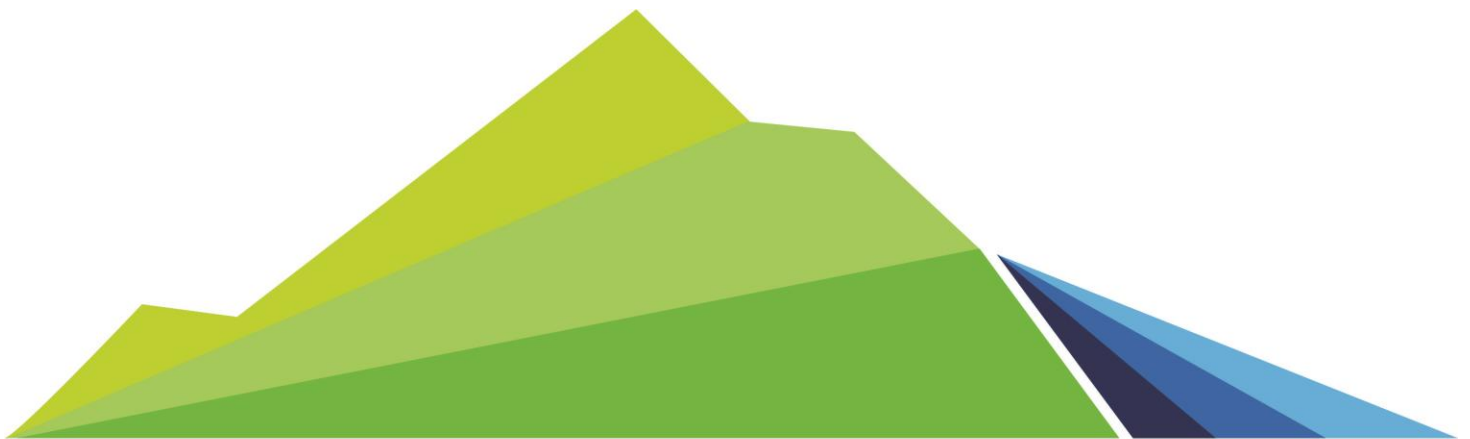


DECEMBER 2022



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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## This month:

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLISHES 2022 GENDER PAY GAP REPORT

Wicklow County Council has published its Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022. The gender pay gap is the difference in the average hourly wage of men and women across a workforce.

Employers with more than 250 employees in Ireland are now required to publish their gender pay gap data.

The 2022 report shows a Gender Pay Gap of -1.88 %, which shows females are paid 1.88% more than males and the median gender pay gap is -4.62%, which shows the average female is paid 4.62% more than the average male. Further details and statistics are outlined in our report.

Publishing the gender pay gap data helps the Council to reinforce its focus on supporting an open and inclusive workplace. Wicklow County Council is a place where all employees have the same opportunities for recognition and career development and are treated fairly and equitably at work.

The Council continues to be committed to addressing workplace barriers to equality and creating an open and inclusive workplace community. Many equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives and supports are already in place, and we will continue to work in this area.

See the Council's Gender Pay Gap report here [Gender Pay Gap Report](#)

### Launch of Accessibility Toolkit for Community Groups

A "toolkit" which shows how local community and sports groups can be more accessible and inclusive to people with disabilities will be launched by Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) on Friday (Dec 2).

The toolkit offers practical advice for sports and community groups about how to make their facilities and meeting spaces as accessible as possible. It also gives tips on how to make communication clear for everyone, and how best to include people with disabilities in the management of clubs and societies.

### Launch of Mid-East Energy Unit

The three local authorities of Wicklow, Meath, and Kildare County Councils have come together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of the Mid East Energy Unit.

The establishment of the Mid East Energy Unit will provide a platform for the three local authorities to work collaboratively to bring about measurable climate action mitigation, encourage a culture of energy saving and carbon reduction in the region and, with the SEAI, to provide support services for energy management, awareness, auditing, opportunity identification, and project development and delivery in the region.

## Housing & Community

### 1. Housing

#### Housing Needs Assessment

Wicklow County Council Housing Needs Assessments was completed and submitted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

	November 2022	November 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4570	4486
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	193	250
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2679	2439
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	22	18
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	30	30

#### Allocation of Social Housing

	November 2021	November 2022
Wicklow County Council	23	15
Approved Housing Bodies	1	16

#### Social Housing Stock

	November 2022	November 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,803	4,656
Total weekly rental accrual	314,805.68	303,984.46
Arrears	2,968,385.39	2,571,069.17

#### Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

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

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Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2023
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 complete – tender documents being prepared
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Retendered, Contract awarded.
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Stage 2 approval received – Part 8 advertised
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Part 8 received. Site start during Q4 2022
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5

Public Private Partnership.

- We are awaiting a decision on the site at Tinahask in Arklow.

## Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	18 Delivered, remaining 2 Units Scheduled Q4 2022	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022 , 3 Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Wicklow Town	4	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	5	Delivered Q3 2022	CALF
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Scheduled Q4 2022/Q1 2023	WCC
Greystones	60	44 Delivered, 16 Scheduled Q4 2022	CALF
Enniskerry	2	Delivered Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF

## Potential units

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

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

## Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Arklow	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	CALF
Rathnew	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	188	30 Units Delivered Q2-Q3, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q4 2022	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	45	23 Delivered, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q4 2022/Q1 2023	CALF

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

## Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

## Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,299,375 (2022 budget) €1,400,585.10 spent to date

› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 (2022 budget) (€630,526.87 spent to date)

### Private Houses

› Open Applications 126 (some carried over from 2021, approvals not included in this figure)

› Approved applications 206 (some carried over from 2021)

No of applications received:

Year	No of Private Grant applications received
2019	216
2020	266
2021	327
2022 (to 11 <sup>th</sup> October)	275

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

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

### Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contactor on site
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete commencement of design and build project to begin shortly
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Detailed design complete – stage 3 approval received

### Vacant Homes Scheme

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

30 South Green, Arklow	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. House will be Vested in Wicklow Co Co
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## DECEMBER 2022



	with effect from 5 <sup>th</sup> of December 2022. Dealing pending at Land Registry.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. House now Vested in Wicklow Co Co with effect from 12 <sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Dealing pending at Land Registry.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. <b>Council tenant now in situ.</b>
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	House now in possession of WCC since 8 <sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Compensation package to be agreed.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchased by agreement with Receiver. In our possession since 20/5/2022 and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála held on 21 <sup>st</sup> June. Purchase by agreement with Receiver now complete (in WCC ownership from 24 <sup>th</sup> of October 2022).
114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing opened on 20 <sup>th</sup> of October but adjourned for 3 months to allow parties to conclude sale by agreement. Negotiations underway.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Oral Hearing did not proceed as house now acquired by agreement from Receiver.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO confirmed 12 <sup>th</sup> April. Confirmation newspaper ad 26 <sup>th</sup> April. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. House in possession of WCC since 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2022. This house will require a Vesting Order – which cannot happen until Feb 2023 at the earliest. Refurbishment work to follow.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 <sup>th</sup> of June. Compensation now agreed. Contracts being exchanged.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 <sup>th</sup> of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 <sup>st</sup> week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022. CPO Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála 12 <sup>th</sup> of October. 8 week period to allow for application to High Court for Judicial Review. Notice to Treat will follow in Mid December if no JR.
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 <sup>st</sup> week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022. CPO Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála 12 <sup>th</sup> of October. 8 week period to allow for application to High

	Court for Judicial Review. Notice to Treat will follow in Mid December if no JR.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	CPO confirmed. Receiver in contact with Council with a view to purchase by agreement. Our Valuer has inspected the house and has prepared his report – purchase underway.

A further CPO of a long term vacant house in Arklow will be published in December.

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

## Croí Cónaithe

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Infill Sites

- Blackhills - Two 3 bed semi-detached properties are completed and allocated.
- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes has been tendered and a contractor appointed. To commence on site shortly.

## Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000 and due to the significant increase in cost of new installations, only 19 houses will be done in 2022. 17 of those installations were complete as of 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

## Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

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

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## Local Authority Home loans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
77	25

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	November 2022
Applications Received	388	3
Completed	95	2
Declined	268	3
Ongoing	25	25

## Homeless figures for November 2022

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/11/2022	Year To Date	As at 30/11/2021
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	27	397	20
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	0	17	10
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	7	177	16
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	19	219	13
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	1	15	1
<b>No. of Children</b>	14	324	30
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	5	144	9
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	12	131	8
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	0	9	0
<b>Mental Health</b>	2	12	2
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	2	27	0
<b>Arrears/Loss of Income</b>	0	11	1
<b>Addiction Issues</b>	2	20	5
<b>DV/DA</b>	3	34	1
<b>Medical Issues</b>	1	6	4
<b>Overcrowding</b>	3	14	0
<b>Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left</b>	1	50	4

## DECEMBER 2022



ASB:	0	6	1
Rough Sleeping*	1	10	2
Sofa Surfing*	8	43	0
Staying with Family*	5	65	3
Staying with Friends*	2	19	0

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/11/2022	
Families	21
Adults	36
Children	57
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/11/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	26	21	7	6	3	2	3
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/11/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	17	14	5	5	1	3	1

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 421 households (308 families & 108 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. (181 homeless cases, 231 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 126 properties were sourced by WCC.

### Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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

## DECEMBER 2022



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

### **Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow**

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

All of the apartments in the hub are now occupied.

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

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

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

### **Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones**

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

### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

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

### **Housing First**

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 12 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that 1 further allocation will take place before the end of 2022. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

### **Traveller accommodation**

A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019 - 2024 has been completed and submitted to the Traveller Accommodation Unit.

### **Capital Programme**

<b>Ballintесkin – 3 houses</b>	Contractor on site
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses</b>	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design and tender documents complete - stage 3 issued to the dept for funding 3 weeks ago – awaiting response
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses</b>	Stage 2 approval received. Pre part V111 discussions underway.
<b>Ballintесkin Extension</b>	Contractor on site – Family have moved to allow for works to be completed.

Fire safety on Halting sites has commenced on most of the traveller sites, will be completed shortly.

## Energy Efficiency

### Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 - Works commenced 60 of them.

