Chief Executive's Report – October 2026

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

WICKLOW

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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This month:

PROGRAMME OF JOINT EVENTS BETWEEN WICKLOW AND SPAIN AS PART OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

As part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Wicklow Couty Council hosted a programme of events on 15th and 16th of October. This series of events explored the connections between Irish and Spanish traditions involving the visual arts, music and poetry.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Dr. Caroline Winstanley, along with the Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman welcomed H.E. Teresa Lizaranzu, Ambassador of Spain to Ireland and H.E. Brian Glynn, Ambassador of Ireland to Spain. The visit was an opportunity to celebrate the strong relationship between Ireland and Spain while highlighting the importance of European cooperation, cultural exchange, and diplomatic engagement at both local and national levels. It also offered an opportunity to showcase Wicklow, its rich heritage, vibrant communities and contribution to Ireland's cultural life.

The event brought together teachers and students from 16 schools across the county, alongside musicians and artists.

The first event, took place on Thursday 15th October at Wicklow Library, featuring performances by Emma Maguire and Wicklow Boathouse Comhaltas, followed by a recital by renowned Spanish harpist Pilar Paradela and Rachel Duffy.

The second day of events was held at Wicklow County Campus in Clermont, Rathnew and was filled with music and poetry. Brí Willis & Fleur Halyna Obshta performed two songs, 'Siúil a Rún' and 'Mo Ghile Mear', followed by presentations by students representing SEK International School, CCM Wicklow and Comhairle Na Nóg,

The morning concluded with performances by various artists and art presentations by secondary school students from Coláiste Ráithin, Loreto Secondary School and Templecarrig School. To conclude the event, music was performed by Eamonn Sweeney, Tim Doyle and Vlad Smishkewch.

Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union serves as a crucial platform to strengthen relationships with fellow Member States and promote collaboration on shared European priorities.

Wicklow County Council was honoured to host the ambassadors and looks forward to continued engagement with European partners, building connections and fostering closer ties between communities across Europe.

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Social Development

Housing

RAS Figures

	September 2026	September 2025
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	76	84
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	18	19
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	18	19

Allocation of Social Housing

	September 2026	September 2025
Wicklow County Council	10	8
Approved Housing Bodies	7	23

Housing Applications

End September 2025:

Applications to be logged and processed	88
Applications awaiting further information	50
Applications awaiting EHO Report	12

End September 2026:

Applications to be logged and processed	161
Applications awaiting further information	108
Applications awaiting EHO Report	12

This is an increase on numbers from 2025, due to the ongoing need for Social Housing Support.

Social Housing Stock

	September 2025	September 2026
Tenancies Occupied	5140	5200
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€351,938.38	€364,630.04

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Rent Accounts

A full rent review has now been undertaken, with new rents coming into effect on the first Saturday in November 2026. This rent review was carried out on the New Differential Scheme, which merged the two DR schemes (Bray Municipal District & County) to ensure that there is equity for all tenants in the County,

Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2026

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued Circular 32/2026 on the 14th August 2026 advising Local Authorities that the 2026 SSHA count date will be based on the 2nd November 2026. All Social Housing applicants on the Social Housing list have been asked to complete and return Social Housing Needs assessment forms to ensure that their application is up to date and their Housing Needs details are included on 2nd November 2026.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

Assessment criteria

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

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

As of 30th September 2026, Wicklow County Council continues to work in partnership Ark, KARE, St John of God & Sunbeam to deliver properties under the disability category of social housing need. Wicklow LA also continues to work with KARE, Sunbeam House Services and NAHVI/Positive-Futures, to bring active projects to completion.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2026	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Rathnew	1	Delivery Q2 2026	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivery Q2 2026	CAS
Tinahely	1	Due to be Delivered Q4 2026	CAS
Bray	1	Due to be delivered Q4 2026	CAS

Local Authority Home Loans up to 31 September 2026

Received	Approved in Principle
23	2

Local Authority Home Loans up to 31 August 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
38	11

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2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

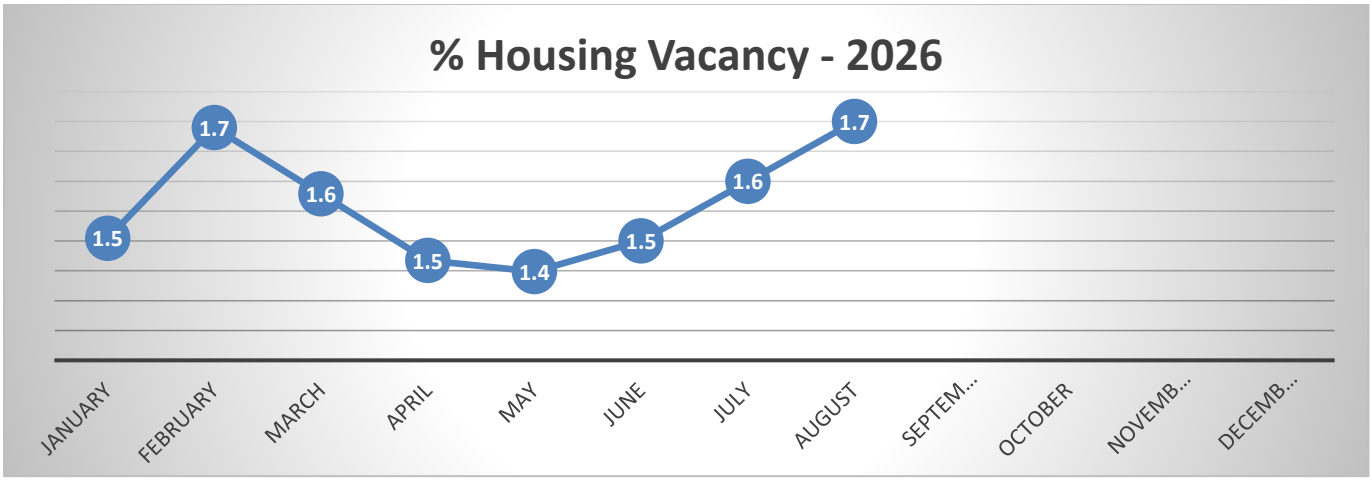
	To Date	September 2026
Applications Received	513	15
Completed	127	0
Declined	280	1
Ongoing	15	15

Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Not Started	In Progress	Completed but not yet tenanted	TOTAL Vacant	TOTAL Completed in 2026
Arklow	7 (-1)	2 (-3)	4 (+3)	15 (+1)	8 (0)
Baltinglass	4 (+1)	7 (0)	10 (+2)	21 (+2)	7 (+3)
Bray	4 (0)	8 (+1)	5 (0)	17 (+1)	11 (+2)
Greystones	2 (-1)	4 (0)	3 (+1)	10 (0)	7 (+2)
Wicklow	10 (0)	11 (0)	9 (0)	30 (+1)	17 (+6)
2026 Totals	27 (+1)	32 (0)	31 (+4)	93 (+11)	50 (+10)
2025 Totals					142
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock		Figures in brackets indicate change on previous month			1.7 (+0.2)

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

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A Local Area Term Maintenance Framework for Planned Building Maintenance and Refurbishment Works was setup in 2024 and has a 2-year term. 17 contractors were appointed under this Framework to cover Wicklow's five Municipal Districts for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants. Also, the Housing Direct Labour Team complete a proportion of housing upgrades as part of the Voids Programme. This framework will be renewed in Q3 2026.

Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

Scheme	Current Status
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme: 3 group housing units and 17 social houses	Expect to go to tender for Contractor in September
Vale Road, Arklow	This is a two-unit group housing scheme. The Part 8 planning process is complete. TAU funding approved and design team appointed.
Ballinteskin – 2 extensions	The tender for the construction contract has been awarded, and the contractor has commenced works. It is expected to reach substantial completion by Q4 2026.



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Works ongoing extension at No.7 Ballinteskin August 2026

Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

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

Energy Retrofit Program

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

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

A new Framework has been developed and contracts are moving towards tender stage to deliver on projects in 2026, in line with DHLGH requirements.

EERP	Numbers carried out to date 2026
Houses complete	2



Energy Retrofit works Walls being pumped at Asgard Close Arklow Town. August 2026

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Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects

Hillview, Wicklow Town

Wicklow County Council have initiated meetings with the DHLGH regarding the inclusion of Hillview Estate, Wicklow Town as one of the first potential schemes under the new Delivering Housing Building Communities Housing Regeneration Fund. This estate has been identified as a location that would benefit from a housing regeneration project, due to the complexity of issues both structural and social. It is proposed to develop a suite of proposals for this housing development in Q3 2026 and apply for funding when the DHLGH Regeneration Programme is open.

Farrankelly Close, Greystones

A full asset management survey of Farrenkelly was completed in Q3 2025. This completed a full inventory of the properties and condition throughout to help us ascertain works needed. These stock condition surveys were completed through our program Addjust+

Following these surveys, phase 1 of the works to install new windows and doors were tendered comprising of 12 properties and these were completed earlier this year and delivered with associated improvements to insulation and ventilation completed by the Greystones MD team.

The contract for phase 2 comprising of 38 units was awarded in 2026, and 14 units have been completed to date with another 4 units expected to be completed by next Friday the 4th of September bring total units in phase 2 completed to 18 . This will mean 40 units have been completed in total in the estate across phase 1 and 2. We aim to have completed all 38 units tendered in phase 2 by the end of 2026.



New windows and doors installed at Farrenkelly Greystones 2026

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

Grant	Home Adaptations
Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) completed September 2026	54
Housing Adaptation Grant complete September 2026 (HAG/MAG/HOP)	290

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

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Disability Grant Works at 6 Woodbrook Arklow

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out 2026 to date:
Targeted and complaint inspections	168

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

Notice Type	Notices currently active:
Improvement Notice	15
Prohibition Notice	5

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

A new private rental inspection contractor framework was established in July and Wicklow are looking to completed a sample of social housing stock with a contractor by the end of the year.

Stock Condition Surveys (SCS)

Wicklow County Council completed 404 stock condition surveys on local authority properties to date. This formed the basis of drawdown of planned maintenance funding from the DGLGH in terms of surveys, electrical inspections, electrical upgrade works, heating upgrade works and replacement of windows and doors. A new SCS framework was

established in July and Wicklow are looking to complete a sample of social housing stock with a contractor by the end of the year.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

There are currently 109 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
57	52	13

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

The table below outlines the number of households currently on Wicklow County Council's social housing waiting list who have selected each area as their first preference. As applicants may choose up to three areas of choice, the figures represent first-preference demand only and do not capture additional demand from households who have selected an area as their second or third preference. In addition to the currently at the awaiting allocation stage, there are also households seeking transfer from HAP and other social housing supports whose housing needs are not reflected in these figures.

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	Total
ARKLOW	310
ARKLOW RURAL / THOMASTOWN	3
ASHFORD	170
AUGHRIM	14
AVOCA	21
BALLINACLASH	1
BALLYCOOGUE	1
BALTINGLASS	45
BARNDARRIG	5
BLESSINGTON	139
BRAY NORTH	287
BRAY SOUTH	256
BRAY TOWN CENTRE	105
CARNEW	24
DELGANY	80
DONARD	4
DUNLAVIN	13
ENNISKERRY	26

GLENEALY	5
GREYSTONES	143
KILCOOLE	36
KILMACANOGUE	4
LARAGH	6
NEWCASTLE	8
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY	37
RATHDRUM	13
RATHNEW	34
REDCROSS	1
ROUNDWOOD	15
SHILLELAGH	6
STRATFORD-ON-SLANEY	3
TINAHELY	7
WICKLOW TOWN	86
Grand Total	1908

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, 735 households (514 families & 221 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1 st October 2018 to 31 st August 2026. (292 homeless cases, 397 prevention cases to date and 48 direct provision). 187 properties were sourced by WCC.

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Homeless Services

Homeless Figures for September 2026

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/09/2026	Year To Date	As at 30/09/2025
No of New Presentations	41	266	14
No. of Repeat Presentations	25	161	5
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	17	118	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	44	358	15
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	10	46	4
No. of Children	30	190	10
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	113	3
Family Circumstances	26	146	5
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	3	34	2
Mental Health	3	19	1
Risk of Homelessness	30	166	12
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	0
Addiction Issues	6	33	1
DV/DA	2	12	1
Medical Issues	1	11	1
Overcrowding	1	13	4
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	7	14	0
ASB:	5	13	0
Rough Sleeping*	3	11	4
Sofa Surfing*	5	39	1
Staying with Family*	6	30	0
Staying with Friends*	7	27	2

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/09/2026	
Families	16
Adults	35
Children	44
Single individual	9

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	26	8	3	3	3	8
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2026								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	30	44	29	10	7	7	0	13

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, 746 households (522 families & 224 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2026. (297 homeless cases, 403 prevention cases to date and 48 direct provision). 189 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

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

Community

Community Awards Scheme (CAS) 2026

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Awards Scheme available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The maximum grant amount is €1,000 per organisation for small projects and group running costs. There is €85,000 allocated for the CAS in 2026.

312 CAS applications were received in total and payment has been made, or is in process, to 298 successful applicants. 10 applications are ongoing.

Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe
Our Rural Future

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026

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

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

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

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

Applications have now closed and 208 eligible applications were received in total, all of which have been paid.

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Ballynagran Small Grants Scheme

The Ballynagran Landfill Community Liaison Committee and Wicklow County Council support a grant scheme that may be availed of by owner occupied households living in the area close to the Ballynagran landfill site to help reduce any effects the landfill facility may have on the area around it. The scheme for 2026 will provide grants to owner-occupied households to improve their property.

This scheme is being funded through the proceeds of the levy on the Ballynagran Landfill Facility.

The 2026 Ballynagran Small Grants Scheme closed on 31st July with 97 applications received and now being processed.

IPB Pride of Place Competition 2026

The five Wicklow finalists in the IPB Pride of Place 2026 Competition recently presented to the visiting judges. The following entries were nominated to represent the county.

