns nest box project kicked off, with a volunteer day in Clara Vale Nature reserve installing nest boxes onto trees.

**Brittas Bay Dune Ambassador programme:** The council are seeking to appoint a consultant ecologist to deliver and evaluate a pilot Dune Ambassador programme at Brittas Bay over the 2026 bathing season (June–August). The role will involve on-site public engagement (including guided discovery walks), alongside collection of observations on visitor use and behaviour to inform future management of the site. A key aspect of the commission is to design a flexible schedule that captures a representative spread of site users across different days of the week, times of day, and conditions.

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## WASTE MANAGEMENT

No. of Complaints Created	166
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	178
No of Litter Fines Issued	10
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	5
Waste Management Interviews scheduled during the month	7
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	14
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	12
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	23
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	4
Income - Litter	€650

## DOG CONTROL, DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

**Dog Licences:** For the month of March 2026, a total of 704 annual and 31 lifetime dog licences were issued to owners of dogs in County Wicklow. Dog wardens are continually visiting estates and patrolling of beaches and public areas to ensure dogs are always kept under effectual control of their owners.

There will be an increased presence by the Dog Wardens over the coming months at public areas, and on beaches and busy areas of the county.

**Horses:** No horses were seized during the month of March 2026.

## POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution Control Statistics up to end of January 2025

Pollution Response & Investigation

Pollution Response & Investigation	
12	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
5	Water pollution complaints closed.
6	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
2	Noise pollution complaints closed.
3	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
3	Air pollution complaints closed.
Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme	
7	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
68	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
1	Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

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Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026	
1	Inspection Plan prepared.
16	Pre-inspection visit, and letters issued to house owners connected to domestic wastewater treatment systems.
14	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems carried out.
7	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems were compliant.
7	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems were non-compliant and advisory notices were issued to house owners to take corrective action.
3	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems in High Status Area to assess application for grant.
2	Radio and Newspaper advert regarding domestic wastewater treatment system inspections.
Good Agricultural Practice Inspections	
8	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
1	Follow up inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice
9	Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.
Well Grants	
23	New Water Grant application received
6	New Pumps granted
7	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
17	Inspections in advance/completion of works
Private Water Supplies	
1	Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 121 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
21	Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored.
19	Regulated Private Water Supplies were compliant with available results for microbiological standards.
2	Regulated Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with available results for microbiological standards and placed under boil water restrictions upon HSE advice and required to take remedial action.
19	Regulated Private Water Supplies were compliant with available results for chemical standards and indicator parameters.
2	Regulated Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with available results for chemical standards and indicator parameters and are required to take remedial action.
Petrol Vapour Recovery	
1	Installation inspected (petrol dispenser vapour recovery)
Deco Paint Solvent Regulations	
1	Inspection of Dry Cleaner carried out.
1	Vehicle Refinisher (car spraying) Installations issued with Certificates of Compliance.
2	Letters issued to Vehicle Refinisher (car spraying) Installations issued
Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer	
1	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
1	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring	
4	River samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
4	Lake samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
5	Coastal waters samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
Planning & Development	

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8	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
5	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
3	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
2	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations/compliance were completed concerning quarries development.
1	Environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

## **CEMETERIES**

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

### **Published Death Notices Data**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Total</b>	138	94	125									
<b>WCC</b>	55	32	42									
<b>Cremation</b>	49	27	42									
<b>Other</b>	34	35	41									

357	<b>Total Published Death Notices 2026</b>
36%	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
33%	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
31%	Other Burial Grounds

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION**

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

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

<b>ORIS</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Completion/ Update</b>
OR221WW02	<b>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</b>	The walk remains closed due to safety concerns over instability of the area, which represents a significant safety risk to the public. Cliff Walk Task Force to provide updates on potential works and costs to be allocated to ORIS project.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	<b>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</b>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Damage report due to assess any damage related to recent flood.	Ongoing 2026
OR222WW03	<b>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</b>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	Ongoing 2026
OR322WW01	<b>Roundwood Recreation Area</b>	Bike pump track works commenced with some delays due to rainfall. Base installed and drying out for a few weeks to avoid	Ongoing 2026 – near completion

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		cracks emerging, before completing works. Signage RFQ completed. Installation of signs due.	
OR423WW02	<b>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	Feasibility project to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. 50% Plan work completed approximately.	Ongoing 2026 – near completion
OR123WW01	<b>Hollywood Natural Play Area</b>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Awaiting sign off to publish tender. Licence Agreement due.	30/04/2026
OR123WW06	<b>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</b>	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Signage contract awarded for 4 new trailheads will be erected at Raheen, Kilmacanogue, Great Sugarloaf, Mullinaveigue. Sign installation due.	30/04/2026
OR223WW01	<b>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</b>	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed during November 2025. Multi-disciplinary design team appointed to prepare feasibility / scoping study	30/06/2026
OR223WW02	<b>Three Trout's Bridge, Delgany</b>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the pathfinder route. Consent process to progress managed by MD office	Q4 2026
OR223WW03	<b>Tinahely New Loop Trail</b>	Funding for additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Review of project specifics being undertaken.	TBC
<b>ORIS 2024</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Completion</b>
OR424WW01	<b>Disability and Outdoor Recreation</b>	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow. Background specification underway to identify available/usable sites for 2 x water, 2 x bike and 2 x trail access for exploration in the study.	26/02/27
OR124WW01	<b>Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area</b>	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest.	26/02/27
OR124WW02	<b>Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac</b>	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability. Preparing tender specification and search suppliers.	26/02/27
OR124WW03	<b>Vartry Anglers Disabled Access</b>	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Project under review	26/02/27
OR124WW04	<b>Wild Swimming Infrastructure</b>	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations.	26/02/27
OR224WW01	<b>Glen Turn Cliff Walk</b>	Complete surface upgrade and drainage work on cliff walk trail.	30/11/27
OR224WW02	<b>Russelstown Link to Russborough House</b>	Proposed trail linking Russelstown Wood to Russborough House & Park. Prepare tender for planning consent	30/11/27

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

OR324WW01	<b>Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration</b>	Djouce Mountain trail construction works will significantly reduce the safety issues and habitat damage currently occurring. Project steering group established. Draft MOU and route planning and specification under discussion with NPWS.	30/11/27
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## LIBRARY SERVICE

**Library Usage and User Impact – Q1 2026:** In the first quarter of 2026, Wicklow County Council Library Service recorded 159,390 visits. People used the libraries for many different reasons, including reading or relaxing, using printing and photocopying services, reading newspapers, attending events, participating in class visits, borrowing books and other items and finding information. During the same period, the library service delivered over 270,000 items in both physical and digital formats to a community of around 35,000 library users of all ages.

To give an indication of financial value, we applied average retail costs of €5 for digital magazines and newspapers, and €12 for books and audiobooks (a conservative estimate). Based on these figures, the total value of items accessed through the library is estimated at approximately €2.48 million over the three-month period. This works out at around €71 per library user.

These figures highlight not only the financial savings for the community, but also the wider role of the library in providing open and equal access to information, reading, and cultural services.