## Ukrainian Response

- As of 5<sup>th</sup> December the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,373 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 221 No.
  - Baltinglass MD 241 No.
  - Bray MD 620 No.
  - Greystones MD 147 No.
  - Wicklow MD 144 No.
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
  - WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 5<sup>th</sup> December we will have housed 131 number displaced Ukrainian people. Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
  - A new National Vacant Home call lead by Local Authorities has been launched, and is currently in place for a property to be pledged directly to Wicklow County Council [offerahome@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:offerahome@wicklowcoco.ie)
  - The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis



## 2. Community

### Age Friendly Ireland

#### County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The full draft of the new Age Friendly Strategy 2023- 2027, will be presented to the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance for consideration, at its next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December, before it is presented to the full Council Meeting, for adoption in January 2023.

#### Older Person’s Council



Over 150 older people from across County Wicklow travelled to the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, on Friday (25<sup>th</sup> November) for the Older People’s Council Seminar and Open Day. This is first such event to be held since pandemic restrictions forced the postponement of the 2020 gathering.

Keynote speakers at the event included Michelle O’Hara, Regional Manager, South Leinster, MABS; Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Sage Advocacy Services & Safeguarding Ireland, Conor Geoghegan, Head of Services (South), ALONE, and Alice Corbett, Regional Manager, Age Friendly Ireland.

In addition to staff from MABS, Sage and ALONE support services, members of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance also had staff attending the event, to provide information on service and supports for older people, including: An Garda Siochana, Fire Safety Services, Citizens Information Services, County Wicklow Libraries Services, Healthy Ireland, Local Sports Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership, and also the Public Participation Network.

Minister Simon Harris met with the staff at the information stands before addressing the audience on from the stage. Senator Pat Casey, Age Friendly Ambassador for County Wicklow, Cllr Pat Kennedy and Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, WCC also attended the event.

#### TrioBikes for Community Care



Wicklow County Council purchased two triobikes, with funding from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, to be deployed to two community care centres for the use of older people in their care and vulnerable older adults with limited mobility, for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Introductory pilot training was delivered by Clara Clarke, Cycling without Age, to a group of volunteers from Baltiglass Community Hospital and Carnew Community Care Centre, at Wicklow County Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The triobikes were also used for demonstrations to the Older People’s Council at the OPC Seminar and Open Day at the Brockagh Centre, Laragh on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## Library

### Chair Yoga at your Library with Siel Bleu

As part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, Siel Bleu are delivering Chair Yoga sessions in Blessington, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow libraries. These sessions with Siel Bleu demonstrate that you don't have to get out of your chair to get active – a proven way to increase movement and improve fitness without getting up! All welcome to join in just book your place and learn how to improve flexibility, muscle strength and most importantly, socialise!

### Michael Fortune of Folklore.ie Christmas talks

Folklore is such an important part of our nation's history, a lot of what we know now stems from stories told over the years. Michael Fortune is a collector of Irish Folklore and has a wealth of information and stories to share. Michael will be in 3 of Wicklow's Libraries during the month of December so if you are free to come along. Michael will be looking at Christmas from a uniquely Irish perspective. Delving into Michael's wealth of research and knowledge, his talks will introduce you to customs and traditions found around the country from Christmas past. Michael will be delighted to hear about your childhood Christmas memories too!

He will be in:

Arklow Library at 11.00 am on Wednesday 14th of December, Carnew Library on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm and in Blessington Library on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm.



### Way With Words Festival – Blessington

Wicklow County Council's Arts Office and Library Service hosted the Way with Words Literature Festival on Saturday 19th November 2022 in Blessington Library.



## DECEMBER 2022



Designed for writers and readers, this day-long mini-festival featured readings, workshops, in-conversations and song for all ages.

The line-up included Claire Keegan, Declan Burke, Louise Phillips, Peter Donnelly and Sarah Sparkles. There was something for all ages and just under 100 attendees in total.

### Supporting your anxious teen – talks and webinar



Supporting anxious teenagers is a topic of interest to many parents and caregivers. At a recent talk in Greystones library, there was a packed house for a talk by psychologist Jane Watson. Wicklow County Library Service realise through feedback from the library floors that there is a definite need for accurate and timely information to be accessible to concerned parents.

With thanks to Healthy Ireland [@drmaryokane](#) will be giving a FREE webinar for Wicklow County Council Library Service on Monday 5th December.

The talk is called Supporting Anxious Teens, and in it she will explain how anxiety impacts teenagers and explains how changes in the teenage brain make it more susceptible to mental health issues. She will then give some practical advice on how to support teenagers during difficult times, helping them to manage their fears and become more resilient.

### Christmas Wreath Making

As part of the Warm Winter Welcome Programme, adults from Blessington, Bray and Ballywaltrim have the opportunity to take part in a Christmas wreath making workshop.

Join Aoife from Wicklow Willow for a fun and festive Christmas Wreath-making Workshop in Bray Library on Wednesday 7th December at 10am - 12.30pm and Monday 12th December at 3 pm in Ballywaltrim Library. Participants will learn how to make their very own traditional Christmas Wreath, using all natural materials including Willow, Ivy, Holly and Larch.

Tracey from Hollywood Florists will facilitate a wreath making workshop in Blessington Library on Thursday December 8th at 6 pm.

### Claire Keegan & Kathleen Murray, Wicklow Library

Claire Keegan, novelist and short story writer will be joined by fellow author, Kathleen Murray for what promises to be a wonderful evening of literary chat at Wicklow Library on Tuesday 6th of December. Claire's work has won numerous awards, her most recent work *Small Things Like These* was shortlisted for the 2022 Rathbones Folio Prize, won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award and was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2022.

Kathleen Murray is from Carlow and has also published numerous works including short stories and anthologies. Kathleen was the first winner of The Fish Short Story prize and her first novel *The Deadwood Encore* was published in 2022.

### Online Resources Ballywaltrim

Come to Ballywaltrim Library on Wednesday, 12th December at 3pm for an information session on our Online Resources. Learn how to access the catalogue and request books, use our eBook and eAudiobook services, read newspapers or learn a new language or skills! Booking required, call 01 272 3205 or email [ballywaltrimlib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:ballywaltrimlib@wicklowcoco.ie)

## Adult Storytelling Greystones Library

Everyone loves a good story telling session! Join storyteller Catherine Brophy in Greystones Library on Tuesday, December 13th at 7 pm for an adult storytelling session.

## Sustainable Crafts



To play our part in the move to reverse climate change, there is a move towards sustainable crafting in our libraries. Recently a sustainable Christmas tree craft for adults took place in Greystones Library. This is an ongoing activity with adults using pre-loved library books to make baubles and scratched CD's and DVD's to make the most striking, show stopping Sustainable Christmas Tree.



Sustainable crafting for children will take place in Baltinglass and Blessington Libraries, featuring the Cardboard Collectif. In this Sustainable Christmas workshop, each participant will transform a cardboard box into their own magical shadow puppet theatre and create a cast of shadow puppets to perform.

The workshop will include live music, puppetry performance and optical illusion storytelling.

## Personal Safety Information Morning Wicklow Library

Wicklow County Council Library Service will be running a series of personal safety information sessions in libraries across the county in the coming months.

The first talk takes place in Wicklow Town Library on Monday, December 5th, at 12 noon.

Garda Niall Kennedy from Wicklow Town Garda Station will be giving a talk on personal safety. This is the perfect opportunity to ask questions and get to know your local Garda.

## Board Games Bray Library

Every Tuesday morning Dominos and Word Race games are available in the library for our adult patrons to play. Part of the Winter Welcome programme – this is a fun way to while away an hour or two while also getting to meet new people.

### Bray Library Comics Club

Bray Library finished off their Dormant Accounts funded Comic Club in November with a bang - twenty children from the three participating schools participated in a Monster Doodle for the launch of their collaborative 'zine. The nine week project for Dylexic children was a great success with school staff noting that the children had noticeably increased confidence and engagement in class discussions.

## Twiddle Muffs Knitting for Alzheimers Wicklow Library



Wicklow Town Library Knitters did a shout out recently to get knitters to come together and knit some “twiddle muffs”. Twiddle Muffs are knitted muffs with items attached to keep peoples’ hands active and busy. People with neurodegenerative disorders often have restless hands and like to have something to keep their hands busy. It’s a wonderful source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation but also keeps their hands snug and warm at the same time.

Many thanks to the knitters who donated their time to create these muffs that will help provide some peace to people living with dementia, Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative disorders.

## Chess for Adults

If you’ve ever wanted to learn chess, now is your chance, Greystones and Ballywaltrim libraries will be hosting an adult chess workshop for over 55s with @red\_king\_chess during December.

## DECEMBER 2022



An experienced chess instructor will be on hand to give lessons to beginners and facilitate games for more experienced players. Learn a new skill or enjoy a few friendly games. Please contact Ballywaltrim library [ballywaltrimlib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:ballywaltrimlib@wicklowcoco.ie) or [greylib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:greylib@wicklowcoco.ie) for further information.

### Sunday Newspapers now at Wicklow and Arklow Libraries

Sunday newspapers including the Sunday Times, Sunday Independent, Sunday World, Star and Business Post now available at our 'My Open Library' MOL services at Wicklow Town and Arklow libraries.

MOL library members can use the library on a self-service basis from 8:00am through to 10:00pm, 365 days per year. A number of services are available during these hours including the chance to browse and checkout or return books using the self-service kiosks, use WiFi, read newspapers, use PCs, study and reserve community rooms if desired.

Users of the My Open Library Service need to register as a MOL patron and also attend a short in-person induction. Please contact the libraries for further information.

### Christmas in Wicklow – 1947, Talk in Wicklow Library

In his talk '*Christmas 1947 in Wicklow*', historian Jim Scannell will, using historical newspapers, explore how Christmas was celebrated just two years after the end of World War 2.

Most of Europe still lay in ruins with many countries still in the process of rebuilding their infrastructure. Within Ireland, rationing was still in operation, tuberculosis was rampant, and emigration to Britain was the only option for the thousands of skilled and unskilled workers needed to rebuild Britain's war ravaged cities and towns.

Locally, Christmas was 'make or break' for traders who prided themselves on the quality of their goods and services, while for many families, the arrival of funds from family members working in the United States of America or Britain decided the manner in which they celebrated the festive season.

Mince pies, tea and coffee will be served and a selection of historical newspapers will be available to browse. To book your place, call Wicklow Library on 0404-67025 or email [Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie).