Project / Group Name	Category
Enniskerry Village	Population 2000-5000
Made in Wicklow – For the Love of Creativity	Creative Communities
Care & Repair Helping Hands	Age Friendly Communities
Murrough Pump Track	Community Youth Initiative
Plot to Plate Sustainable Greystones	Urban Neighbourhoods & Housing Estates

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

Judging of the projects took place in August. Over the three days, the judges visited the participating towns and attended all five presentations, where residents, community groups and local committees proudly showcased the outstanding work being carried out in their communities. The participants demonstrated great dedication, effort and civic pride as they highlighted the projects and initiatives that make their areas unique.

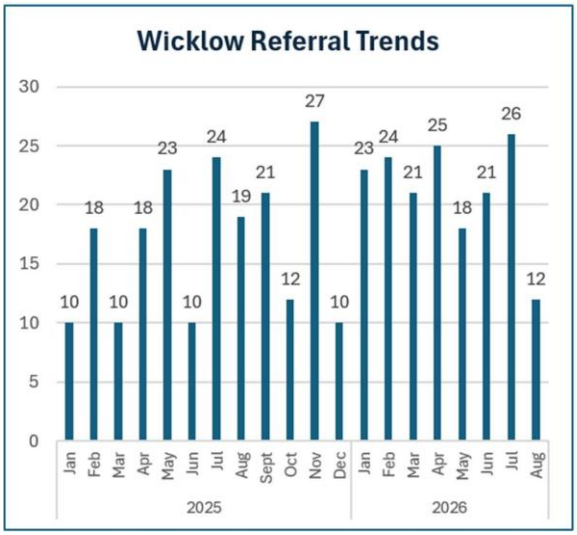
The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Friday, 24th of October, in the National Convention Centre, Dublin. The competition is run by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company (IPBMI), in association with Co-operation Ireland.

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Healthy Age Friendly Homes

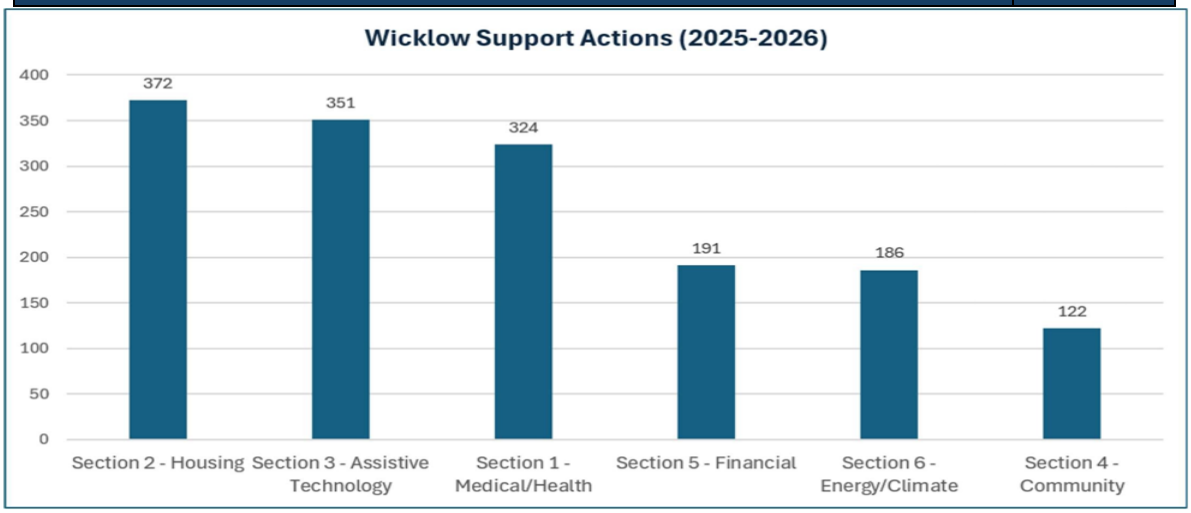
Programme Delivery

Outlined below are details of the number of older people in Wicklow who have been assisted by Healthy Age Friendly Homes to continue to live in their own home with dignity and independence. Since the 1st January 2025, 346 older people across Wicklow have benefited from support from Healthy Age Friendly Homes.





Total Number of Participants Awaiting a Visit	59
Total Supports Offered for: Medical/Health; Housing; Assistive Technology; Community; Finance and Energy/Climate (Jan 2025 – 26th August 2026)	1,546



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The Local Coordinator conducts home-based assessments and works with the older person to develop a personalised action plan across six domains which can be broken down into the following areas housing, community, health, technology, finance, climate and energy. The list outlined in the infographic below is not exhaustive and is subject to the resources available in the respective county. If you require more details on the support provided, they can be obtained from the Regional Programme Managers or the National Office.



Programme Details:

Healthy Age Friendly Homes is a free service which is available to homeowners, private, Approved Housing Body and Local Authority tenants. Local coordinators play a critical role in ensuring older people receive timely and appropriate support and reinforce the Councils commitment to the development of age friendly communities through measurable social benefit.

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme continues to support older people, over 65 years of age, to live in their home for as long as possible. The Programme accepts referrals from a variety of sources including from:

- The older person – Self Referral
- Family and friends
- Elected representatives
- Local Authority Staff
- Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
- Community Organisations

Please note, consent from the older person (verbal) must be obtained before the referral is submitted. Once the referral is received, the Local Coordinator will be in touch with the older person to arrange a free home visit.

Referrals to the programme can be made via phone, email or through our website:

046-924 8899 (Head Office) healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

agefriendlyireland.ie

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County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme 30th September 2026

Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy:

Age Friendly Expo 2026: Save the date: 23rd October, Brockagh Centre, Laragh.

Age Friendly Alliance: Alliance meet 4 times per year.

Meetings Held 2026	Future Meetings
23rd January 20th March 22nd May 29th June 2nd September	2nd October
5 & subgroup meetings	5

Age Friendly Ireland Public Realm Steering Group: This group is updating the current Age Friendly Ireland Public Realm Guidelines and consists of the Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager/Access Officer, along with key national stakeholders. Consultants are O'Herlihy Access Consultancy. Final draft format currently underway.

Comhairle na nÓg

- Youth Council have been working over the summer on the report of their transport survey, with good data to work with. Report due to be completed mid-September.
- Youth Summit is booked for Friday 6th November in the Glenview Hotel.
- Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator, Dr. Cllr. Caroline Winstanley will attend an international Human Rights & Democracy lab event in Würzburg, Germany, where they are interested in hearing more about CNN as a unique structure.

Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- Discussion document on proposed Emergency Evacuation Protocol Meeting took place 5th August with DOS of Social Development and DOS of Integration and Emergency Services.
- Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) Meeting held 24th September. Review of Terms of Reference and visit from Equality Officer in DLR to take place.
- Disability Champion initiative offered to whole staff team, to integrate disability awareness and accessibility improvements across the whole organisation.
- The Sunflower Lanyard aims to support people with hidden disabilities. Induction training now available on internal training platform called Eazysafe, for whole staff team to access and receive a certificate once completed.