### Wicklow Libraries in Numbers

#### January to March 2026



### National Initiative:

**Spring into Storytime:** There have been Storytime sessions for pre-school and primary aged children, alongside themed literacy activities designed to embed storytelling across the broader event programme. Ballywaltrim Library offered take-home reading activities, reinforcing reading as a fun and familiar part of daily life. Other branches curated special book displays and collections to creating welcoming spaces. The initiative is part of the national Right to Read programme strengthens the library's role as key facilitators of early years development

**Little Library Bag Initiative:** My Little Library Bags give children and families free access to books chosen specifically to promote early language, vocabulary, memory, emotional development, and reading confidence. They help create a home learning environment rich in books, storytelling, and shared reading moments. The initiative is part of the government's First 5 strategy.

**Arklow library:** Children and families enjoyed a popular Easter Egg Hunt this month and an Autism Friendly Arklow session featuring Storytime and Toddler Storytime & Crafts, Baby Tummy Time, the Saturday Arts & Crafts Activity Station, Lego Club, Children's Chess Club, Junior Book Club, and the newly launched Junior Comic Club continue to

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

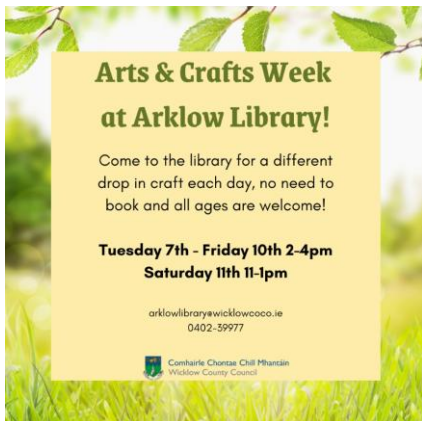
attract strong interest. Parents and carers are also supported in April through regular Arts & Crafts sessions and the Rise You Up support space.

Adult and lifelong learning remains a key focus, with Irish Classes with Séadna and the weekly Ciorcal Comhrá continuing to support Irish language engagement. Other highlights include a well-attended Family History Workshop series with Geralda, Writers' Group meetings, Adult Chess Club, the English Conversation Group, and a Heartfulness session introducing relaxation and meditation techniques.

Community, outreach, and inclusion initiatives feature strongly throughout the month, including All Kinds of Amazing sessions, the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland Young Onset Group Therapy, Tuatha Male Carers Support Group, and a Chime Outreach Clinic. The Wicklow County Council Climate Action Drop-in Clinic also continues to provide valuable information and support to the public.

The library's cultural programme is enriched by the Ballyrogan Expression & Guests exhibition (Sarah Eva Manson) running until mid-April, alongside a Collage and Mixed-Media Exhibition by Jakub Syriste throughout the month. A Bealtaine event, "Going to the Pictures in 1950" with James Scannell, offers an engaging look at social history and heritage.

Regular activities such as book clubs, chess clubs, Irish language sessions, the English Conversation Group, Writers' Group, knitters' groups, and parent and carer support continue to provide consistent opportunities for learning, creativity, and social connection. Overall, April reflects Arklow Library's ongoing commitment to delivering a balanced and inclusive programme, supported by strong partnerships with community organisations and services.



**Ballywaltrim Library:** Spring into Storytime looked at new ways to bring stories into popular activities. The Easter Egg Hunt proved popular during the school holidays, alongside a well-received Cuddly Toy Sleepover, enhanced this year by a take-home reading activity that encourages children to share stories with their toys and engage with the library in a different way. Additional highlights include a Storytime visit for Jolly Tots crèche, Arts and Crafts sessions, and a Comhaltas event, *The Road to the Wicklow Fleadh*. A beautiful art display of Easter eggs, bunnies and spoon bunnies' courtesy of five classes from St Fergal's School, will remain on display after the school holidays to ensure they are on view when the classes next visit the library.

Adult and lifelong learning opportunities include a National Learning Network Dungeons and Dragons session, a practical CV and Interview Skills Workshop, and a two-part Mindfulness course. These events support both personal development and social engagement. Community outreach remains an important focus, with a Storytime visit delivered to junior and senior infants at Kilmacanogue National School, extending the library's reach beyond the branch. Irish language and cultural engagement are further supported with the launch of a fortnightly *Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge* session.

Regular monthly activities provide a consistent and welcoming structure for users of all ages. Children benefit from weekly school visits, Tummy Time sessions, STEM free play, Storytime and crafts, as well as monthly book clubs and arts activities. Adult programming includes Scrabble, CV support drop-ins, knitting and quilting groups, book clubs, crafting

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sessions, and one-to-one digital skills classes with Age Action. Irish language conversation groups and multiple book clubs continue to foster learning, creativity, and social connection.

**Baltinglass Library:** This April, Baltinglass Library is inspired by the planting season with a spotlight on its ever-popular gardening collection, while many visitors continue to enjoy cozy indoor reading. A lively schedule of events includes Enda's Film Club every Friday afternoon, weekly InSync Youth Diversion sessions on Mondays, and an open clinic with Camille Lynch of Creative Places Baltinglass each Wednesday. The library also hosts ongoing Darkness Into Light planning meetings and looks forward to the installation of a new Surf Box system, making printing more accessible and efficient for patrons. Community engagement remains strong with the Creative Writing Group meeting on Saturday 25th and Baltinglass Film Club screening *Hell or High Water* on Tuesday 28th. Looking ahead, excitement is building around an upcoming open call for artists exploring the theme "Baltinglass and Beyond — My Sense of Place," with selected works to be exhibited in the library from June through September.

**Blessington Library:** April hosted children's events, talks, and regular groups. People are increasingly coming into the library, there's more borrowing, and strong use of study spaces. The weekly Storytimes promote early years engagement and are supported by events such as Movie Afternoons and a popular Children's Yoga session. *Reuben the Entertainer* drew a particularly large and enthusiastic audience, creating a vibrant atmosphere in the library. Creative and developmental activities, including Tummy Time, the Children's Book Club, and the first Magformers STEM session, encourage both learning and play, with clear potential for further growth in child-led programming.

Adult learning and community engagement remain a strong feature of the library's offering. Regular groups such as the Knitters group and the Italian Conversation group provide welcoming and consistent spaces for social learning, while the Blessington History Society continues to attract local interest. A well-attended talk on the 1926 Census by Brian White highlights a strong appetite for local history, prompting plans to develop a peer-led Family History group in the near future.

Cultural and educational talks add further depth to the programme. The 1926 Census event generates significant engagement, with attendees expressing strong interest in accessing further materials. An intergenerational Mushroom Talk also proves highly engaging, particularly for younger participants, and opens the opportunity for a future foraging-focused session for adults. A Sound Bath and Relaxation event later in the month continues the library's commitment to wellbeing-focused programming.

Community use of the library remains strong, with a diverse mix of ages and cultures represented across events. Family-focused activities, such as the Magic Show, create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, while the library continues to serve as a shared social space where people can meet, connect, and spend time together. Children's resources, including Magformers, contribute to this sense of the library as an interactive and supportive environment.

## Family History Club

Are you interested?

Register your interest by email:  
[ebirchall@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:ebirchall@wicklowcoco.ie)



Comhairle Chonase Chill Mhainin  
Wicklow County Council



Ways for Beginners to Improve their  
Fluency in Irish with Gary Bannister



Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in Bray Library  
Booking: [braylib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braylib@wicklowcoco.ie), or at the desk

**Bray Library:** A highlight of the month is an upcoming talk by Garry Bannister on *Ways for Beginners to Improve Fluency in Irish*, which has generated strong interest and is expected to draw a large audience. Ongoing groups and community partnerships continue to play a central role in the library's welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Storytimes for toddlers and school-aged children, regular class visits, and the ever-popular STEAM Saturday sessions provide consistent opportunities for engagement. The Afterschool Comic Club and Junior Book Club remain fully subscribed.