### Genealogy Advisory Service:

### Genealogy Advice at Wicklow Library

Who do you think you are?

**Free Drop-in Genealogy Advisory Service**

Wicklow Local Studies Library  
Thursday 15th December  
6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

A member of Our Wicklow Heritage

The hugely popular Genealogy Advisory Service is back on **Thursday 15th December 6.30 to 8.30pm** for anyone interested in tracing their family tree or carrying out family history research. An accredited local expert genealogist will be on hand to guide you through your research, answer outstanding questions and point you to available resources. This free event takes place in the Local Studies Library, Salthouse Lane, Wicklow Town. No appointment is necessary.

For further information email [Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie) or phone 087 2683724



## **Disability Inclusion Steering Committee Update**

Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) introduce the Accessibility Toolkit, for community and voluntary groups in County Wicklow, at a launch event in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

The toolkit was developed by the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) of Wicklow County Council. This Steering Committee includes people with disabilities, representatives of disability organisations, elected councillors from each of the five Municipal Districts and other representatives. To develop this toolkit, the committee consulted with community and voluntary groups through the County Wicklow Public Participation Network, and with people with disabilities and those close to them.

## **Arts**

### **Baltinglass Christmas Concert**

Wicklow Arts Office is collaborating with Baltinglass Christmas Lights and B.ART (Baltinglass Art Group) to support the upcoming Tree Lighting and Santa visit with a free concert.

Featuring Naoimh Penston and Friends, events take place in Fatima Hall starting 5pm, Sunday, 4th December 2022 under Creative Places Baltinglass thanks to Arts Council support.

### **Making Music with Trio Táin: the Wicklow Teaching Residency**

Wicklow Arts Office and Music Network have partnered to bring back the Music Teaching Residency to Wicklow. Teaching will be provided by Trio Táin, comprising renowned Wicklow musicians Aisling Ennis (harp), Vourneen Ryan (flute/recorder) and Robin Panter (violin/viola) and will be based in the Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew for the duration of the residency.

This residency focuses is on encouraging people aged 55+ to return to playing an instrument and to share in the joy of group music-making. Participants will receive free tuition from the trio on harp, flute, recorder, violin or viola from November 2022 to March 2023.

Following an open call for participants, the Residency received 29 applications for 15 places on the programme. The selected participants include 3 men and 12 women and they come from across Wicklow County including Bray, Wicklow, Ashford, Glenealy, Enniskerry, Greystones, Blainroe, Blessington, Arklow and Kilpedder. As part of the programme, Wicklow Arts Office has purchased new instruments which will be added to the Library Loan Scheme managed by Music Network Wicklow when the programme draws to a close.

### **The Barn Ensemble: the Wicklow Teaching Residency**

Originating from a Wicklow Art Office and Music Network initiative in 2021 designed for people over 55, Making Music with Sonamus, The Barn Ensemble plays traditional and baroque music. The Barn Ensemble has now evolved to become a self-defined residency which focuses on ensemble work and addressing challenges and opportunities through ongoing consultation and teaching. Current members play cellos, guitars, keyboards and tin whistles and the recruitment process for new members has begun. Once recruitment is complete, Wicklow Arts Office will issue a press release announcing the continuation of the programme and will assist The Barn Ensemble in identifying two concert opportunities for 2023.

### **Rathdrum Cultural Engagement Survey**

Wicklow County Arts Office recently invited residents of Rathdrum and surrounding communities to participate in a Cultural Engagement Survey which aims to build a detailed picture of arts and cultural engagement in Rathdrum.

The survey was designed to capture the views, insights and ideas of the community in relation to recent and future creative programmes and will help to ensure that all future outcomes are deeply rooted and shaped by the community. This initiative reinforces Wicklow Arts Office's commitment to place-making in Rathdrum and it received 225 responses. The findings will be collated into a report by Brian O'Regan from Arts Leaders Association.

### **Way with Words Literature Festival 2022**

Wicklow Arts Office and Wicklow Library Service partnered to deliver the fourth edition of the Way with Words Literature Festival on Saturday 19th November 2022 in Blessington Library.

Designed for writers and readers, this day long mini festival is funded by Creative Ireland and features readings, workshops, in-conversations and song for all ages with a variety of genres and

### **N81 Knockroe Bends Art Commission**

Wicklow Arts Office sought proposals for an imaginative and contemporary sculptural work that would capitalise on the natural beauty of the landscape and the built environment of the many historic towns and villages along the N81 route.

This site-specific Per Cent for Art Commission for the N81 Knockroe Bends is located on the N81 south of Hollywood Cross at the junction with the local road L8314. The project consists of a realignment of the N81 over a distance of 0.85km in County Wicklow.

The budget available for the successful artist(s) for the commission is €100,000.00, and this is an open call for a two-stage competition.

The closing date for Stage 1 applications was Wednesday, 23rd November 2022 at 4pm and the adjudication panel are meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December to shortlist applications for Stage 2.

### **Community Choral Re-Activation**

In 2019, Wicklow Arts Office published the Community Choral Activation Plan. Developed in consultation with 18 choirs of varying ages and genres from across County Wicklow, the actions included the development of a new and countywide choral network, development of both choral music practitioners and singers, and the launch of a Sing in Wicklow website delivered by BigO media.

Unfortunately, work had to be put on hold due to the pandemic but following a recent open call for performances by choirs as part of Culture Night 2022 and a focus group with 7 Wicklow choirs, Wicklow Arts Office have reengaged BIGO media and begun the process of updating the Sing in Wicklow website in preparation for its launch in the new year. This will be accompanied by programme of activities and events to address the development of a new network and the development of choral music practitioners and singers through workshops, collaboration and increase in capacity.

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

- The 2023 SICAP budgets for the Wicklow Lots are as follows: Lot 15-1 Bray Area Partnership: €793,231 and for Lot 15-2 Co. Wicklow Partnership: €721,960. This represents a 3% increase on last year.
- Submission of the SICAP Annual Plans 2023 to the LCDC by the two Partnerships will occur once the Department of Rural & Community Development announces the SICAP Ukrainian budgets for next year.

## Public Participation Network (PPN):

Consultations: Wicklow Local Sports & Recreation Partnership Open Forum; Beach Audit for Wicklow County Coastline; Co Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye Laws of 2022; WCC Recreation & Sports Needs Assessment; St. Mary's College Arklow (as part of BT Young Scientist Competition) – Would you live in a retirement village for independent living survey; NTA Local Link Survey; Shemalere Offshore Wind Farm Foreshore Licence Application; Public Consultation on Digital Public Services; Proposed levy on single use disposable cups; Climate Change in Rural Ireland-Older People's Perspectives.

Training Courses & Workshops: SOS Wellness Workshops; Grow Remote; Hi Digital Training Programme; Wicklow Local Sports & Recreation Partnership online training sessions.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Apple Blossom Fund; Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan; Women's Shed Funding; Brexit Blue Enterprise Development Scheme; Community Monuments Fund; Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESS); Community Enhancement Scheme 2022 Community Support Fund.

- Development of the Wicklow Disability Toolkit has been completed. This will support community groups and sports clubs to be more inclusive of People with Disabilities.

See [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) for further information on above or email [info@countywicklowppn.ie](mailto:info@countywicklowppn.ie)

## **The Community Enhancement Scheme 2022 Community Support Fund (CEP 2022 CSF)**

The Community Enhancement Scheme 2022 Community Support Fund has been announced with a closing date of 31 March 2023 – this is being processed by Wicklow County Council. Wicklow's allocation is €308,834. This scheme is administered through the LCDC and will be advertised in the New Year. Details of the scheme together with the application form will be available in early January 2023.

**The Community Support Fund** will provide small grants to a wide and diverse range of local community groups to assist with their running costs. Funding will be available to support Parish Halls, Community Centres, Local Development Associations, Social Clubs, ICA Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and much more. The new scheme has been devised to support groups with their energy costs who may **not** have been deemed eligible under previous Government schemes. These include groups that operate from parish halls and who need support with running costs such as energy or insurance bills. Groups can also use the funding **to carry out small upgrade works and to purchase equipment to support their activities** such as laptops and printers, lawnmowers, training equipment, etc.

## DECEMBER 2022



### The Community Enhancement Scheme 2022 Community Support Fund (CEP 2022 CSF) Women's Shed Funding

The Department of Rural and Community Development has decided to allocate €100,000 nationally to fund operating costs in Womens Sheds. This is a ring-fenced fund under the Community Support Fund 2022 which will be administered as part of the Community Support Fund. The application process is being administered by Local Community Development Committees in tandem with the general Community Support Fund and will be advertised in the New Year. Details of the scheme together with the application form will be available in early January 2023.

### The Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESS) (operated by Pobal)

The Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESS) has been announced with a closing date of 02 December 2022 – this is being processed via Pobal and full scheme details are available [on the Pobal website](#). Groups will need to log onto the website to register before submitting an application via the website. The timeframe for applications is Monday 21 November to 02 December.

The scheme is designed to help the sector with their increased bills, which is having an impact on the operations of many community and voluntary groups. The scheme will provide once-off support to organisations within the Community and Voluntary sector which fall outside the parameters of other energy support schemes being delivered by Government such as the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS). It is expected that payments under the scheme will commence before the end of this year and into early 2023.

### Local Economic and Community Plan

#### Goal 1 - Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development

##### Town and Village Projects

##### Applied for – awaiting decision

Measure	Location	Funding Amount
T&V Marketing Campaign	County-wide	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Carnew	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Kiltegan	€50,000
T&V	Arklow	€500,000
T&V	Rathdrum	€250,000
T&V	Kilcoole	€250,000
T&V	Ashford	€114,300
T&V	Laragh	€99,142
T&V	Blessington	€36,000



## ORIS Projects Applied for – Awaiting Decision

Blessington Greenway	Enhancement of trails within Russborough House	€178,380
Glenmalure	Glenmalure community riverside walk and recreation area – upgrade existing trail	€119,790
Coolkenno	Construction of equestrian trail	€198,000
Roundwood	Roundwood Recreation area – bike hub, bridge, signage, promotion	€495,000

## Goal 2 - Promote active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

PPN	Online Training courses in November: Let's Develop Group Teamwork and Leadership Q&A on Governance Event – 'Falling Through the Cracks – Hidden Poverty in Co. Wicklow (an online conversation) – report available
Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg Youth Summit Three priority areas chosen: Mental Health Drugs Cost of Living
Older Persons Council	Wicklow Older person's Annual Council & Seminar 2022

## Goal 3 - Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

Draft Food Poverty Report will be completed by end 2022 and launched 2023

### Key Recommendations:

- County wide co-ordination of community food provision
- Improve and build on Community Food Infrastructure
  - Additional Meals on Wheels providers
  - Community Cafés
  - Food Banks
  - Food Vouchers\*\*
- Information Provision
- Resources to Address Short-term Growth in Food Poverty
- 'Middle Class' Food Poverty
- Database of Community Food Providers and Services
- The Role of Schools and Community Early Years
- Addressing Food Knowledge Poverty
- Develop and Agree an Action Plan on Food Poverty in Wicklow.
- 'Cost of Living' crisis requiring immediate intervention:
- \*\* Establish an emergency fund to provide emergency food/fuel vouchers distributed through project partners

### **New €10 million fund of local community & voluntary groups with their energy bills and other costs**

The new scheme has been devised to support groups with their energy costs who may not have been deemed eligible under previous Government schemes.