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- Website Accessibility: Ongoing edits made to current website regarding accessibility as needed. Ongoing meetings with Communications team to ensure accessibility considerations are covered as needed and are a core part of planning of new website from the start.
- Access Officer queries: dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan weekly and externally, as appropriate.

Healthy Wicklow

Active Communities

Healthy Wicklow is organised a Health Hub at Carnew Mart on the 10th September, bringing essential health screening directly to farmers at a location they already attend. The initiative recognises that farmers can often have limited time and may find it difficult to attend routine health appointments. On the day, the Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit, Vision Ireland and Hidden Hearing will be on site with three mobile vans, providing free health checks covering heart health, vision and hearing. This collaborative initiative aims to make preventative health checks more accessible to the farming community, encouraging early identification of potential health issues and promoting better overall health and wellbeing.



Healthy Wicklow and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership have jointly funded a new set of playground stencils to support schools and community organisations in enhancing their outdoor spaces. This initiative responds to the increasing demand from schools and community groups seeking to develop more engaging environments and create additional opportunities for unstructured, active play among children and young people. The stencils provide a simple and accessible way to transform existing spaces, encouraging physical activity, creativity, social interaction and play while making better use of available outdoor areas.

Working alongside Rena Byrne, Nurse at Carnew Community Care, Healthy Wicklow is funding a chair-based exercise programme for service users with limited movement and mobility issues. The programme takes place every Thursday morning, with 15 individuals currently participating. The initiative provides an accessible opportunity for participants to engage in regular physical activity in a safe and supportive environment, helping to improve mobility, strength, balance and overall health and wellbeing.

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Sláintecare Healthy Communities - Bray

1. Children's Wellness Hub

The independent evaluation of the Children's Wellness Hub has now been completed following almost two years of work between Mary Immaculate College and local stakeholders. The findings provide an important evidence base for the Hub's community-based early-intervention model and reinforce the value of accessible, trusted supports for children and families before needs escalate to more intensive services.

The Hub has entered its second year of SEED funding, with a further €75,000 secured to support continued development. Three staff are now in place and the programme continues to provide direct therapeutic and family-support activity, including play therapy, Theraplay-informed work, family engagement and workshops for children and parents. The next phase will focus on communicating the evaluation findings, strengthening referral and partnership pathways, monitoring outcomes and considering the longer-term sustainability of the model.

2. Bray Traveller Project

The Bray Traveller Project continues to progress positively under the current phase of Genio funding. The Housing and Accommodation Officer role is now well established and provides a consistent point of support for Traveller individuals and families across housing advocacy, homelessness, tenancy sustainment, repairs, disability adaptations and wider wellbeing needs.

There has been strong progress across a number of priority cases. A priority homelessness case has received a housing offer; a priority overcrowding transfer has successfully moved to a new home; a priority medical transfer is progressing; and a downsizing transfer is being advanced which would allow a family home to be reallocated to a daughter currently experiencing gross overcrowding. A homeless service user has also been supported through assessment and documentation to secure a HAP tenancy.

Interagency working with Housing Officers, the Traveller Social Worker, Clerks of Works, Simon Community and the Homeless Team has strengthened. Advocacy also continues in relation to a priority overcrowding case requiring a larger property.

Current project activity includes:

• 2 disability adaptation works completed and 4 further adaptations in progress;

• 12 basic repair works completed;

• 5 new social housing applications submitted;

• 7 Tier 1 and 8 Tier 2 homelessness cases supported; and

• 17 tenancy sustainment interventions.

Health and wellbeing activity continues alongside the accommodation work, including targeted supports for young Traveller men and women, healthy food and budgeting initiatives, and a Chronic Health Assessment Clinic delivered in partnership with the HSE Social Inclusion Unit.

3. Period Poverty Initiative

The Healthy Communities Period Poverty Initiative has secured funding for 2026. The programme will continue to provide free menstrual products through community organisations and services working with vulnerable individuals and families in Bray, while also strengthening menstrual-health education and awareness.

At least four targeted workshops/talks are being planned across community settings and secondary schools. The initiative is intended to reduce practical barriers, promote dignity, improve health literacy and ensure that people experiencing financial disadvantage can access both products and reliable information.

4. Dormant Accounts Fund – LGBTQ+ Youth Health and Wellbeing

A funding application has been submitted under the 2026 Dormant Accounts Fund in collaboration with Crosscare for an LGBTQ+ Youth Health and Wellbeing initiative in County Wicklow. The proposal centres on a one-day, youth-informed event for LGBTQ+ young people aged 12–18, designed to provide a safe and inclusive space for health, wellbeing, creativity, physical activity, social connection and access to trusted information and supports.

Subject to funding, the programme would include interactive health and wellbeing workshops, food and refreshments, targeted transport support, accessibility and sensory supports, and a supervised alcohol-free social event. The proposal builds on Crosscare's previous successful youth events while strengthening the health-inequality, inclusion and wellbeing focus through the SHC partnership. An outcome on the funding application is expected shortly.

5. Women's Health, Recovery and Employment – Addiction Intervention

A further funding application has been progressed in partnership between Bray Travellers Community Development Group (BTCDG) and Sláintecare Healthy Communities for a targeted programme supporting women affected by active addiction, substance misuse or early recovery. The proposed approach recognises the strong interaction between addiction, mental health, housing instability, poverty and social exclusion, and aims to provide a practical pathway towards greater stability and participation.

The proposed programme would combine structured recovery-focused interventions with health and wellbeing supports, relapse-prevention strategies, confidence building, practical life skills and onward referral to appropriate addiction and mental-health services. A core objective would be to support women to progress, where appropriate, towards education, training, volunteering and employment. The programme is intended as a targeted prevention and early-intervention response: reducing the risk of relapse and further social or health deterioration while strengthening engagement with existing services and longer-term recovery pathways.

6. Physical Activity for Health Hub / Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion

Work continues on the Physical Activity for Health Hub and wider community infrastructure in Ballywaltrim. The PAfH Hub remains an important SHC-supported initiative, improving access to tailored physical activity for people living with chronic conditions and for communities experiencing health inequalities.

<u>Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion</u>

The Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion refurbishment is now in its active delivery phase. The wider project originated from an earlier community grant allocation, with the current refurbishment phase progressed during 2026. A formal Service Level Agreement was signed in July 2026 to support the completion of capital works, with €20,000 in Sláintecare Healthy Communities funding allocated to the project. An initial €15,000 has been released, with the final €5,000 payment being progressed in line with the agreed governance and supporting-documentation requirements. Significant preparatory work has already been completed, including engagement with the Ballywaltrim committee, development of a schedule of works, contractor quotations, clarification of eligible expenditure, and agreement of the funding and reporting requirements. Refurbishment works are now underway. The planned works include improvements to internal facilities and finishes, electrical and energy-efficient lighting upgrades, painting and decorating, repairs or replacement of showers and bathroom facilities, kitchen improvements, doors and locks, fire-safety works, flooring and tiling, windows, interior structures and other necessary pavilion repairs.

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Local Community Safety Partnership

The members of Wicklow's Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) were officially appointed by the Minister for Justice on 1 December 2025. The first meeting was held on 4th December 2025.