Adult learning and community participation are well supported through a diverse range of groups and events. The Tuesday Craft Group began the month with a special Easter knitting workshop led by Pauline Duffy and continues to meet weekly,

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

offering a relaxed and social creative outlet. A number of book clubs, including crime, literary fiction, and general interest groups, meet regularly throughout the month.

Cultural and language activities are a key feature of the April programme. The Ciorcal Comhrá provides a valuable space for Irish language practice, complemented this month by the Garry Bannister talk. Music and mindfulness are also represented through harp meditation sessions and the involvement of the Bray CCE Harp Ensemble, adding a reflective and cultural dimension to the library's offerings. Community engagement remains strong, with partnerships supporting initiatives such as the Festina Lente Film Club and hosting work experience students from BIFE, NWETSS, and Festina Lente. These collaborations enhance the library's role as a hub for inclusion, learning, and local connection.

Regular monthly activities continue to anchor the programme, including weekly craft sessions, multiple book clubs, film screenings, language groups, and the Seed & Plant Swap.

**Enniskerry Library:** The Irish Girl Guides, who maintain a 76-year-old cottage in Enniskerry on land originally donated by the Powerscourt family, continue to make active use of this local resource for group activities and visits. This month, in collaboration with a group of Senior Branch members (aged 12–14) preparing for an international trip to Switzerland, the library hosted a special talk by Delia Termini on toadstools and mushrooms. The session offered an engaging introduction to local biodiversity, after which participants extended their learning with a guided exploration of the Bog Meadow to identify species discussed. This event highlights the library's role in supporting youth development, outdoor learning, and partnerships with community organisations. The library also hosted a talk with Forensic Psychologist, Eric Shepherd.



**Greystones Library: April 2026:** Storytime in the park with a lively Treasure Hunt around the village launched the Spring into Storytime initiative, with local businesses helping with the hunt. Creative workshops, including an Easter Drawing session and Bookmark Making, encouraged artistic expression, while the Cell Biology STEM Craft workshop at the end of the month will introduce scientific concepts in an accessible and engaging way.

Adult learning and cultural engagement feature prominently with *A History of Coastal Communities* workshop, delivered in collaboration with ECO-UNESCO, combining local heritage learning with environmental action through a beach clean-up. The library will also host a Camino-themed talk, *To Walk the Way*, alongside a classical guitar recital by Chien Buggle, offering audiences a rich cultural experience. Regular Age Action IT classes continue to support digital inclusion and skills development.

Health and wellbeing are key themes this month, with a series of inclusive sessions including Breathwork, Restorative Yoga, a menopause wellbeing workshop, and a Soundbath experience. These events provide space for relaxation, reflection, and community connection.

Regular groups and monthly meetups remain a core part of library life. The *Artists in Conversation* series continues to showcase local creative voices, while book clubs, language conversation groups, and community-led gatherings such as the Greystones Music Circle and Creative Writers group foster ongoing participation and collaboration.

**Wicklow Library: April 2026:** Children and families enjoy a varied schedule of weekly and special events, including Storytime, Toddler Rhyme Time, and clubs such as Junior Chess, LEGO, and book clubs for both younger readers and

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

young adults. As part of Spring into Storytime, a Calm and Create arts session and a special Irish folktales Storytime with music bring creativity and culture together in an accessible, engaging format.

Adult learning and cultural activity remain central to the library's offering. A standout event this month was a talk and Q&A with free diver and author Claire Walsh, shortlisted for the An Post Sport Book of the Year, which booked out within a week and received very positive feedback. Ongoing opportunities for engagement include film club, multiple book clubs, knitting groups, language conversation groups, chess, arts and crafts, and the weekly Wicklow Writers Group.

Health, wellbeing, and community support are reflected through partnerships with local services and organisations. The library hosts HSE pulmonary rehabilitation sessions and dietician visits, along with regular clinics and meetings including Citizen's Information, LAIT Community Clinics, Vision Ireland, and Wicklow Arts Co-op. Outreach remains a key focus, with school visits, early learning centre engagement, and initiatives promoting library membership among younger children.

Cultural activity continues with a new exhibition by landscape artist Ciaran Meister, while national programming is reflected through Spring into Storytime events, including themed story sessions and guest Storytime with Garda Niall Kennedy.

Regular groups and monthly meetups are a cornerstone of library life, supporting creativity, learning, and social connection across the community. Looking ahead, the launch of the Activator Pole in partnership with the Sports Partnership and the first meeting of the Teen Services Development Team for Wicklow Libraries, who aim to promote teen participation and engagement

**Shortlisted for An Post Sport Book of the Year**

**Author Talk and Q & A with Claire Walsh**  
Thursday 9th April 7:00 - 8:00 pm

**UNDER WATER**  
HOW HOLDING MY BREATH TAUGHT ME TO LIVE  
CLAIRE WALSH

**WICKLOW LIBRARY**

**Limited Spaces Sign-up Soon**

Please ask at the desk,  
Call 0404-67025 or  
Email:  
Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie

**Aughrim**  
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 5:00pm - 5:00pm  
Wednesday: 5:00pm - 5:00pm ; 6:30pm - 8:50pm  
Thursday: Closed  
Friday: 11:00am - 1:00pm ; 5:00pm - 5:00pm  
Saturday: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

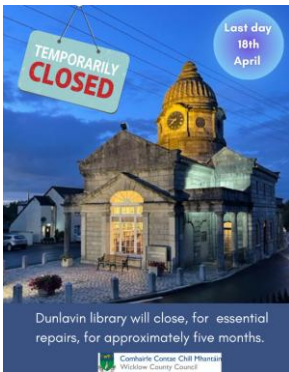
**Tinahely**  
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 1:30pm - 5:00pm ; 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Wednesday: 10:50am - 1:50pm ; 2:50pm - 5:00pm  
Thursday: 10:50am - 1:50pm ; 2:50pm - 5:00pm  
Friday: Closed  
Saturday: 10:50am - 1:50pm

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council

**Aughrim & Tinahely Libraries:** Opening hours at both Aughrim and Tinahely library have now returned to their previous schedule.

**Dunlavin Library:** Dunlavin Library will close on Saturday, 18th April for a period of approximately five months. The closure is necessary to allow for additional works identified during recent roofing repairs. These works will bring significant improvements to the much-loved local building, particularly in terms of accessibility. As part of the refurbishment, the interior steps within the building will be removed and replaced with a level floor throughout, making the space easier to access for all members of the community. Plans are also in place to clean the exterior of the building and to install underfloor heating, which will greatly improve comfort for library users. While the closure will be an inconvenience to many regular visitors, the upgrades will ensure that the library remains a welcoming and accessible space at the heart of the community for years to come.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



## **WICKLOW COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE**

**Archives catalogue:** County Archives collections continue to be catalogued on our collections management platform *Axiell Collections*. Collections catalogued to date include private estate collections; Wicklow business collections; Grand Jury and Boards of Guardians. Cataloguing of county council records series is ongoing. Most recent collections completed are the Wicklow Choral Society Collection and the Moores of Grangecon.