This new scheme is about supporting these groups with their costs whether it's the electricity bill, insurance costs or other overheads.

Groups can also use the funding to carry out small upgrade works and to purchase equipment to support their activities such as laptops and printers, lawnmowers, training equipment, etc.

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

### **Development of new Local Economic and Community Plan**

Workshops with key stakeholders will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (in the Glenview Hotel) for the community sector and 9<sup>th</sup> December (hybrid in the Council Chamber) for the economic sector.

Consultation process so far:

Social Inclusion Women's Network – 60 participants

Breakfast Briefing – approx. 100 participants

Comhairle na nÓg – approx. 100 participants

Wicklow MD

Greystones MD

Baltinglass MD

Arklow MD

Bray MD

Online consultation

2 written submissions

Online survey

### **Engagement with Marginalised Communities**

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

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

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

### **Core Aims & Actions**

Through the networks available – to members of the LCDC, WCC & Co Wicklow PPN, key community leaders and service providers within/working with the target groups will be identified and encouraged to undertake training that will support them to understand the background & context for developing the VCWB & the LECP as well as providing them with the facilitation skills & tools needed for them to run this process of consultation in their communities & those they work with.

This will extend the reach of the consultations and engage with those groups which are harder to reach.

The facilitators will also be trained to support the data analysis process that will inform and develop the VCWB as well as the LECP.

This in-depth consultation should also provide direction and help prioritise some of the actions within the LECP.

Collaborating with key agencies in this process should also result in cohesive & complimentary local plans, work plans and strategies e.g. SICAP and LEADER plans.

Record and report on the learning from this process

Targeted workshops with key stakeholders will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Glenview Hotel from 2pm – 4pm focusing on the community side; and on 9<sup>th</sup> December in county buildings, focusing on the economic side. Following this the draft of the high level vision and goals will be finalised.

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities

- **Enhancement Fund Projects:** Two community kitchens has been installed in Ballywaltrim Community Centre and Little Bray Family Resource and Development Project. The kitchen in SPECS is nearing completion. Replacement goals have been purchased and will be stored until installation is arranged. Two competitions are currently running on eTenders, one for supply and installation of climbing boulders and the other for supply and installation of calisthenics equipment, both in Ballywaltrim Playground. The competitions are due to close on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, evaluation and award will take place in early January.
- **Seed Fund Projects:** The Department of Health has authorised the use of the 2022 Seed Fund for 4 projects as follows:
  - 1) Feasibility study and Health Impact Assessment of developing a Health and Wellbeing Hub in Little Bray
  - 2) Provision of Trauma Informed Practice workshops for staff in early years services
  - 3) Installation of a new outdoor activity area for the Little Rascals Childcare Service, and an accessible and age-friendly sensory garden, both in the Little Bray Family Resource and Development Centre
  - 4) Set up and run a SHC Community Steering Committee in Little Bray.
- The Department of Health has also confirmed that all unspent funds from 2022 can be carried over to 2023. An additional seed fund of €75,000 will also be provided to provide additional supports.
- The LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> December to review 2022 and plan priorities for 2023.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022

#### Funding Applications approved

#### MEASURE TWO

##### **Name of project - Blessington Greenway linkage to Russborough Parklands and House Trail and Cycle Hub**

A sustainability project for the enhancement of the trails within this historic Parklands.

Funding Awarded - €178,380. Match funding required - €19,820

##### **Name of project Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area**

## DECEMBER 2022



Upgrade to existing trail to sustainable surface and an addition of fishing platform, swim access and inclusion of linear wild play structures.

Funding Awarded - €119,790 Match funding required - €13,310

### **Name of project - Coolkenno Equestrian Trail**

Construction of an 8.4km equestrian trail and associated access.

Funding Awarded - €198,000 - Match funding required - €22,000

## **MEASURE THREE**

### **Name of project - Roundwood Recreation Area**

Provision of a bike hub, signage, way marking and promotion of Roundwood Recreation Area.

Funding Awarded - €495,000. Match funding required - €55,000

## Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

### 1. Economic Development

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

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

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

5 High Level Goals have been identified incorporating both Community and Economic Development. The Economic Development unit is seeking to engage with the business community and government and local agencies to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

Wicklow County Council has appointed a team of consultants from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the LECP. The timeline for completion of the Plan is end of 2023. Stakeholder engagement is ongoing, a Community Workshop was held in the Glenview Hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> December and an online workshop for the Enterprise stakeholders was held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Retail

##### Bray Central

The transfer of Title took place on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Since then two restaurants and the car park with 250 spaces have opened. Oakmount continue to engage with prospective anchor tenants on the two main units in the centre. It is hoped that agreements to let will be settled in the coming weeks. Oakmount has advised that there are leases in place on all of the leisure spaces and heads of terms are agreed with several new retail units.

##### Town Teams

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

Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2016. Wicklow County Council appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct a review of the Town Teams in early 2022. The result of the review was presented to the elected members at the October meeting of Wicklow County Council.

The review is currently being presented to the Town Teams and it is proposed to have a plenary session with all Town Teams early in 2023 when the TRO is in place

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

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

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

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

### **Blessington Town Team**

At our most recent Blessington Town Team meeting, on 29<sup>th</sup> of November last, updates on the following projects were given to the town team members:

- Progress on the Blessington Inner Relief Road.
- Blessington RRDF project.
- Progress on the Blessington CCTV scheme (expected to be operational by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022)
- Ongoing Council projects in the Town
- The ongoing work of the Tidy Towns group.

### **Arklow Town Team**

Unveiling and launch of the Giant Cup was held in the Arklow Library on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The project was supported by the 2022 Creative Ireland Fund and Wicklow County Council in partnership with Arklow Town Team. The mosaic cup is a tribute to Arklow Pottery and the many skilled workers that made it famous and the overall design draws inspiration from the work of famed ceramicist John French. 402 Artists who worked hard on the project were delighted to secure funding in partnership with Arklow Town Team. The cup which is over 2 metres wide and nearly 2 metres high will be located in the Arklow Library. It is hoped that the finished cup will bring joy to anyone who see it.

## DECEMBER 2022



Following a break for two years Arklow Town Team are once again hosting the popular Little Christmas Ladies Lunch fundraiser event. The event will take place at the Woodenbridge Hotel on Sunday 8th January 2023 to raise funds for a local charity and a local project. Our charity partner for this year is the Arklow Community First Responders. Tickets are €35 to include prosecco on arrival, 4-course lunch and entertainment. Please see the Arklow Town Team Facebook page for details on how to book.

To mark this year's UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Arklow Municipal District and Arklow Town Team lit up the 19 Arches Bridge in purple.

### **Wicklow Town Team**

At the November meeting the structure of the Town Team was examined and a presentation was given in relation to the report commissioned by Wicklow County Council on the future of the Town Teams. A special meeting has now been arranged for the 7<sup>th</sup> December for further discussion.

The news that Consultants have been appointed on the Greenway project was welcomed and it is expected that it will be a twelve-month process.

Closing date for submissions on the current Part 8 for the Doctors Steps/Reconnect Wicklow Town Centre with South Quay will conclude on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Greystones Town Team**

The Christmas Lights were switched on in Greystones on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. Santa and his helpers arrived from Holyhead. The Santa parade followed a route throughout the district on the day and huge numbers of children turned out to greet Santa. This event was co-ordinated by the Greystones Town Team with the support of Greystones MD.

A presentation was made to the Councillor Adrienne Edwards, Mayor of Holyhead by Councillor Gerry Walsh, Cathaoirleach of GMD, to mark ten years of twinning between Greystones and Holyhead.

The Holyhead Male Voice Choir and the Magee Brothers also travelled to Greystones and took part in a concert in the Whale Theatre.

Ladies Night was held in Greystones on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Local businesses stayed open late on the night and provided an opportunity to shop local and enjoy some entertainment on the night. Rain did not stop the local ladies who came out in droves to enjoy the occasion.

## **Tourism**

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

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

The Key Priorities are:

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

## Wicklow Wonderlands Campaign

The online Christmas Campaign on VisitWicklow was launched late November 2022 with initial focus on Christmas Wonderlands. There are various experiences offering a series of Christmas related activities such as Christmas Trains, meet with the Elves, slide down a zip line to Santa's Cabin, look after Santa's Animals, and meet with the Man Himself!!!

Experiences include Christmas Island in Rathdrum, Santa's Cabin in Russborough, Christmas Market in Wicklow Town, Clissmann's Winter Wonderland, Santa Train in Rathwood.