Chair: Cllr Tom Fortune
Vice-Chair: Selena McKenzie

Meetings held in 2026:

- LCSP – 5 meetings
- Statutory closed meeting with elected representatives will be held on November 16th
- The first public meeting of the LCSP was held on 15th June at Kilian House, Greystones, in conjunction with a public consultation.
- LCSP Steering Group – 8 meetings
- Domestic Violence Working Group – 3 meetings
- Roads and Road Safety Working Group – 4 meetings
- Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group – 2 meetings
- Safe and Secure at Home – 4 meetings

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

Progress to Date

- The LCSP secured a grant of €16,500 from the Department of Agriculture to provide Tractor Driving Safety Awareness training for young people aged 14 years and over. To date 90 children have participated in the training. Garda attended sessions and gave a safety talk to the young people attending.
- The LCSP are working with Wicklow Youth Services and Pyscare Ireland to deliver a Night-Time/Nightlife Preparedness course for young people aged 18+ on 22nd October in Bray.
- The LCSP have purchased property marking machines and a property marking event is being held in Kilcoole on 24th and 25th October. Further events are being planned.
- The LCSP in conjunction with the DVA Wicklow Network will be holding an event in County Buildings on 27th November as part of the 16 days of global activism against gender-based violence.

Wicklow Local Community Safety Plan

- The consultation process is ending shortly
- A consultant has been procured to assist with developing the plan and is currently reviewing the data collected to date.
- Workshops with Partnership members and key stakeholders are being planned.

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Public Participation Network

Governance Network for community organisations: In response to local demand, this network has been set-up collaboratively by Wicklow PPN, Co. Wicklow Partnership and Wicklow Volunteer Centre. First meeting to be held on September 29th.

PPN Policy Review: Initial review report has been completed on Wicklow PPN policies with regard to fit- for-purpose, alignment/consistency with each other and with national policies and guidance. Secretariat to review report and decide on next steps.

PPN National Conference 2026: To take place September 24th and 25th in Hodson Bay Hotel, hosted by Roscommon PPN. Participants from Wicklow PPN to attend.

10 funding streams and 7 public consultation opportunities currently advertised by Wicklow PPN.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above, including newsletters, funding streams, public consultations, events, daily updates and membership.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Forward Planning

County Development Plan

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted in September 2022 and came into effect in October 2022. The County Development Plan has been subject to six variations since 2022, and the consolidate updated County Development Plan is available to view here: https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7-Adopted-Plan

Local Plans

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

LAPs/LPFs have been adopted for Wicklow Town – Rathnew, Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Arklow and 'Blessington' and can be viewed at the following link:
https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Development-Plans-Strategies

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

The pre-draft public consultation for this plan has been completed, and work is being carried out on preparing the draft LPF. The LPF will be done through a variation of the County Development Plan. There is no specific date to publish the Draft Bray Municipal District LPF.

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

Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

This is to further take account of 'NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements' - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) (July 2025). The Guidelines provide for an increased annual housing growth requirement for Wicklow County Council, and an 'additional provision' mechanism to support the zoning of additional lands in areas where it can be justified.

Following a 'Call For Sites' consultation in Q1 of 2026, the Proposed Variation considers the zoning of lands for additional residential development and associated uses in settlements in the County. This proposed variation went on display from 10th September to 8th October 2026 with 862 submissions received. Submissions are currently being processed and published to www.wicklow.ie. The 1st Chief Executive's Report is currently being prepared, summarising and responding to all the submissions and the CE will make recommendations to alter the proposed variation if necessary.

More information is available here: https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Proposed-Variation-No-7

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

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

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2026 were published on 31 January 2026 and can be viewed here: https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax

The Final 2026 RZLT Maps. The final map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land were invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council to change the zoning of this land until 1 April 2026. If certain conditions were met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2026 liability on foot of such a request. One submission was received in 2026. WCC has assessed this submission and a determination letter issued on 26th June 2026.

More information is available here: https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Making-a-rezoning-request

The Draft 2027 RZLT Maps

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

The draft map for 2027 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2027. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – were invited to make submissions by 1st April 2026 regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map. Eight submissions were received. WCC has assessed these submissions, and determination letters were issued on 26th June 2026.

The following link provides some general information on the RZLT process including a short information video:
https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/RZLT-General-Information

A frequently asked questions document has also been prepared and is available to view here:
Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQs:
https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/5Cn831T6AES8TXmR2C3i4A/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20Your%20Questions%20Answered.pdf

Vacant Site Levy

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

The Vacant Sites recorded on the Vacant Sites Register as of 30th September 2026 are as follows:

Municipal District	**No. of Sites on Register**
Arklow	6
Baltinglass	1
Bray	2
Greystones	2
Wicklow	6
Total	**17**

More information is available here: https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Derelict-Vacant-Sites/Vacant-Sites

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	**To 30 September 2025**	**To 30 September 2026**
Received (Valid)	1060	1077

A total of 93 **valid applications** were received **during September** as follows:

Type of Development	**Number**
Individual Houses	16 (15 Rural)
Housing Developments*	07
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	04
Other Developments**	62
RED III	00
Total	**93**

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

Decisions issued in respect of 90 applications in September 2026;

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	13
Other Developments	75
RED III	01
Total	**90**

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

	30 September 2025	30 September 2026
Total Number of decisions issued	711	796
Total Number of decisions to grant	587	707
% Grant Rate	82%	89%
No of applications withdrawn		5 (2 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála

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

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

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

Substitute Consent

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

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of overburden storage and extraction sand and gravel beyond the original permitted areas (planning reg. ref. 08/356 (ABP Ref PL230573, Planning Reg Ref 19/312 and completion of restoration within an overall site of c.84 hectares, Kilmurry Upper, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow – ACP-324594-26 refers.

E-Planning Project

The E-planning system has been in place since 17th April 2023.

From 1st January 2026 to 30th September 2026 a total of 840 Valid applications were received of which 16.07% were hard copy applications and 83.93% were received online.

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For the month of September, a total of 90 valid planning applications were received of which 17% were hard copy applications and 83% were received online.

Due to the complexities of larger applications, it has been necessary to request two hard copies for larger developments.

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of August via the E-planning portal including:

- A number of applications for one off rural houses
- A number of agricultural developments
- 7 detached split level dwellings at Ballinacor East & Ballinacor West, Barndarrig
- 10 year permission for supply project at the existing Vartry reservoir
- 10 dwellings at Donard Demesne West, Donard
- Amendments to LRD at Tinakilly, Rathnew
- A number of Red III applications

Planning Enforcement – September 2026

Enforcement Files	Total
New Files	6
Advisory Letters	13
Warning Letters	2
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	1
Closed	4

Derelict Sites as of 30th September 2026

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Arklow	2
Baltinglass	2
Bray	0
Greystones	0
Wicklow	0
Total	**4**

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

Heritage Office

County Heritage Plan (CHP) Work Programme: Local Authority County Heritage Plan Fund 2026 total allocation of €60,000 awarded from the Heritage Council. All projects underway, Community Archaeology contract in place.