**Digitisation programme:** Digitisation completed for Labourers Cottages Ledgers (1880s to the 1920s), and Rathdrum Rural District Council minutes (1899-1925), supported by the Commemorations Programme of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. The Labourers Cottages collection is now uploaded to Wicklow.ie at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>. The Rathdrum Rural District Council minutes will follow shortly. Next project county burial registers.

**Special projects/Outreach activities:** Research continues for the Wicklow Historic Towns Atlas project. Wicklow Community Archives ICAN network and Genealogy Service continues. Schools programme continues with a visit this month from Dominican College Wicklow TY students.

**Conservation programme:** The next items identified for conservation treatment are two Wicklow Town maps dated 1850s and two Wicklow Corporation rental rolls dated 1850 and 1860. Funding for this project has been secured from Heritage Council under Heritage Stewardship Grant programme 2026.

## **ARTS OFFICE AND CREATIVE IRELAND**

**County Wicklow Creative Ireland Team** - Cruinniú na nÓg ambassadors have been selected to represent County Wicklow. Two young Cruinniú na nÓg 2026 Ambassadors have been officially selected to represent County Wicklow. Each of these talented individuals are our creative heroes and will act as advocates for various events and promote the participation of children and young people in creative activities.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

### Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (13/04/2026) outstanding stands at **323 – 2.00%** of total stock of 16,127. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 151 faults were attended in March, while 140 faults were reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported – March	21	10	78	20	22	<b>151</b>
Faults Attended – March	12	15	57	34	22	<b>140</b>
No Supply			1			1
Access Issues (Attended)	2	1	11	4	4	22
Cable Fault (Attended)			3		1	4
Civils	2		5		8	15
Council Approval	1		1	4	2	8
ESB Notified	12	26	11	6	14	69
ESB Required	5	7	26	6	8	52
On Hold	2	4	33	7	6	52
Submitted	2	20	7	5	7	41
TMR	8	1	10	9	6	34
Tree Cutting Required	2	1	14	5	3	25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>Percentage not working</b>	<b>1.11%</b>	<b>2.45%</b>	<b>3.52%</b>	<b>1.51%</b>	<b>1.51%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
No. of Lamps	3246	2445	3467	3049	3920	16127
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	21%	19%	24%	100%

#### Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

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

#### Transportation Statistics

	Total 2024	Total 2025	Total 2026	February 2026	March 2026
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	1014	1065	273	91	97
<b>Road closure applications</b>	50	56	18	5	4
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1254	1494	308	87	115
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	50	33	13	2	7

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## National Roads Projects

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

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

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

The Phase 3 design work has commenced and could take up to two years to complete.

The project team will continue to engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases. Visit [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie) for more details.

### **N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

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

### **N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

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

The Phase 3 Design Report has been approved by TII on 09/02/26. A public consultation under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) is proposed.

### **N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities**

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

- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025. Commissioning and testing by the NTA has commenced and is ongoing. Opening expected in 2026.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Land purchase has been completed. Construction is expected to commence later in 2026 subject to funding being available.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office. Lodgement to An Coimisiún Pleanála is expected later in 2026.

### **N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme**

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Preferred Option was published in October 2025 on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie). The project team is currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

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

The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The construction was substantially completed in March 2026. Snagging, landscaping and installation of bus shelters are continuing.

## **Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood**

A suitable P&R location, that can be accessed from the regional road is being investigated.

## **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

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

## **N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project**

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) for the proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass was approved by TII on 22nd October 2025. The tender to procure a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through to next phases was published in December 2025. Tenders have now been received and are under evaluation.

## **N81 Hearn's Cross**

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

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The Preferred Route for the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway was published in December 2025. The Phase 2 Options Study Phase of the project concluded with the confirmation of the preferred options to be brought forward to the design and environmental evaluation phase. The Options Study Report and plan drawings of the preferred option are available on the project website. The preferred route option will be further refined and developed into preliminary designs over the coming months. The tender process for the appointment of a consultant for Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Considerations) and Phase 4 (Statutory/Planning Process) was completed in April 2026 with the appointment of a project consultant.

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August an Bord Pleanála (ABP) granted permission for the full development of the residential units and northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road. Details of the road design have been submitted to Wicklow County Council for review and approval.

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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 of the Scheme in April 2025. The main footpath, cycle lane and road surfacing works was completed in Section 1 in December 2025 and are fully open to the public. The full road closure for Section 2 is in operation up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026. The completion of the full scheme is expected Q4 2026.

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

A month long non-statutory public consultation for the Emerging Preferred Route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway was undertaken in January and February 2026. The Public Consultation included two public display events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow. Submissions and observations were accepted by the public up to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Meetings are ongoing with landowners along the emerging preferred route. Any updates required following the Public Consultation will be undertaken and reflected in the Options Selection Report submitted to TII for the Phase 2 Options Selection Gateway Review approval. Following this TII approval, this route will advance to Phase 3 for Preliminary Design.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## **Blessington eGreenway**

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

## **Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme**

The contract for the design services for the TII funded development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme was awarded on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. The appointed consultant is advancing the scheme in line with TII requirements. The Phase 3 design and EIA are currently in progress and landowner meetings are currently underway for this project.

## **Active Travel Updates**

### **Project Updates**

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

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Archaeological Testing completed. Detail design work to continue. Ongoing liaison with Irish Rail on the detail design.

#### **Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. Preliminary Design stage completed and approval received from the NTA to move to Statutory Stage. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4-7. Prelim design has been issued to NTA for approval. Meeting to be arranged with WMD Members to discuss Preliminary Design once approved by NTA.

#### **Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins (re-draft tender) (Bray MD)**

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins are progressing with the preliminary design phase. Topographic Surveys have been completed on the existing bridge structure, and traffic surveys have been procured. Traffic surveys are scheduled to be completed in April. Atkins to complete the Options Report for the new pedestrian bridge structures. Preliminary design for scheme to be progressed.

#### **Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)**

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis have completed the Options Selection Phase, and an emerging preferred option has been selected. The emerging preferred option is for the provision of a new pedestrian bridge structure on the north side of the existing bridge. The NTA have reverted with comments, further feasibility work is required prior to progressing to the Preliminary Design Phase. Atkins to progress with additional feasibility works. Commence engagement with affected landowners/tenants, procure geotechnical investigation surveys, commence environmental screening process.

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

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

project through Phases 4 -7. Prelim design has been issued to NTA for approval. Meeting to be arranged with GMD Members to discuss Preliminary Design once approved by NTA.

## **Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting had with school principal and An Taisce as school street option to be removed due to BOM decision not to trial. Designer is updating drawings with school street option removed. Footpath, junction and crossing upgrades recommended with potential P & S. Issue drawings to NTA for Review.

## **Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)**

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. The Preliminary Design Phase has been completed, and the project has progressed to Phase 4 – Statutory Processes. The Part 8 was advertised on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, and the public consultation period has now concluded. The Part 8 submissions are currently being reviewed, and we will commence preparation of the Chief Executives Part 8 Report for the project.



## **Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)**

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. Construction works are scheduled to commence when the Chapel Road Scheme has been completed. Expected start date is Q3 2026.

## **Blessington Main Street to Deerpark**

WCC and NTA met to review preliminary design. Gateway 2/3 pack received and sent to the NTA for review and approval. Once Gateway 2/3 has been approved project will proceed to Phase 4 and Part 8 preparation

## **Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme – Mill Road (Greystones MD)**

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. It is planned to complete the Detailed Design and Procurement Phase in 2026, and progress to the Construction Phase in 2027.