See blog at <https://visitwicklow.ie/christmas-in-wicklow-wonderlands/>

## Christmas Gift Ideas the Wicklow Way

Special focus is given on promoting Christmas Gifts ideas from Wicklow over the month of December including:

- **Wicklow Experiences:** Learn Mountain Navigation, rent a Mountain Bike, offer a Green Fee to one of the many Wicklow Golf Courses, get an Arts & Craft Class, run the EcoTrail: giving the gift of an experience is something truly special. See suggested experience list at <https://visitwicklow.ie/christmas-gift-ideas-experiences/>
- **Wicklow Annual Passes:** Offering an Annual Pass to some of Wicklow's Top attractions would make the ideal gift for many families. Who doesn't like an open invitation for a pre-paid day out? Powerscourt, Clara Lara, Russborough and more, all offering varied, year-round fun and entertainment for all. See passes at <https://visitwicklow.ie/wicklow-christmas-gift-ideas-annual-pass/>
- **Gift Vouchers:** If you can't decide then why not give a gift voucher. A gift voucher is guaranteed to be spent locally supporting the various businesses around Wicklow. Pick from the many Accommodations, Restaurants, Shops and Stores around Wicklow.
- **Offer a Wicklow Passport:** The Wicklow Passport is the ultimate Wicklow Experience. A Wicklow Passport is a great gift to include in any stocking. The Wicklow Passport is a great present to send to friends and families all over the world. Order your Wicklow Passport Online at <https://visitwicklow.ie/passport/>. Anyone collecting 15 or more stamps on their Passports, becomes a Wicklow Ambassador. To celebrate such achievement, we have commissioned specially designed Ambassador Pins which will only be given to people who have completed the Ambassador's challenge.
- **Wicklow Naturally:** Wicklow is home to some of the best food and drink producers. Why not gift a bespoke Wicklow Naturally hamper to your loved one? Visit their website <http://wicklownaturally.ie> for ideas

## Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

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

The Tender for the Masterplan has been awarded to MOLA Architects



### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

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

The redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café / Retail / Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheatre arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility, and public seating.

The plans take careful consideration of the conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the grounds, as well as the protection of the ruined remains. The design is being amended at present following archaeological surveys of the grounds. It is anticipated that a new design will be available in early 2023, in advance of procuring a contractor.

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

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

The Consultants have presented the Draft Plan to the Councillors and the consultation period will run from 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 until 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The Draft Plan can be viewed in libraries and online. A walk in event was held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> at the Brockagh Centre, Glendalough, and this gave people an opportunity to discuss the plan with the design team. There was also an online consultation event on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and a separate meeting for representatives of local Glendalough Groups was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Brockagh Centre.

### **Outdoor Performance Space**

The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. Site meetings have taken place with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. The project team continue to consult with experts in this industry on the different styles of canopy options available. When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

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

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration

of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin "Our Rural Future" Ireland's Rural Development policy.

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

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

Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project involved the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices which is now complete. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are nearing completion.

### **Bray Harbour Improvements**

The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. RPS was requested to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. A draft EIA has been reviewed and approved. This identifies all of the potential environmental impacts that need to be addressed in the EIAR. A public information day took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December with Consultants on hand to answer queries. The information was also displayed in the Civic Offices from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. All feedback will now be compiled.

### **Land Management**

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

### **Offshore Renewable Energy**

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

Key milestones have been:

1. The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.

2. The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
3. The Marine Area Consent process is now open for relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.
4. An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.
5. Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
6. Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR
7. Bord na Mona Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics and is seeking to further engage with the local authority.
8. Energia is hosting monthly information clinics in Wexford and South Wicklow in respect of the South Irish Sea Project

The next significant milestone will be the announcement of the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) Auction in 2023. Under ORESS eligible projects will be invited to bid to deliver renewable energy services. The Community Benefit Fund associated with the ORESS Auction will be significant. The Draft Terms and Conditions of the ORESS scheme have been published. The outcome of the auction will be announced in Q2 2023.

### Food and Beverage Strategy

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

Wicklow County Council recently appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will be similar to the original Plan but will have more focus on Climate Action and development of the Food Incubation Hub. A draft plan is expected to be available before the end of the year.

Wicklow Naturally has continued to increase its network of members in 2022 which adds to the array of County Wicklow's finest food and drink producers.

Wicklow Naturally featured at Gifted which was held in the RDS from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. Gifted is Ireland's biggest and best Christmas craft fair, featuring 100's of makers, designers and artisan food producers.

## DECEMBER 2022



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

### **Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow**

The Skills Taskforce is now up and running and now has members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors.

A Request for Tender was published with a deadline for responses in November 2022 to engage consultants to carry out a skills audit to identify existing skills and competencies and future skills required to support economic development in the County and also to produce a Skills Strategy for the county.

### **Civic Reception**

A reception was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November in County Building to confer on Sir John Boorman a civic honour, in recognition of his lifetime achievements in the Irish and international film industry, championing Ireland and County Wicklow as a premier film-making location, nurturing the careers of Irish actors, directors, writers, producers and crew and in so doing bringing honour to the County of Wicklow.

Sir John was presented with a basket of Wicklow Naturally produce along with a beautiful cheeseboard and cheese knife carved from windfall timber from County Wicklow by master craftsman Chaim Factor of Hill Picket Studios. He was also given a locally grown oak tree to take to his new home in the UK, its twin was planted at Wicklow County Campus near the soon-to-be-opened Content Creation Enterprise Hub. In addition, the Council plans to provide a bench for filmmakers of the future to sit and dream below Sir John's tree and take inspiration from his outstanding career in the industry.

## Local Enterprise Office

To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:

- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.
- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.
- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.
- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.
- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland
- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/ €641,745 - 4 / €6,594	- Demand Meet - Demand Meet	-27/ €738,830 -7/ €12,286.95
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	42
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	99
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	510
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	7

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database *Criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	156
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	406

## DECEMBER 2022



<b>METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Year to Date 22-23</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	1138

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

<b>Trading Online Voucher</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of Trading Online Vouchers approved</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Year to Date 2022</b>
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	66

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

<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	11	9

## DECEMBER 2022



### NOVEMBER 2022 Activities

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.

### Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter business skills training programme is almost complete. The Spring/Summer programme has been published on the LEO website. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow). A wide range of courses are on offer from January through to June.

Recently held courses include

- Effective use of Social Media for your business: Facebook; Instagram; Twitter; - Advanced level (10<sup>th</sup> Nov).
- HR and Employment Law (17<sup>th</sup> Nov)
- Data Protection & Security in a Virtual World (22<sup>nd</sup> Nov)
- Digital Marketing Clinics (30<sup>th</sup> Nov)

### DECEMBER 2022 Activities

- The final meeting of the LEO 'Network of Entrepreneurial Women (N.E.W.)' will take place in Greystones on the evening of Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December. In 2023 a new arrangement will be in place for female entrepreneurs in Co. Wicklow – a partnership with LEO and Network Ireland (Wicklow Branch), whereby membership of Network Ireland will be an option for a female-led networking group in the County.
- On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, in Wicklow County Campus, a graduation ceremony will take place for graduates of the LEO 'Owner Manager Development Programme (OMDP)'. This is a 20 week course, accredited by South East Technological University.

## 2. Planning

### Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council made a new County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (CDP) on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This plan replaces the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022.

The new plan is in effect as of 23 October 2022, other than those elements that have been the subject of the draft Ministerial Direction, which was published for public consultation on 03 November 2022. The final date for the making of submissions was 16 November 2022 and a total of 14 submission were received. The Chief Executive's Report to the OPR and the Minister will issue in December 2022, after the matter is discussed at the Council meeting of 05 December 2022.

**Healthy Placemaking, Climate Change and Economic Opportunity** are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the new plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County.

This plan also includes new **Town Plans** for the following settlements:- Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough.

This plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as well as a number of other important appendices.

As part of the making of the new County Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the Schedule of Tree Preservations Orders have been amended, including the making of additions, deletions and amendments to existing entries. The RPS is included in Appendix 4 of the published County Development Plan. Owners and occupiers of relevant structures have received a separate written notification with regard to this.

The plan is available to view and download on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

### Local Area Plans

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

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



## **Residential Zoned Land Tax**

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

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

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

Mapping has been undertaken and lands identified. Advertisements were placed in local papers over a 3 week period beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and the draft map was published on the Wicklow County Council website on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Submissions can be made by post, online through the consultation hub and by email. The closing date for submissions will be the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Submissions will be published on the Wicklow County Council website.

## **Heritage Office**

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

#### **Glaciers, Glenn and Granite – An exploration of the Geology of County Wicklow**

A new publication from Wicklow Heritage Office and Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) officially launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Copies are on sale via Wordwell, free copies to be distributed to all secondary schools in county Wicklow in early 2023. Project co-funded by The Heritage Council through the County Heritage Plan fund.

**Brittas Bay Conservation project** - Continuation of conservation measures, including ecological recording & monitoring and conservation grazing. A Community Engagement programme of field outings and workshops is underway, six events in total. Volunteer Sea Buckthorn removal day held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, final event held 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Wicklow Barn Owl Project** – Over 30 confirmed sightings of Barn Owls for county Wicklow, have now been recorded, a significant increase from 3 at the start of the project. Over 170 potential sites for future nesting boxes have been identified through public engagement. Wicklow Barn Owl calendar for 2023 in production.

**Conservation Management Plans for WCC owned land at Bray Head and Wicklow Head** - Heritage Office liaising with MD staff and ALCNature ( ecological consultants). Drafts due by end of year.

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

**East Coast Nature Reserve Events:** Monthly seasonal free public event programme in place in partnership with Bird Watch Ireland at East Coast Nature Reserve. Final event scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> December.

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

**Community Archaeology Service for County Wicklow** - Allocation received through County Heritage Plan Fund from the Heritage Council and WCC for appointment of a part time community archaeology service. A programme is currently underway by De Faoite Archaeology and managed by the Heritage Officer. Part of the programme entails the survey of medieval ecclesiastical sites in Wicklow through a recording template specially developed by the WCC GIS officer.

**Community Monuments Fund (CMF)** - Funding to increase the resilience of our Built Heritage (archaeology) to climate change via Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2022- Seven CMF projects currently underway, co-ordinated by Heritage Officer, allocations as follows: Arklow Castle repairs, Arklow Castle repairs €84,621; Mullinacuffe Historic Church ruins repairs €14,954; Castlekevin, Roundwood conservation plan €18,682; Baltinglass Hills – Lidar Survey €29,362; West Wicklow Medieval church and graveyards –geophysical survey and access improvements €30,000; Castlekevin podcast production €7,748; Abbey Lane, Arklow – research & interpretation €7,072. Recoupments and reports submitted in Q4. New scheme, CMF 2023 advertised, closing date 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.

### **Climate Action (Built Heritage – Architecture):**

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

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

New schemes for 2023 announced and advertised in local media. Closing date for applications 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.