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI): Heritage-led Regeneration Plan for Wicklow in preparation in association with Wicklow Town Team (grant of €50,000 awarded from The Heritage Council). Studio Myco consultants engaged, with public consultation, information events and stakeholder engagement completed. HTI Report expected end October.

Wicklow Heritage Forum: Four meetings scheduled for 2026. First meeting held on 25th March in Russborough House, second meeting held in Arklow Maritime Museum on 21st July. Third meeting held on the 13th October in Bray Town Hall.

Built Heritage Funds (Architecture): Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes for 2026.

BHIS 2026 allocation of €175,000 for County Wicklow confirmed for eighteen projects, with ten projects completed to date. Recoupment deadline 6th November 2026.

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BHIS 2027 deadline for submissions on 30th October 2026.

HSF 2026 allocation of €168,250 confirmed for two projects as follows:

- Russborough House €101,817 to support a programme of extensive and essential stone repairs, works completed; and
- Old Lacken Schoolhouse €66,433 to repair timber windows, overhaul of cast iron rainwater goods, lime repointing, re-rendering in lime plaster and stone repairs, works close to completion.

HSF 2027 deadline for submissions on 27th November 2026. Recoupment deadline 6th November 2026.

Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology): Applications to the Community Monument Fund secured a total allocation of €544,415 from National Monuments Service for seven projects as follows:

- Kilpipe Medieval Church €130,000 to repair and consolidate ruins; Contractor appointed, project underway.
- Kilmacanogue Old Church €105,038 for phase 2 programme of masonry repairs; Contractor appointed, project underway
- Drumgoff Barracks €130,000 for phase 2 repairs to early 19th century building associated with the Military Road construction; Contractors appointed.
- Black Castle, Wicklow Town €100,000 for conservation and stabilisation of the upstanding masonry remains; Contractors appointed, project underway.
- Killoughter (Old) Church and Graveyard €23,724 for a Conservation Management Plan, including archaeological, architectural, engineering, ecological and arboricultural assessment; Project team in place.
- Killadreenan Church €25,695 for a Conservation Management Plan, including assessment of significance, condition and vulnerability, and the development of conservation policies and a prioritised schedule of works to guide future conservation and management. Project team in place.
- Castletimon Church Ruins €30,000 for small-scale, preventative conservation works to include consolidation of collapsed masonry and targeted stabilisation. Contractors appointed.

2027 Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology) Community Monument Fund 2027 announced on 09/10/26. Applications sought by22nd Jan 2027.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN): Co-ordination of *Our Wicklow Heritage* (County Wicklow online community heritage archive) plus a network of 11 groups in County Wicklow in association with WCC Archives and library services and in partnership with National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council.

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

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

Biodiversity Working Group and Climate Action Teams: HO participation in internal working groups to support implementation of the County Biodiversity Action Plan.

Rural Regeneration Coordination Group: HO and ACO participation in internal working group to support delivery of DRCD Capital Projects.

Heritage Council Training and Development Event: Wicklow Heritage Team to host quarterly training and development event on 2nd and 3rd of December in Arklow as part of the Heritage Council programme to support Ceangal (Biodiversity Officer, Archivist, HO and ACO) officers in Local Authorities.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications
(Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, DRCDG)

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

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Blessington RRDF (Category 2)

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

A meeting between WCC's Capital Delivery Team (CDT) and the Department's RRDF Team took place on the 25th of February 2026. The Department requested some further information regarding the Council's proposals for Blessington and how they align with the original RRDF application and grant of funding. The Department were accepting of the fact that, since the awarding of the RRDF grant, a Town Centre First (TCF) Plan has been developed in line with the Department's guidelines. They agreed it had been prudent to wait until that TCF process had been completed prior to progressing the RRDF further to ensure the RRDF complimented the TCF Plan. All requested information has been submitted to the Department. A meeting was held with the Department to try and address their questions; further information requested by the Department has been forwarded to them. A decision by the Department is expected imminently.

Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)

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

The required Quality Audit process on the design of Public Realm was completed in late February 2026. Some minor changes to the designs were required on foot of the outcomes of the QA process.
Tender documents have recently been uploaded to eTenders on October 2nd. The tender submission deadline is November 19th. A briefing will take place with elected members before works commence.

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

Two applications were submitted in July; Bog Meadow, Enniskerry Newtownmountkennedy. The outcome of these applications is expected in November.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications
(Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)

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

Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)

A revised business case was sent to DHLGH in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for both the proposed land based and marine works. The department have approved this scheme to progress to the next stage which is Planning and Design. Once tender brief is approved, the tender will be placed on eTenders.
The approval covers the Planning and Design stages only at this stage.

Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)

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

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The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage James Browne TD, announced a new Town and Cities Investment Regeneration Fund (TCRIF) to replace the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. Towns of 9,000 and above are eligible for funding.

Three projects were submitted to the Department for funding:

- Arklow Harbour Plan Development
- Wicklow Harbour Plan Development
- The Wicklow Murrough Master Plan

Wicklow County Council were informed on September 14th that all three applications were successful. We currently await a Funding Agreement to issue from the Department.

Town Regeneration

1.0 Town Teams

There are currently eight active Town Teams in County Wicklow with preparations underway to create a new Town Team in Bray. A highly engaging governance workshop took place in the Brockagh Centre which brought together the Chairs of the Town teams.

The first Rural Development Co-Ordination Group meeting took place on Thursday, 11th September with the next meeting to take place late October.

2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan
2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

3.0 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

Two applications have been approved for funding under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 Suite of Supports: one for Blessington and one for Wicklow Town.

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

Update: We are awaiting an update from the Department to progress this scheme.

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

Update: Scope of Part VIII to be finalised

4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Kirikee Community Centre and the Old Schoolhouse in Lacken are due to be officially opened on the 11th of November 2026.

5.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

a) <u>Main Scheme Funding</u>
Rathdrum RDA Hall - Electrical and toilet refurbishment works are due to be begin end October 2026.

b) Project Development Measure

Arklow – St Mary's Park - Full brief has been prepared; site plans are being completed. Update meeting with all stakeholders will take place at the end of October 2026

Health Checks

The Carnew Health Check is complete, and the final document will be disseminated once received.
The Wicklow Health Check is being completed in tandem with the Wicklow HTI project and a draft document is imminent.

6.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2026

Under Building Lands and Acquisition Measure 2026, a vacant building is being purchased in Arklow. Contracts of sale and deed of Transfer are being completed. Drawdown to take place before November 20th. 100% funded by the Department.

Expressions of Interest have been advertised and sought under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2026. Deadline for receipt of same is the 2nd of November 2026. Wicklow County Council can apply for 1 scheme up to €500,000 and 3 schemes up to €300,000 with 2 Project Development Measures of €50,000 also eligible.

Tourism

Wicklow Gaol

The contract with the new operator has been signed with commencement date scheduled for the 1st of November 2026. Extensive activities are underway to get the Gaol ready for reopening.
The Fire Safety works are now complete, and final reports are being drawn up.

Extensive works are underway on the roofs and windows. Roof works are expected to be completed by the end of October. This includes new roofs over the tower block and flat roofs. All glass panes are being changed and existing frames are being repaired. Windows works will extend into November.