## **Other Projects -**

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR\*, Brittas Bay.**  
The section 38 Non-Statutory Public consultation has been completed. No submissions against the proposal were received. 2 submissions of support were received. The section 38 report has been approved. Construction of the footpath phase 1 will commence following enabling works on the week commencing April 20<sup>th</sup>. The project will include Brittas Bay NS Safe Routes to School project following the gateway approvals of the NTA.
- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird**  
Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. Traffic Count and Speed Surveys have been completed. Stakeholder meeting held with school on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2025. Revised delivery plan has been issued to the school.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**  
Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete. Tender to be prepared for consultant to carry out feasibility study.
- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**  
Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works extended to include two additional pedestrian crossings on School Road. Section 38 consultation completed. Construction works ongoing.



- **Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass**  
Provision of a new Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA and construction works ongoing.
- **Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow**  
Project extended to include 560m footpath, pedestrian crossing and access ramp at link to Coolgreaney Road. WCC to fund cost of ramp construction. Construction works ongoing.



- **Redford Park Junction, Greystones**  
Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Ongoing engagement with Lidl on boundary treatments. Lidl are expected to provide the outcome of the board's decision on the extended boundary requirements on or before April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The project will then assess and progress to detailed design.
- **Bus Priority Little Bray**  
Enhancement of bus and active travel infrastructure between Fassaroe Townland and Sunnybank Junction. Review drawing and options assessment as bridge in Rehills development is no longer part of this plan and not feasible as part of river cycle way option.
- **Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**  
2026 list of proposed locations to be submitted to Active Travel Team by WMD and issued to NTA for approval.
- **Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**  
Construction completed in Rathdrum and Avoca. 2026 list of locations to be submitted to NTA for approval.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

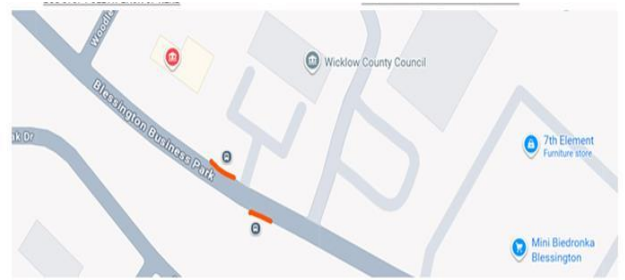
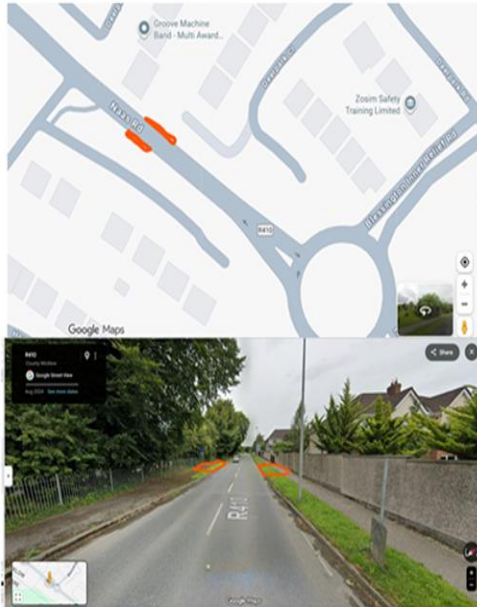
- **Greystones MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**  
2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for approval.
- **Baltinglass MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**  
2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for approval.

## **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

- *New NTA BSEP tracker being actively populated from sources below to Outline Plan for BSEP that can be delivered in 2026 & into 2027. Includes Bus Shelter requests.*
  - *TFI/NTA directly*
  - *LA - CRM, MD's inputs*
  - *Representations – Councillor / TD requests / SPC*
  - *Public Consultations*
  - *Reporting Safety / Accessibility Issues – directly TFI/LA*
- *SPC items from each MD have been added to the BSEP tracker. These are primarily Shelters but also highlights ancillary works needed. NTA will these for suitability and will recommend level of works/progress required. Some items may overlap with Connecting Ireland (CI) works & some have already been installed.*
- *The CI priority Works from 2025 budget (approx. €150,000) are in construction/completed by DW Civil Engineering i.e.*
  - *New additional Stops*
    - *2 x Naas Rd in Blessington - Complete*
    - *2 x Hawkstown Road Wicklow MD – To follow Blessington MD*
  - *Full Installation/Upgrade Stops*
    - *2 x Blessington MD Office being - constructed*
    - *2 x Stratford (CI List) – Locations agreed with MD*
    - *2 x Dunlavin locate/construct (CI List) – Locations agreed with MD for DWCE*
    - *2 x Wicklow Town (CI List) - To follow Blessington MD*
- Upgraded Line Marking County wide – compiling list all districts
- Numerous bus cages/line markings around Wicklow MD.
- Further CI works & NTA agreed works will be tendered in & progressed by MD's and BSEP. These will all be tracked on NTA master tracker

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

2 x New Stops  
Naas Road.



An existing Stop point at Blessington MD will be fully constructed.  
Currently no facilities at location

- From the Connecting Ireland Schedule of works Wicklow MD are commencing construction on 5 identified locations also using DWCE. These locations are items 30,31,32,45 & 46 on the 'Connecting Ireland Bus stop Audit Report' covering Rathnew and Wicklow Town.

## New Projects in 2026

- **SRTS Round 4 Scoil Naomh Brid, Talbotstown**  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools.
- **SRTS Round 4 St. Brigid's NS, Greystones**  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools.
- **SRTS Round 4 St Brigid's NS. Manor Kilbride**  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 school.
- **SRTS Round 4 Wicklow Educate Together**  
School site visit and meeting scheduled for April 17th. Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools.
- **Deerpark Cycle Link, Bray –**  
Phase 1 – PGAF approval to be sought from NTA.
- **Giltspur to Charnwood Active Travel Link -**  
Phase 1 – PGAF approval to be sought from NTA.
- **Arklow MD Permeability Links**  
Phase 1 - 2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for approval.
- **Arklow MD Junction Tightening works –**  
Phase 1 2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for approval.

## **Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)**

Works completed at Ballinavilla Culvert and Sleamaine Bridge.

Work commenced at Carrigmore (Coolacork) Bridge this week.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Winter Maintenance

The season continues.

Between 25/03 and 17/04, over 24 nights there were 7 callouts. 0 of these were double runs.

## Machinery Yard

Framework Circle K cards usage is increasing, and all cards have been delivered.

New 26 tonne trucks 3 and 4 arrived last week.

Surface Dressing roller has been delivered and remaining items due in the coming weeks.

Five new 7.5 tonne pickup trucks ordered from Framework.

## Parking Income

\*January to March 2026\*

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	234,092.36
Greystones Municipal District	83,492.62
Wicklow Municipal District	115,310.81
Arklow Municipal District	64,452.67
Parking Permits	26,715.00
Parking Fines	156,772.50
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>680,835.96</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing Information as of 31st March 2026

### Mariner's Point, Wicklow – 4 x Affordable Houses

- 4 x two-bedroom houses have been assigned. Liaison with applicants and our Legal Department

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

- 26 Affordable houses have been approved. 24 x three-bedroom, 2 x two bedroom
- Due to launch Q4 2026
- Showhouse will be ready Q3 2026

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

- Application for 9 Affordable Houses at Rockbrae, Bray was approved 28/01/2026. Tender is out

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

- AHF application for 4 Affordable Houses at Market Close, Dunlavin, was submitted 24/09/2025, approval granted 4/03/2026.
- The sale of 3 x 3 bed terraced houses in Market Close has been Part V agreed.