## Development Management

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	<b>To 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>
Received (Valid)	1087

A total of 113 valid applications were received during November as follows:

Type of Development	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Individual Houses	29 (23 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	11
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	02
Other Developments**	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>

\* Large housing development

PRR22/1164 Esmonde Partnership, 14 no. apartments, The Murrough, Wicklow

PRR22/1178 Defigo Holdings 1 Delgany Ltd, 22 no. dwellings, Convent Road, Delgany, Co. Wicklow

PRR22/1217 Ciaran and Simon Doyle, 31 dwellings, Sea Road, Lott Lane, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

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

Decisions issued in respect of 87 applications in November,

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	04
Individual Houses	07 ( All refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	64

Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

Decisions issued between January to November 2022, in comparison to the same period for 2021:

	<b>30/11/2022</b>
Total Number of decisions issued	1046
Total Number of decisions to grant	897
% Grant Rate	86%
No of applications withdrawn	13

## Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

### Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

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

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to longterm grassland/scrub habitat:

establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow.

### **Substitute Consent**

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bunded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIA and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.

### **E-Planning Project**

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q1 2023. The project will include the following elements:

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

### **Planning Enforcement**

## NOVEMBER 2022

New Files	9
Advisory Letters	20
Warning Letters	10
Enforcement Notices	3
Legal Files	1
Closed	10

### Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

### Vacant Sites

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

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

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

### Short-Term Letting

Applications for registration received in 2022	41
Complaints	1
Warning Letters	29
Enforcement Notices	7
Legal proceedings	2
Under Investigation	67

## 3. Environment

### Waste Management

#### Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of complaints created	107
No. of cases closed, resolved or completed	319
No. of Litter Fines issued	17
No. of Waste Management files opened	8
No. of Warning Letters issued	9
No. of Abandoned Cars Notices issued	20
No. of Burning Applications granted	5
No. of Temporary Signs granted	8
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	9
No. of Notices issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	30
No. of cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2
No. of cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	7
Income-Litter	€2,125.00
Income-Waste Management	€4,250.00

#### Whitestown Remediation Project

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

The Remediation Plan has been presented to the Courts and confirmation is awaited

## Climate Action

### Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing Our Future

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

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030.

These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government.

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

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

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

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

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

### Wicklow Climate Action

#### Climate Action Plan

Wicklow County Council has commenced the Advance Planning Stage of the development of Wicklow's Climate Action Plan and ran a tender competition to appoint a consultant to develop a Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and a Climate change Risk Assessment. The tenders have been assessed and the appointment of a consultant is imminent. Arklow Decarbonisation Zone will form a chapter of the plan.

#### Mid-East Energy Unit

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Meath and Kildare County Councils is establishing the Mid East Energy Unit. As lead authority, Wicklow County Council has agreed an MOU with the SEAI to progress the establishment of the Energy Unit and deliver on the Pathfinder Programme over the next three years.

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



The recruitment process for the positions of the Regional Energy Manager and the Energy Officer is in progress.

The appointment of Codema, as the service provider to support the three partnering authorities in the energy unit, is imminent.

The official launch of the Mid East Energy Unit will take place in December.

### **Bicycle Parking**

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

As per this action in the Climate Action mandate for the public sector, work has commenced to identify suitable locations to install bicycle parking at our public buildings, car parks and amenities.

### **New posts**

The posts of Biodiversity Officer and Community Climate Action Officer have been advertised.

Approval to appoint a Climate Action Coordinator and Climate Action Officer has been received from the DECC. Sanction from the DHLGH is awaited before the recruitment process commences.

### **EV Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure**

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

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

- Eco friendly cleaning products for our buildings
- A staff travel survey was completed with a great response. Results are being analysed.
- Weekly key information notices are being circulated to all staff as part of the Reduce Your Use Campaign  
Several members of the Green Team have completed Green Team training and are now working on the development of an action plan for the coming year.

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

## Environmental Awareness

A paper policy developed by the Green Team was adopted for use across the organisation. The policy requires use of recycled paper for all but a small number of specified tasks and sets out practices to be used to minimise the use of paper in our offices.

A waste audit was undertaken in for Arklow municipal district office and the library. The audit highlighted a need for separation of food waste to be composted, better segregation of recyclables and prevention of waste through reusable cups as option to improve waste management in the building.

The annual Christmas decoration competition for primary schools was launched with the challenge being to create a decoration from junk. This year we will return to county awards, with the competition held as an in school event over the last two years due to covid.

Funding was received under the Anti-litter grant from the DECC for part funding of awareness raising measures including the dog fouling campaign, audio messaging campaigns, support for clean-up campaigns and Tidy Towns.

An assessment is being undertaken on the possibility of introducing an ebike rental scheme for commuters in Bray. Discussions have taken place with three service providers and each has submitted a proposal on how they would operate a service for Bray. The aim is to find a service provider who will trial a scheme for up to 12 months.

An application submitted to the Regional Waste Management Office for funding to work with Wicklow Naturally to look at better waste segregation practice in the food sector and waste prevention for the sector has been successful. One initiative will be promotion of a deposit return scheme for coffee shops. Training will also be provided on waste segregation and waste prevention.

Wicklow is participating in the Rubbish Film festival with Create Schools based in Clermont. The schools participation is funded by Wicklow County Council. Five schools have registered for the project.

A talk on food waste was given in Blessington library.

## Sustainable Energy Committees

Wicklow County Council is working with the Energy Team, Dunleer and several Wicklow SECs to identify householders looking to retrofit their homes and work with them guiding them through the process from start to finish.

Greystones SEC is leading on a solar meitheal project which aims to group householders looking to install solar panels on their properties together as one project with the aim of getting a better price while also help to ensure all household get a quality installation. Several SECs are participating.

Claims have been submitted for funding of the Blessington and Enniskerry energy master plans

Work is near completion on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for High Park. In Arklow survey work is being undertaken.

A new application for an Energy Master Plan has been received from Carnew Community Care.

Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Glenmalure, Greystones, Enniskerry, Wicklow and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

## Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

In July An Bord Pleanála published two orders approving the Planning Application (EIAR) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. As the Judicial Review period has expired, Wicklow County Council has moved to confirm the CPO and procure the detailed design to allow construction proceed. The Council will also procure further Archaeological and other surveys in the coming months to inform the detailed design.

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

## Harbours and Ports

### Activity at Wicklow Port - Shipping Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	1	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1
Mar-22	11	8	3	14	10	4
Apr-22	9	9	0	9	7	2
May-22	8	8	0	8	7	1
Jun-22	7	5	2	9	7	2
Jul-22	10	8	2	12	9	3
Aug-22	8	6	2	10	7	3
Sep-22	9	8	1	10	8	2
Oct-22	6	5	1	7	6	1
Nov-22	8	7	1	9	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>21</b>

## **Pollution Control**

### **Pollution Response & Investigation**

6 Water pollution complaints investigated and 5 closed.

1 Air pollution complaints investigated.

6 Noise pollution complaints investigated and 5 closed.

### **Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme**

14 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards

14 Rivers monitored involving 31 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

### **Drinking Water Regulations – Non-exempted Private Supplies**

5 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored.

2 Boil Water Notice was lifted in consultation with the HSE after remedial action was taken by the proprietor.

### **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring**

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

### **Smokeless Coal Regulations**

New regulations governing the sale and distribution of solid fuels came into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> October this year. These extend the ban on the sale and distribution of smoky solid fuels to the entire county and countrywide and make retailers and transporters (including couriers) legally liable for the product which they carry for sale or distribution.

The sale of turf is also banned in all circumstances. People with turbary rights may still cut and burn their own turf, as well as gift it to family, friends etc.

The moisture content of timber is also regulated for the first time and is required to carry specific labelling.

All solid fuel packaging must carry the label “Contents Comply with Air Pollution Act Regulations”.

Interim measures are to apply for labelling in the 2022/2023 season.

## **Planning & Development**

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

## **Well Grants**

19 Number of New Applications

4 Number of New Wells Granted

11 Number of New Pumps Granted

21 Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted

23 Number of Inspections in advance/after works

## 4. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Transportation

#### Public lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **457 – 3.00%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	5	1	9	1	3	19
Cable Fault (Attend)		1	1		1	3
ESB Required (Attended)	7	3	4	8	10	32
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	1	3	3	2	10
On Hold		3	15		4	22
Submitted	65	45	90	87	60	347
TMR	3	5	4	3		15
Tree cutting required	2	1		1	3	7
Grand Total	84	61	126	103	83	457
Percentage Not Working	2.84%	2.54%	3.78%	3.70%	2.26%	3.00%

	14th November 2022	22nd November 2022	28th November 2022	5th December 2022
Access Issues (Attend)	11	11	13	13
Cable Fault (Attend)	3	3	3	3
ESB Required (Attended)	33	32	39	32
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0
Materials required	2	2	2	2
No Supply	8	10	10	10
On Hold	20	22	22	22

#### Public Consultation - Speed Limits

The public consultation period for the Speed Limit Review was completed on 25<sup>th</sup> November. 257 submissions were received, relating to c. 325 differing aspects. Reports for each Municipal District are currently being drawn up and

presentation of same will be undertaken in the December Municipal District meetings for discussion and feedback, before a final proposal of the bye-laws is brought before the members in the January/February full council meeting.

## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	October 2022	November 2022
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	842	923	785	74	75
<b>Road closure applications</b>	23	53	71	4	2
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1279	1575	1322	117	113
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	33	54	58	4	8

### M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public consultation on the preferred option commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022. A two day public consultation event took place in the Glenview Hotel on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Submissions were accepted up until 22 December 2022.

The Options Selection Report will be finalised following the completion of the public consultation and consideration of the submissions received. The final Options Selection Report is expected to be published in Q1 2023.

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

### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

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

### N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Officer. A Design & Delivery Competition for new public sculpture closed on e-tenders on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.

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

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

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

Wicklow County Council have commenced the procurement of Technical Advisors to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guideline Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive), with the aim to appoint an advisor and commence Phase 2 early in 2023.

## **N81 Pavement Capital Works**

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

## **N81 Capital Maintenance**

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

## **N81 Fencing Retrofit**

The contract for the fencing was completed in November 2022.

## **N81 Invasive Species Removal**

Annual treatment completed in September 2022.

## **N81 Bus Stop at Hollywood**

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

## **Arklow Public Realm**

Parade Ground Public Realm works have substantially been completed, snagging of the project is underway. Traffic on Main Street is now open to two-way traffic. A public event is taking place in December to highlight the area and promote the Shop Local Campaign

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The route options continue to be revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. The role of independent agronomist has been appointed; the Agronomist's details will be communicated to Landowners in December.