New toilet blocks are being delivered at the end of October to be installed and fitted in the courtyard.

Food & Beverage Strategy - Wicklow Naturally

Wicklow Naturally is organising a Food and Drinks Festival for Samhain with various events planned around the County and supported by Fáilte Ireland. The main event is to be held on the 7th of November at Powerscourt Distillery. The festival is being extensively promoted and will help further establish the Wicklow Naturally brand and network of producers.

Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

The Wicklow DEDP Implementation Group is meeting on Monday the 19th of October. Focus will be on Fáilte Ireland updating the group on the Plan, insights on Tourism Performance and the new Garden of Ireland brand.

Tourism Promotion

Wicklow County Council has agreed to support promotional activities organised by Wicklow County Tourism as per DEDP for 2026. Activities include year long online promotional activities and two campaigns with focus on Autumn and Winter in Wicklow. Both campaigns will push 'Destination Wicklow' through dedicated online campaigns, seasonality activities, promotion of existing events and production of visual content for future use. Special focus is given to Samhain Wicklow and Christmas.

Samhain Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has created a dedicated platform focussing on the packaging and promotion of Halloween related activities around Wicklow. Wicklow Samhain has a series of branded logos and a dedicated landing page on the visitwicklow.ie website with full calendar of events and interactive map. Extensive promotion is planned through Wicklow County Tourism promotional activities.

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Economic Development

1. Special Projects

Avondale Business Park:

Site sales at Avondale Business Park continue to progress following the formal approval of Site 10A for disposal at the October council meeting. Total site disposals to date stand at approximately 12 acres, with approx. 4 acres remaining. Work continues to promote the available sites and review incoming expressions of interest.

Strategic Enterprise Lands:

Progress continues evaluating strategic enterprise lands across the County to ensure their development best supports local economic and community priorities.

The GRID:

With the formal handover complete and the new operator actively managing the site, core occupancy remains fully maintained at 100%. Efforts continue with advancing the future use of the open ground floor area to maximize the potential of the 138 sqm space.

Knockanarrigan:

A recent call for Expressions of Interest regarding the proposed disposal of the Old Dispensary, Knockanarrigan has now closed, and all submitted applications are currently under review.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:

Property registration continues to advance. The Law Agent is actively liaising with the Property Registration Authority to resolve outstanding queries and progress the matter toward formal conclusion.

2. Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

A recent meeting of the network was held on September 15th. The network continues to progress the planned schedule of activities, including a review of the Terms of Reference and the future purpose of the network moving into 2027. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th.

3. Skills Strategy

The Taskforce meeting scheduled for the 6th was cancelled and will be rescheduled shortly. In the meantime, the Taskforce continues to implement key projects and remains fully aligned with its 2026 targets.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO):

LEO Objectives
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

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

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Metrics: Grants	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	**2026**	**2026**
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	14 BEG / 2 Priming / 8 Feasibility /3 (MEG) Total: 27- **€546,033**	33	7 BEG/ 4 Priming/ 3 Feasibility Total: 14 € 424,822.00
Gross Jobs Created	696	188	TBC
Net Jobs Created	50	105	TBC
New Job Commitments 3 Years	N/A	84	123
Metrics: Training/ Capacity Building	**Historical**	**Targets**	**Year To Date**
	2025	**2026**	**2026**
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	117	90	166
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	156	90	75
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1139	720	442
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	20	20	16
Metrics: Business Advice & Mentoring	**Historical**	**Targets**	**Year To Date**
	2025	**2026**	**2026**
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	580	-	427
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	544	270	507
Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes	**Historical**	**Targets**	
Academic Year	**2025/26**	**2026/2027**	**Year to Date 2026/27**
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1170	1170	1467
Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland	**Historical**	**Targets**	
No of transfers	**2025**	**2026**	**Year to Date 2026**
Number of transfers	6	5	5
Lean, Green & Digital Start For Micro Projects	**Historical**	**Targets**	**Year To Date**

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	2025	2026	2026
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	15	15	15
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	21	27	22
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	34	27	21
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	5	18	4
Energy Efficiency Grant	9	18	13
RD&I Grants (inc IP) Approved	1	1	1
Microfinance Ireland	**Historical**	**Targets**	**Year To Date**
	2025	**2026**	**2026**
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	17	19	17
New Exporters	**Historical**	**Targets**	**Year To Date**
	2025	**2026**	**2026**
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	3	3	TBC

Activities:

- **National Women's Enterprise Day 2026**: The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow will be hosting the National Women's Enterprise Day 2026 on Thursday, 15 October, at Clermont House, Rathnew. An inspiring afternoon of networking, practical insights and entrepreneurial stories, featuring keynote speaker Claire Walsh and a panel of successful female LEO Wicklow clients sharing their business journeys, experiences and advice.
- The **LEO Wicklow Design Thinking for Business Innovation Programme**, currently being delivered in partnership with KWETB, is a Level 6 Micro Qualification designed to help businesses strengthen innovation, problem-solving and decision-making skills. The programme is taking place at LEO Training Room, Clermont House, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow, across four full-day sessions on 21, 24 and 28 September and 5 October 2026.
- **National Ploughing Championships 2026:** LEO Wicklow client Equibuff, led by Niamh Jennings, was selected to exhibit in the LEO Village at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2026. Niamh also received training and mentoring to help her maximise this valuable business and promotional opportunity.
- **Blas na hÉireann 2026** took place in Dingle last week, with 14 Wicklow producers shortlisted and 11 taking home bronze, silver or gold awards. Congratulations to all our local producers, especially Coconut & Moo Moo, named Best in County, proudly sponsored by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow. A fantastic achievement celebrating the quality, innovation and diversity of Wicklow's thriving food and drink sector!
- Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, in partnership with Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), invited Wicklow SMEs to an informative networking event exploring the supports and training available to local businesses, which took place during September in the Baltinglass Outdoor Centre (KWETB) and at Arklow Business Enterprise Centre in early October.

Business Skill Trainings

- Explore Your New Business Idea Online- 14/10/2026
- Start Your Own Business Course 29/10/2026
- Costing and Pricing Strategy 19/11/2026