### Sheephouse, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

AHF application for 4 x 2-bedroom Affordable Houses at Sheephouse Arklow will be submitted this quarter. Awaiting valuations.

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeeing, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Contractor on site.
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	Tendered by WCC due back March 26
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Options being considered
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Tender docs being completed
Carrig Eden Tiglin	14	On hold
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Tender docs being completed
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Tendered by WCC due back March 26
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	20	Part 8 approved Oct 25
18 Old Conna, Bray	3	Part 8 approved Dec 25

## Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Part 8 approved October 25
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Part 8 permission expected July

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2024 has been carried out.

Framework for consultants for one off housing projects Age Friendly/Disability Schemes has been awarded and in process of being established.

Tender for multiparty design consultant for Ballyguile Road (Hillview) Age Friendly Scheme mix of Housing/Community/Regeneration type works to be complete Q1 2025. Works Being done in coordination with the Housing Agency.

Our Age Friendly Scheme at The Greens Kilcoole was nominated for a LAMA award in 2024.

### Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed comply with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area. Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year. Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

### Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	7	Delivery due Q1 to Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Dunlavin	14	Delivery due Q2 to Q4 2026	WCC
Wicklow	7	Delivery due Q2 to Q3 2026	WCC
Newcastle	1	Delivered Q1 2026	WCC

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Delgany	6	Delivery due Q2 to Q3 2026	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Bray	12	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2027	WCC
Delgany	11	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Rathnew	9	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Rathnew	16	Delivery due Q2/Q3 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivered Q1 2026	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF

## Potential units

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

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

## Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2026:

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

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing to be advertised in Q1.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

### To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications to date	314
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	11
Applications Approved in Principle to date	158
Number of Applications paid to date	81
Value of 81 Grants paid out to date	€4,350,184.90
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	64

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Integration and Emergency Response

### Fire Service

#### Operational Fire Statistics March 2026

There were **125** incidents attended during the month of March 2026. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **154 occasions** including **12** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of March 2026 **increased by 25% (+31 mobilisations) on the preceding month February 2026 (123 mobilisations)**. There was an increase in RTCs (+12 mobilisations), an increase in rural fires (+6 mobilisations) and an increase in false alarms (+14 mobilisations).

There was no change in operational activity for the month of March 2026 **over the equivalent month in 2025** (March 2025, 154 mobilisations). There was an increase in mobilisations to RTCs (+13) with a corresponding decrease in mobilisations to fires in rural areas (-14).

During the month of March 13% of overall activity across the county was Automatic Alarm Activations with 21% of all incidents in Greystones and 19% of all incidents in Wicklow Town being alarm activations.

11% of incidents across the county were malicious fires in urban areas.

#### Incidents in County Kildare (8-incidents total):

- 08/03/2026 Baltinglass Fire Crew supported units from Carlow Town at an RTC at Davidstown Lower after a lorry had hit a wall.
- 09/03/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a river rescue at Forenaghts, Naas.
- 12/03/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a single car RTC at Junction 8 on the N7.
- 12/03/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Athy and Monasterevin at an RTC involving an overturned car at Junction 11, M7.
- 15/03/2026 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews attended an RTC involving a van on its side at Perry Street Cross Roads.
- 20/03/2026 Dunlavin Fire Crew attended a car fire at Gilbinstown.
- 29/03/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Newbridge and Offaly at a domestic house fire at Corkeragh, Staplestown.
- 30/03/2026 Baltinglass Fire Crew supported units from Carlow Town at an RTC at Ballyhade involving a car which had rolled over.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Incidents in County Wexford (3-incident total):

- 01/03/2026 Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at an RTC at Rossminoge North, Craanford.
- 03/03/2026 Arklow crew attended a car fire at Coolgreany.
- 31/03/2026 Carnew crew attended an outdoor fire at Clonamona Upper, Craanford.

## Fire Prevention Statistics March 2026

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	7	0	7	0	10
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	1	0	1	0	2
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	0	2	2
DACs	8	0	4	0	3
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

37 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment in March. Observations were made on 24 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	1	1	0	1	0
Circuit	0	1	0	1	1
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	0	3	0	0	0

Activities during the month of March included:

- Two new recruits completed their 3-week Firefighting Skills Course in Sligo and will be appointed to their positions shortly.
- Three personnel completed their 5-day initial Compartment Fire Behaviour module in Hacketstown.
- The Fire Service presented to the Audit Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

- A meeting of the East Region (Major Emergency Management) Steering Group took place in SDCC on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026.
- A meeting of all Sub-Station Officers took place in Wicklow Fire Station on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## **Building Control**

### **Commencement Notices for March 2026:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 52

- 16 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 25 Opt Out Declarations
- 10 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 1 Seven Day Notice

### **Submission Statistics**

- 48 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 57 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 30 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 12 with Compliance Documentation (40%)
  - 16 are Opt Out (53%)
  - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (3%)
  - 1 Seven Day Notice (3%)
- 40 Valid Commencement Notices
- 106 new build residential units
- 8 Apartments
- 23 domestic extensions
- 7 Non Res new builds
- 14 Invalidated CNs from March

### **Certificates of Completion processed in March 2026**

- 12 New No. of CCC submitted
- 9 Required Revised Information (75%)
- 14 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 40 new Residential units & 24 Apartments
- 1 Non Res. Builds

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Submission Statistics

- 14 No. Validated CCCs related to;
  - 3 No. CCCs submitted in February
  - 11 No. CCCs submitted in March

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

106 new residential houses, 8 apartments, 23 residential extensions and 7 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 40 newly residential units with an additional 12 apartments were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in March. This commencement figures would indicate that construction activity in Wicklow will continue to rise in 2026.

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

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

Building Control continued with multiple site inspections in March to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 7 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in March for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 57% of Commencement Notice submissions & 75% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

In March, Building Control attended the Eastern Region Quarterly Building Control meeting in Kildare County Council. The Annual Building Control Conference (ibci) was held in Galway and Building Control attended this also. Building Control staff continue to contribute to the NDFEM Codes of Practice Subgroup on a weekly basis.

## **Civil Defence**

Our volunteers were out once again supporting the community across the county.