## **Baltinglass Town Centre Plan**

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

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

Consultants continue to proceed with the detailed design with the preparation of the tender documents. Notices to Treat will be issued within the coming weeks, which will commence the formal discussions on compensation.

## **Redford Junction**

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



## Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season commenced on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and will continue until the end of April 2023. Again in November the weather has been extremely mild and consequently salting of routes only occurred twice in the last month (up to and including the 27<sup>th</sup> of November).

<b>SUMMARY OF SEASON TO DATE (Up to 27/11/2022)</b>	
No. of Weeks Completed to date (out of 28 weeks)	6
No. of Days Completed	42
Total number of salting nights	2
Percentage no. of Nights when salting occurred	4.76%
Total number of routes salted	13
Total estimate tonnage used	37.6

## Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow County Council has just recently appointed consultants to this project, an inception meeting between the Council and the Consultants will take place in the coming weeks. The consultant will be tasked with carrying out detailed environmental surveys and develop and bring forward the project to statutory approval stage.

## Blessington eGreenway

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. No update has been received yet from An Bord Pleanála on a likely decision date. It is still anticipated that an oral hearing will be required by ABP before any decision is made.

## Active Travel Updates

### Glenart pedestrian link (Arklow MD)

Pedestrian accessibility link improvements at the rear of the Woodlands housing development located between Lamberton and Glenart. The works will involve the construction of a pedestrian access ramp and the installation of public lighting along the scheme. Contractors have been appointed for the project and works are expected to commence in early January 2023.

### Arklow Transport Study (Arklow MD)

A transport strategy for the Arklow area which will provide a strategic framework for the development of better integrated and more legible transport services. It will also identify specific priorities for the development of public transport, walking, cycling and road facilities. An initial consultation meeting has been held with Councillors. Public consultation will commence in January 2023.

### Footpath Improvements Deputy's Pass, Glenealy (Arklow MD)

This scheme will provide 511m of upgraded footpaths with public lighting along the R-752 between Deputy's Pass and Glenealy Railway Bridge. Funding of €170,000 has been allocated by NTA and works are currently underway.

### Sidmonton Square (Bray MD)

Accessibility improvements to improve the safety of pedestrians. Works on this project have been substantially completed.

### Powerscourt National School (Bray MD)

Pedestrian improvements adjacent to Powerscourt National School to improve the safety of children and pedestrians. Works on this project have been substantially completed.

## **Herbert Road (Bray MD)**

Construction of approx. 400m of pedestrian footpath to connect the end of the existing footpath on Herbert Road to the pedestrian footbridge on the N11. On completion of the scheme, pedestrians coming from the Bray direction will have uninterrupted pedestrian facilities on the bus stops located on the R-117. Civil works are nearing completion, and should be fully completed before Christmas.

## **Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)**

Improve pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting. Works have commenced on the project and are progressing well. The retaining wall should be fully completed before Christmas, and the stonework facing of the wall will commence in January 2023. We anticipate that the project will be substantially completed by the end of February 2023.

## **Kilpedder to Willow Grove Rapid Deployment Scheme (Wicklow MD)**

Construction of approx. 960m of new and upgraded footpaths with public lighting, along the L-5406 between Kilpedder to Willow Grove. Works have commenced on the project.

## **Rocky Road & Wicklow Main Street to Marlton Road (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of approx. 1000m of pedestrian and cycle facilities along Rocky Road, Wicklow Town. An inception meeting has been held with DBFL Consulting Engineers, consultants for the scheme.

## **R- 772 Ashford (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of approx. 1000m of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works along R-772 Road in Ashford linking the residential developments at Rosanna to the south and the Holy Rosary National School to the north. An inception meeting has been held with DBFL Consulting Engineers, consultants for the scheme.

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

Part 8 documents were presented to members who approved the advertising of the scheme. Submissions can be made up until Monday 30th January. These works will provide improved pedestrian facilities and public realm improvements in the village and will take place along the R761 Lower Kindlestown Road and Carrig/Castle Villas Road. The enhancement scheme will include a signalised junction, new footpaths, new zebra crossing, improved junction layouts and footpaths, a cycle climbing lane, a loading bay in front of commercial properties and realignment of road carriageway.

## **Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany. (Greystones MD)**

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public transport facilities, undergrounding services and upgrading public lighting. Works have been postponed on the project until after Christmas, with works commencing in January. We anticipate that the works will take approximately 4 months to complete.

## **Dunlavin Footpath Improvements (Baltinglass MD)**

Construction of approx. 150m of footpath with public lighting, drainage and fencing along the R-412 between the town and Dunlavin Soccer Club. Funding of €180,000 has been allocated by NTA and works have commenced.

## Footpath Improvements Valley Heights, Carnew (Baltinglass MD)

This scheme will provide 161m of upgraded footpaths (including public lighting) along the L-72274 between Valley Heights Housing Estate and Carnew National School. Funding of €100,000 has been allocated by NTA and works have commenced.

## Footpath Improvements Rathluain, Dunlavin (Baltinglass MD)

This scheme will provide 62m footpath linkage along the L-8336 between Dunlavin Town and Rathluain Housing Estate. Funding of €29,000 has been allocated by NTA and works have commenced.

## Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	922,936
Greystones Municipal District	261,180
Wicklow Municipal District	375,406
Arklow Municipal District	216,278
Parking Permits	68,060
Parking Fines	318,436
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>2,162,296</b>

## Fire Service

### Operational Fire Statistics November 2022

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	13	1	1	4	2	2	1	1	1		
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	31	5	7	6	5	3	1	2	2		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	8	1	2	3	1	1					

# NOVEMBER 2022



Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	2	1	1								
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	2	1	1								
<b>One Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	16	4	3	6	1	2					
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	4	1	1	2							
Fire Chimney	3	1	1	1							
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	15	8	2	4					1		
Fire Vehicle	3					1		1	1		
Flooding	2	1	1								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	5	1	1	1	1				1		
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	17	6	2	3		2			3		1
Garda Assist	1	1									
Electrical Incident	2	1									1
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	1			1							
Lock In / Lock Out	1						1				
False Alarm – Good Intent	2			1	1						
Malicious False Alarm	0										
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>10</b>					1	2	2	2	3	
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

There were **110 incidents** attended during the month of November 2022. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **138 occasions** including 10 mobilisations in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of November **decreased by 27% -51 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (October 2022: 189 mobilisations). This was mainly due to a decrease in bonfires after Halloween -32 (down from 47 to 15), domestic fires -5 (down from 18 mobilisations to 13), alarm activations -16 (down from 32 to 16), flooding -5 (down from 7 to 2). There were slight increases in RTCs (+3), motorway fires (+6), trees down (+3), ambulance assists (+5).

Operational activity for the month of November 2022 **was up 9% (+11 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2021** (November 2021: 127 mobilisations). When compared year on year increases occurred in mobilisations to vehicle fires on motorways (+8), trees down (+5), and ambulance assists (+9). There was a decrease in alarm activations (-9).

## Sample Incidents (November 2022)

- 11/11/2022 Crews from Rathdrum and Arklow attended a 2 vehicle RTC in Avoca, 2 persons trapped, 1 extraction.
- 16/11/2022 Crews from Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended a 2 vehicle RTC in Rathnew, 1 person trapped.
- 18/11/2022 Crews from Dunlavin and Baltinglass attended a 1 vehicle RTC in Griffinstown.
- 24/11/2022 Greystones and Bray crews attended a 2 vehicle RTC at Junction 10, N11, south, 1 car roll over.
- 28/11/2022 Blessington crew supported by firefighters from Naas attended a 1 car roll over RTC at Newtown Park, 1 person trapped.

## Incidents in County Kildare (5-incidents):

- 09/11/2022 Baltinglass crew supported by crews from Carlow Town were mobilised to a single vehicle RTC with one trapped casualty in Castledermot.
- 06/11/2022 Blessington crew were mobilised to support Kildare Fire Service at a large shed fire at the equestrian centre in Kill.
- 13/11/2022 Dunlavin crew were mobilised to make the road safe following an RTC in Crookstown.
- 19/11/2022 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews, supported by a crew from Carlow Town, attended a 2 car RTC with 2 casualties in Castledermot.
- 29/11/2022 Blessington crew attended an alarm activation in Kilmalum.

## Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents):

- 02/11/2022 Carnew crew attended a sparking ESB pole in Camolin.
- 03/11/2022 Arklow crew attended flooding in Gorey.
- 03/11/2022 Carnew crew attended flooding in Gorey.
- 03/11/2022 Carnew crew attended flooding in Gorey.

## General

- The national long service awards for fire serviced personnel took place in Trim. 2 staff from Wicklow received 30 year medals and 8 personnel were awarded 20 year medals.
- A 5-day ay QQI accredited Hazardous Materials Course was undertaken for firefighters that have joined the service within the last 5 years.
- Four 1-day Hazardous Materials Refresher Courses were delivered to 48 firefighters.

## Fire Prevention Statistics November 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	22	2	9		12
Regularisation Certificates				1	2
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	13	1	4		9

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 15 planning files during the month of November 2022. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 12 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	9	4	2	2	6
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act	7			7	

## Building Control Statistics November 2022

### Commencement Notices for November 2022:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 29

- 6 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 14 Opt Out Declarations
- 3 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 6 Seven day Notice

### Submission Statistics

- 48 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 90 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 26 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 6 are Compliance Documentation (23%)
  - 13 are Opt Out (50%)

1 Without Compliance Documentation (4%)

6 Seven Day Notice (23%)

- 10 Valid Commencement Notices
- 51 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for November = 2

- **Certificates of Completion processed in November 2022**

- 20 New No. of CCC submitted
- 18 Required Revised Information
- 26 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 48 new residential units & 224 Apartments & duplexes validated

### **Submission Statistics**

26 No. Validated CCCs related to;

20 No CCCs submitted in November 2022

6 No CCCs submitted in October 2022

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

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity and completion of units in November 2022. 51 new residential units in were notified to LA for Commencement. 48 newly completed residential units and 224 new Duplex units were submitted, assessed and validated in November.

Building Control continued with site inspection in November to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 4 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests were extremely high in November for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 90% of Commencement Notice submissions and 95% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

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

In November Building Control staff attended a CPD Day Event co-ordinated by NBC&MSO, Compliance with Part B Fire Safety in Dwellings Houses.