St. Patricks Day our volunteers took part in parades across county Wicklow. As an organisation we always look forward to St. Patricks Day as we get a chance to get out and meet our community and have a little fun. Thank you to all our volunteers who came along and represented their organisation so professionally.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



A great day of training at our Scenario Day, giving our students training in Emergency First Response the chance to put their skills into practice in realistic situations. Training like this is key to building confidence, teamwork and real-world readiness. A huge thank you to Dublin Wicklow Mount Rescue for giving their time, helping to run scenarios and acting as patients — your support made a real difference to the quality of training.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



**LAIT WICKLOW**  
 Foireann Udaráis Aitiúil um Imeascad  
 Local Authority Integration Team

## Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	36	16	52
Baltinglass	679	31	710
Bray	192	518	710
Greystones	0	111	111
Wicklow	206	90	296
Total	1,113	766	1879

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	9
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,113
Of which are children	391

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	36
Baltinglass	679
Bray	192
Greystones	0
Wicklow	206

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2026	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	62
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	246
Total number of sessions with single adults	91

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Total number of sessions with couples	8
Total number of sessions with families	121

## LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for March

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	21
No. of Individuals	62
No. of Couples	3
No. of Families	48
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	2
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	3
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	20
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	32
No. of International Protection Applicants	57
No. Persons with Status	3
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	13



## Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	14
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	16
Employment/Enterprise	17
Events	4
Finance/Welfare	20
Health/Wellbeing	33
Language/Communication	3
Legal/Justice/Civic	18
Transportation	6
Miscellaneous	10

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Additional Activities

2026 Information Workshops			
Wednesday 18th March @10.00AM		Adult Education Guidance	Adult Education Guidance Service National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Access to Education Further Education and Training (FET) Pathways to Higher Education Higher Education Options and Fees Upskilling and Retraining Funding Support Useful Information Resources
Thursday 26th March @ 2.00PM		Navigating the Income Tax System	How to Register for My Account Registering a First Employment How Taxation Works (Emergency, Week 1 Cumulative) A Review of Common Credits Claimed How to Submit an Online Tax Return

## Ukrainian Response

### **BOTP in State Contracted Emergency Accommodation**

As of the end of February 2026, there are **766** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **16**
- Baltinglass MD: **31**
- Bray MD: **518**
- Greystones MD: **111**
- Wicklow MD: **90**

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

BOTP Centre information in Wicklow	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	766
Of which are children	190

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Offer a Home programme

The 'Offer a Home' programme is being managed by local authorities on behalf of Government. Rent is not payable to homeowners as they are offering the property but a tax-free payment, Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP), of €600 per month per property is available through the Government's Recognition Payment Scheme, managed by the Department of Social Protection.

Changes to the eligibility criteria for the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) have been introduced under [Part 3 of the Residential Tenancies \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2026](#).

From 3 March 2026, new applications for properties that have been registered with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) will no longer meet the scheme's eligibility criteria. This applies to properties registered with the RTB at any time since 4 March 2022. Tenants in rental properties will also no longer be eligible to make new applications for the scheme.

The Government has extended the ARP to 31 March 2027, in line with the [EU Temporary Protection Directive](#).

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Organisational Development

### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in March 2026:

- Project Liaison Officer (National Roads and Greenways) Interviews
- Strategic Promotions Officer Interviews
- Community Sports Development Officer Interviews
- Water Safety Officer Interviews
- Part-Time Cleaner Interviews
- Assistant Planner Interviews
- Executive Planner interviews
- Beach Lifeguard interviews

### Employee Numbers

<b>Employee Numbers</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q3 2025</b>	<b>Q4 2025</b>	<b>Q1 2026</b>
Managerial/Administrative	356	365	361	367
Professional/Technical	150	144	146	151
Outdoor	246	245	238	234
Temporary/Seasonal	95	96	58	60
Non DoHPLG	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>814</b>

### Freedom of Information

March 2026: 19	March 2025: 5
January – March 2026: 61	January – March 2025: 15

### Ombudsman Requests

March 2026: 3	March 2025: 1
January – March 2026: 6	January – March 2025: 10

### Press Releases

March 2026 – 17

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Register of Electors

Wicklow Co Co Franchise Section are now commencing the 'GoLive' preparatory work for the migration to the new National Register of Electors Database [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) .

As part of the 'Go Live' process for Wicklow online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) must be completed before the 20th April 2026. All applications that were parked due to their minor nature such as updating contact details etc. have now been followed up and completed. Work will commence on the process to the live [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) environment.

Wicklow CoCo will be moving to [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) as part of Wave 2 along with 3 other local authorities. There will be a further amount of testing and checking to be carried out from 24<sup>th</sup> April, and we are on scheduled to 'Go Live' with [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) in early June 2026.

## Customer Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2026 - March			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	7,935	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,962
No. of Customer Service Emails received	2,041	Revenue Transactions	1,686
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	88	Housing Counter Visits	368

## Energy Office

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

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

- Monthly energy reports on our Significant Energy Users (SEU)
- Library Service – New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing libraries
- Fire Service - New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing fire stations and fleet
- Fleet Management – Monitoring energy and carbon emissions of the WCC fleet

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

- Wicklow Gaol – Installation of a new boiler system, transitioning from kerosene to HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel to improve sustainability and reduce emissions.

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

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

Planned SEAI Pathfinder Projects for 2026.

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

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

## **Mid-East Energy Unit**

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
  - One stop shop for SEAI Pathfinder projects for Mid-East Region
  - Framework agreement established with the three successful contractors
- First EPC project for Kildare County Council anticipated contract signing Q2 2026
- Second EPC for Meath County Council anticipated contract signing Q2 2026
- Installing heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process
- Third EPC for Wicklow County Council invitation to compete in competitive dialogue issued in March 2026

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Finance, Water & Information Systems

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MARCH 2026							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	13,987,495	62,990,719	22%	(14,525,383)	(65,142,671)	22%	(537,888)
Road Transport & Safety	4,137,981	28,055,651	15%	(2,025,068)	(19,804,843)	10%	2,112,914
Water Services	1,024,820	4,382,330	23%	(1,291,357)	(5,354,831)	24%	(266,537)
Development Management	4,492,995	19,296,387	23%	(2,374,422)	(11,199,854)	21%	2,118,573
Environmental Services	5,064,380	20,044,291	25%	(1,567,077)	(6,082,483)	26%	3,497,303
Recreation and Amenity	2,468,019	10,517,175	23%	(277,638)	(1,393,762)	20%	2,190,381
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	492,095	2,081,928	24%	(165,265)	(694,328)	24%	326,830
Miscellaneous Services	1,847,063	9,588,050	19%	(3,770,318)	(17,287,651)	22%	(1,923,256)
Central Management Charges	6,780,055	27,283,644	25%	(230,429)	(1,050,000)	22%	6,549,626
Local Government Fund				(5,452,520)	(21,810,080)	25%	(5,452,520)
Commercial Rates				(8,626,821)	(34,419,672)	25%	(8,626,821)
	<b>40,294,903</b>	<b>184,240,175</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>(40,306,299)</b>	<b>(184,240,175)</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>(11,396)</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

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

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st Mar 2026					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2026	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/03/2026
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	12,487,427	17,157,166	(12,317,904)	0
Road Transport & Safety	(24,249,158)	4,151,643	(14,397)	0	(20,111,912)
Water Services	(6,335,116)	185,414	(3,485)	0	(6,153,187)
Development Management	(64,738,651)	28,014	(1,376,150)	0	(66,086,787)
Environmental Services	4,635,816	1,011,476	(482,516)	0	5,164,776
Recreation and Amenity	3,302,756	554,004	(169,871)	0	3,686,889
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,225,465)	10,892	0	90,000	(2,124,573)
Miscellaneous Services	(6,311,917)	(1,663,759)	(4,114)	2,848,175	(5,131,616)
	<b>(83,434,307)</b>	<b>21,434,850</b>	<b>(14,368,438)</b>	<b>2,938,175</b>	<b>(73,429,720)</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st March 2026										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2026	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2026	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	2,830,358	34,506,037	0	0	121,396	37,284,836	(11,374,028)	25,910,808	553,565	31%
Rents & Annuities	2,760,539	4,802,977	0	0	0	7,563,516	(5,068,901)	2,494,615	0	67%
Housing Loans	447,005	617,525	0	0	0	1,064,530	(584,652)	479,878	0	55%

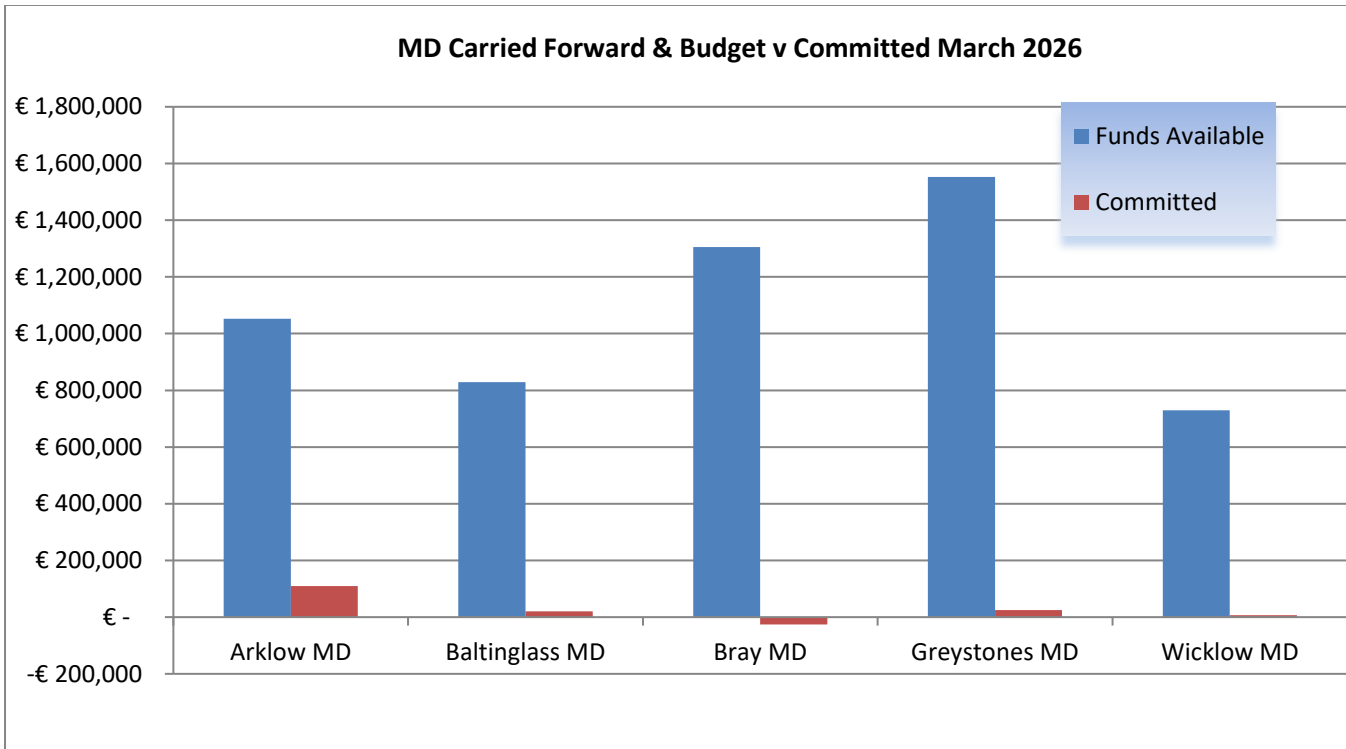
**NB:** Collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2026

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2025	Adopted Budget 2026	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	517,434	534,901	1,052,335	109,086	943,249
Baltinglass MD	317,834	510,901	828,735	20,971	807,764
Bray MD	604,785	700,368	1,305,153	- 25,824	1,330,977
Greystones MD	1,040,878	511,901	1,552,779	25,348	1,527,431
Wicklow MD	213,125	515,901	729,026	6,995	722,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,694,056</b>	<b>2,773,972</b>	<b>5,468,028</b>	<b>136,576</b>	<b>5,331,452</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



## Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

The Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 7th 2025. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>HOUSING AND BUILDING</b>	97,600,000	146,800,000	227,450,000	<b>471,850,000</b>	-	30,000,000	414,800,000	27,050,000	<b>471,850,000</b>
<b>ROAD TRANSPORT &amp; SAFETY</b>	30,102,000	37,019,000	30,280,000	<b>97,401,000</b>	23,201,000	7,000,000	64,800,000	2,400,000	<b>97,401,000</b>
<b>WATER SERVICES</b>	255,000	140,000	140,000	<b>535,000</b>	-	-	535,000	-	<b>535,000</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT</b>	5,889,420	6,872,557	9,747,343	<b>22,509,320</b>	2,466,157	-	15,470,959	4,572,204	<b>22,509,320</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	7,920,000	23,070,000	23,687,000	<b>54,677,000</b>	-	-	48,377,000	6,300,000	<b>54,677,000</b>
<b>RECREATION AND AMENITY</b>	7,960,000	13,875,000	21,313,572	<b>43,148,572</b>	13,692,072	-	25,486,500	3,970,000	<b>43,148,572</b>
<b>AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</b>	5,700,000	16,410,000	23,500,000	<b>45,610,000</b>	1,759,500	-	37,175,500	6,675,000	<b>45,610,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES</b>	900,000	900,000	900,000	<b>2,700,000</b>	-	-	-	2,700,000	<b>2,700,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>156,326,420</b>	<b>245,086,557</b>	<b>337,017,915</b>	<b>738,430,892</b>	<b>41,118,729</b>	<b>37,000,000</b>	<b>606,644,959</b>	<b>53,667,204</b>	<b>738,430,892</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## 7. Capital Funded Projects

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Information Systems

### Operations

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

### GIS & Systems Analysis

#### Transport & Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities

Work has been completed on a Sustainable Communities Report to support housing proposals in Newtownmountkennedy. This report assesses the availability of key local services, including education, healthcare, transport, and recreational facilities. It provides an evidence-based overview to ensure new developments are supported by appropriate infrastructure.

#### Planning Data and MyPlan Submissions

Significant progress has been made in preparing planning data for submission to the Department's MyPlan system. This included improving the accuracy of zoning maps and updating spatial data to support Local Area Plans in Wicklow Town–Rathnew, Greystones–Delgany, and Kilcoole. These updates are important to ensure consistency and transparency in the statutory planning process.

#### Call for Sites and Public Mapping Tools

A number of digital tools have been developed to support the Call for Sites process. This includes both an internal assessment portal and a public-facing map viewer, which will be launched following data preparation. Enhancements to mapping data and analysis tools have improved how sites are assessed against environmental and zoning criteria.

#### Environmental Mapping and Biodiversity Projects

Work has commenced on a new interactive mapping project focused on swift bird populations. Data has been received and is currently being processed, including information on nest box locations. This project will support biodiversity awareness and conservation efforts. It builds on existing environmental mapping initiatives and will be made available to the public.

#### Electoral Areas, Data Sharing and Support Services

Progress has been made in updating polling district information, including the identification of additional polling stations and preparation of supporting maps. The team also facilitated external data requests, including supporting a Town Centre Health Check for Carnew and Wicklow Town.

#### Systems Development and Operational Support

A wide range of systems and applications have been maintained and enhanced to support Council operations. This includes new tools for housing, enforcement, finance, and broadband planning, as well as continued development of modern GIS web applications. Staff training and user support have been provided to ensure effective use of these systems

### Infrastructure

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