## Organisational Development & Financial Matters

### 1. HR & Corporate Services

#### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in November 2022:

- **Town Regeneration Officer**
- **Retained Fire Fighters (Blessington)**
- **Staff Officer Shortlisting**
- **Information Systems Technical Support**
- **Library Assistant**
- **Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer**
- **Staff Officer**

#### Employee Numbers

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

# NOVEMBER 2022



## Access to Information

### Freedom of Information Requests

November 2022: 11	November 2021: 7
Jan - November 2022: 78	Jan - November 2021: 87

### Ombudsman Requests

November 2022: 1	November 2021: 2
January - November 2022: 34	January - November 2021: 25

### Press Releases

November 2022 – 14

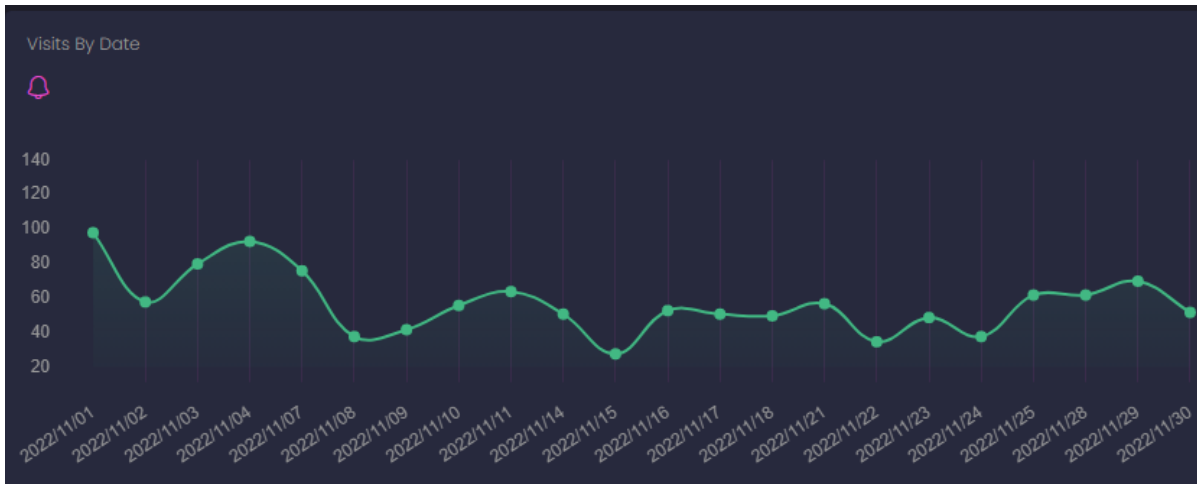
## Register of Electors

Public engagement with [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) has increased significantly since the launch of the media awareness campaign on TV, Radio, Social Media and more recently with a poster campaign. Local Authorities are asked to display the Irish and English posters in public spaces so we are posting them out to Libraries, MD Offices, Garda Stations & Secondary Schools. The poster campaign will ensure that the new electoral reform information is available to all members of our society. A further campaign is planned for the Spring of 2023, where these posters can again be reused.

## Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2022 - November			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	10,796	Motor Taxation	1,486
No. of Emails	1,374	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,686
No. of Elected Members Emails	90	Social Housing Applications	39
CRM Cases	136		

Total in person visits for November 2022 – 1,263



**Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021**

Amongst the provisions of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, there is a new statutory obligation for public bodies in relation to advertising, general communications and commercial communications which engage with the public.

Section 10A. (Advertising by Public Bodies) of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021 places duties on public bodies in relation to the way they communicate in the State’s official languages. The advertising sector is a very important communication medium, and accordingly this new provision is expected to be of considerable importance. These provisions came into effect on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The Customer Care Unit are engaging with staff to comply with these obligations.

## 2. I.C.T.

### Blended Working

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

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

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

### IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 33 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- Residential Zoned Land Tax Portal has gone live. Draft maps are displayed on the website and the interactive map has gone live.
- The map production of the County Development Plan (2022 - 2028) has been finalised. The relevant GIS applications have been updated with the new datasets.
- Development of an online consultation hub has commenced. The Hub will be used to engage with the public on several topics from up-and-coming Local Area Plans.

### Customer Service Delivery

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

### eServices

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

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

### 3. Finance

#### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2022							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	29,464,536	34,438,754	86%	(35,085,766)	(39,943,965)	88%	(5,621,230)
Road Transport & Safety	23,129,504	22,204,016	104%	(16,215,441)	(15,347,052)	106%	6,914,062
Water Services	4,985,881	5,394,788	92%	(6,038,687)	(6,561,262)	92%	(1,052,805)
Development Management	12,420,906	12,355,595	101%	(7,498,542)	(6,872,547)	109%	4,922,363
Environmental Services	10,859,804	12,130,078	90%	(1,609,601)	(2,083,134)	77%	9,250,203
Recreation and Amenity	8,862,540	8,498,513	104%	(1,785,873)	(1,148,299)	156%	7,076,667
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,286,924	1,566,840	82%	(630,529)	(809,228)	78%	656,395
Miscellaneous Services	11,236,390	10,846,102	104%	(9,772,165)	(9,033,954)	108%	1,464,225
Central Management Charges	18,310,233	20,213,476	91%	(1,037,133)	(1,000,000)	104%	17,273,100
Local Government Fund				(11,979,830)	(13,068,907)	92%	(11,979,830)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(28,991,467)	(31,929,814)	91%	(28,991,467)
	<b>120,556,718</b>	<b>127,648,162</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>(120,645,034)</b>	<b>(127,798,162)</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>(88,316)</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st November 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/11/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,706,643	109,258,442	(106,897,252)	(296,000)	15,771,834
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	13,949,067	(6,824,388)	270,798	(28,311,377)
Water Services	(10,436,363)	282,051	(886,155)	(52,500)	(11,092,967)
Development Management	(25,225,375)	4,632,074	(9,112,070)	(761,836)	(30,467,206)
Environmental Services	743,438	4,227,114	(3,189,613)	(466,875)	1,314,065
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	3,102,808	(1,100,148)	(348,512)	2,100,768
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	85,571	(6,000)	(296,250)	(1,660,442)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	3,893,655	(7,104,106)	(1,667,944)	(23,704,219)
	<b>(76,741,477)</b>	<b>139,430,782</b>	<b>(135,119,731)</b>	<b>(3,619,118)</b>	<b>(76,049,544)</b>

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/11/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
<b>Rates</b>	6,342,375	31,652,285	(94,966)	(992,388)	(1,543,696)	35,363,609	(26,294,136)	9,069,473	1,526,459	78%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	2,837,526	16,189,352	0	(23,818)	0	19,003,060	(15,553,369)	3,449,691	0	82%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	446,170	1,935,827	0	0	0	2,381,997	(2,191,576)	190,421	0	92%

Rates accrual represents full year accrual while rents are accruals year to date. Accruals have not yet been run for Loans for November due to issues with Financial Management System upgrade interfacing with Central Credit Register system. This will be resolved before annual statements issue.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022

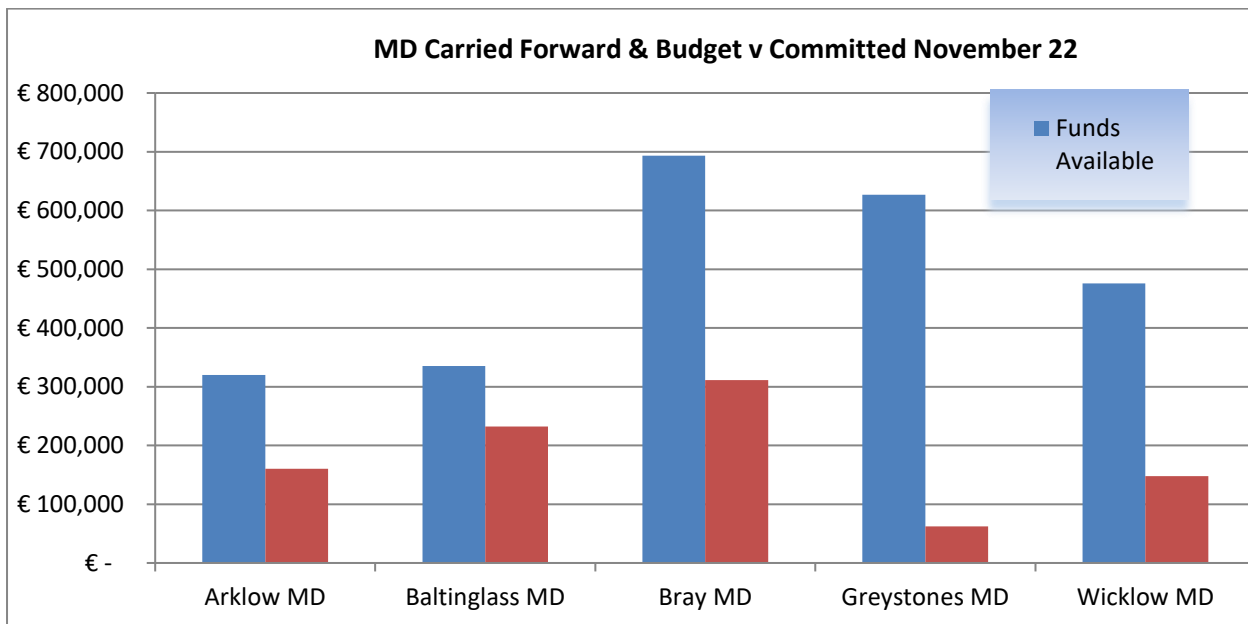
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on July 27th 2021 to raise the LPT basic rate by 6% resulted in an additional €1,043,460 in the Revenue Budget for 2022. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation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

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

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	160,510	159,610
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	232,468	102,637
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	311,397	382,086
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	62,484	564,239
Wicklow MD	233,989	241,649	475,638	147,678	327,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,066,219</b>	<b>1,384,850</b>	<b>2,451,069</b>	<b>914,538</b>	<b>1,536,531</b>





**Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024**

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

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

## Capital Funded Projects

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

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclash	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2021	Ballinaclash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€5,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Avonmore Way	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€3,300
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>€59,816,421</b>	<b>€11,670,872</b>