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Government Funding: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (LAMIS) - DAFM		
Funding Applied	Grant applications for 10 harbour improvement projects.	Value € 1.37m.
Funding Approved	LAMIS funding conferred for three projects.	Value of €175,402.97
Tenders	Tenders submitted for two projects on eTenders. Emergency works approved for one project.	
Project 1 (Sluice Gate)	Pending Load Test.	95%
Project 2 (Ladders)	Manufacturing.	20%
Project 3 (Electricals)	Civil works complete, electrical works progressing.	45%
1. Dredging: MARA Applications		
MARA Submissions	Marine Area Consent (MAC) and Marine Usage Licence (MUL) applications for Wicklow Harbour dredging project submitted to MARA 26th January.	
Wicklow - MUL 230026	Additional Information submitted to Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) with guidance from appointed consultant.	100 %
Minded to Determine Notice	Application permit - MUL 230026 - Final comments made with consultation to MARA to address proposed conditions for the application.	100 %
Arklow - Dumping at Sea	Consultant conducted annual survey monitoring of dump site (17/10/2026) – Following Dumping at Sea Permit. Annual Environmental Report Pending.	50%
Arklow - Dumping at Sea	Appointment of specialist to compile the Aftercare Management Plan for the Dumping at Sea Permit. (2025-2032)	80%
Wicklow - Dredging	Specialists to conduct annual dredging and measurement in Wicklow Harbour appointed. Planned dates for campaign is 31/10/2026 to 09/11/2026	80%
2. Harbour Infrastructure & Accessibility Upgrades		
Marine Strategy Report - Wicklow Harbour	Consultant finalised stakeholder engagement report and optimisation study for Wicklow Harbour. A submission of scope is requested for the Marine Strategy report.	80%
Harbour Security	Completion Certificates - All warranties and certificates for all CCTV related installed assets submitted and approved.	100%
Harbour Security	First Maintenance Cycle – CCTV cameras and Gates serviced – 5/10/2026	100%
3. Office of Public Works		
Coastal Erosion, Arklow CFERM Study	Interim Report 1 and 2 by consultant has been submitted to OPW for review.	100%
	Consultant working on the final report.	10%
Storm Damage, Wicklow Harbour	Damage Repair: Major damage has occurred to Wicklow harbour beach due to multiple storms and persistent easterly winds. Temporary works have been completed to make area safe for public. Full design required for permanent sea wall / barrier solution is this area.	100%
Wicklow Town/Harbour – Funding Applied & Tender	An application was successfully submitted to the OPW under the Minor Flood Mitigation and Coastal Protection Scheme. The application requested € 100,000 to appoint an engineering consultant to conduct a comprehensive flood assessment, including all necessary hydrological and investigative works.	100%
	Scope: The assessment covers four specific risk areas within Wicklow Town and Harbour. The OPW has formally approved and granted funding to Wicklow County Council to the value of € 90,000 to progress these works.	100%
	Tender for the appointment of an Engineering Consultant submitted on eTenders. Cool-Off Period: Consultant appointed based on M.E.A.T	100%
Wicklow Town/Harbour	WCC reviewed and Approved the Draft Inception Report.	100%
	Planned site visit 22 October 2026.	10%
4. Events		
Arklow RNLI stations 200th anniversary - President Catherine Connolly visited Arklow - 9 October 2026		

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WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-26	7	6	1	8	4	4
Feb-26	4	4	0	4	3	1
Mar-26	4	4	0	4	2	2
Apr-26	6	6	0	6	5	1
May-26	8	8	0	8	5	3
Jun-26	4	4	0	4	3	1
Jul-26	6	6	0	6	2	4
Aug-26	3	2	1	4	3	1
Sept-26	5	5	0	5	2	3

GENERAL CARGO DATA 2026	
General Cargo/Container	47
Gross Tonnage	123,994

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN 2026			
Tonnes			Number of Vessels
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
500	999	2	1704
1,000	1,999	2	3534
2,000	2,999	37	98458
3,000	3,999	6	20298
			123994

2026 CARGO BREAKDOWN			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	46107.89	6126.48	52234.374
METALS		39804.75	39804.75
	46107.894	**45931.23**	**92039.124**

PROJECT OFFICE

The Arlow Flood Relief Scheme: Planning Application and CPO were approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood walls, flood embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs & bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete in Q3 2026.

The project team are currently finalising the design, specification and tender docs. The project will be advertised for tender as a 2-stage restricted procedure, this tender process should be complete by Q1 2027 with an estimated contractor appointment date of Q2 2027. The works will take 4 years with completion by Q4 2030.

WCC are also in discussion with UE & ESB in relation to facilitating major infrastructure upgrade to their networks in order to aid the proposed/ pending developments in Arklow. It is intended these upgrades will be undertaken in conjunction with the flood relief scheme works.

A public information day will also be organised within the coming months, where the team will showcase the final design for the scheme.

WATER SAFETY AND BEACHES

Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO)

- Lifeguard stations being assessed for maintenance and improvements during the winter. All stations will be stored at Brittas Bay car park for the winter of 2026, to allow all work to be conducted at one location.
- WSDO attended end of season Water Safety Development Officers Conference in Galway. Presentations included Water Safety Ireland Education Team detailing the different school education packages available across the different school age groups. WSDO's received training in "water safety for people working near water" and correct lifejacket use, with practical training in a pool.
- Working to update all council owned public rescue equipment – Ringbuoys on the ProWorks system and to identify inland locations of Ringbuoys and categorise a replacement plan for aged stock.
- Met with Uisce Éireann to assess public rescue equipment at the Roundwood Reservoir.
- Provided water safety advice to the Ballinacor Community Project, for their river walk beside the river Avonbeg.
- Provided water safety education advice to Arklow CBS.

Beach Lifeguards:

Lifeguards provided service at the Blue Flag beaches during the first two weekends of September. This is in line with the requirements of the designated bathing season. Cover was provided on Greystones South Beach, Brittas Bay North and South Beaches, with no incidents reported.

Risk assessments:

- Water Safety Ireland conducting a new ILSE Risk Assessment of the Cove in Greystones. The assessor has already assessed beach swimmer use and is awaiting completion of structural works on railings and pathways before finalising the risk assessment.
- WSDO reviewing risk assessment conducted by Water Safety Ireland during 2026 in order to plan implementation of assessment recommendation.

Missing Ringbuoys & Replacements:

Reports of missing Ringbuoys Kilcoole Beach, now replaced. At Blessington Lakes, WSDO liaised with ESB to arrange replacements.



CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

Spongeworks: Trinity College are undertaking a study of the catchment, mapping opportunities and undertaking on site farm assessments to identify where nature-based solution can be implemented. Two pilot farms have been identified to demonstrate sponge measures. A further four sites were assessed in early October. Work has been done on a survey of 22 wetlands in the Aughrim River catchment to assess status and see where measures could be undertaken to increase their capacity to absorb and store water. The contract was awarded to Wetlands Survey Ireland. Aughrim Tidy Town are

undertaking a study of Green and Blue Infrastructure funded by River Basin Management Services. ACT have been recruited to undertake the study. They held a second workshop with the community in October.

Climate Team attended the project's general assembly in The Netherlands at the beginning of October.

DZ demonstrator fund: The DCEE have provided funding to each local to undertake a decarbonisation project in their assigned decarbonisation zone. Arklow is the DZ for Wicklow County Council. Projects must focus on community engagement and awareness raising of the DZ. A project has been developed to promote greater uptake of SEAI Warmer Homes and other SEAI grants for home owners. Marketing Coach were awarded a contract to develop marketing strategy for the project. Scope 123 were awarded a contract to deliver the advice and support campaign. The project launch occurred on the 23rd of September with stakeholder groups who work with lower income families. The campaign is now recruiting households to participate in support clinics starting on the 29th of October

WASTE MANAGEMENT

No. of Complaints Created	169
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	127
No of Litter Fines Issued	2
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	10
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	14
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	37
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act.	7 cases were listed during the month of September 2026. One case was heard and a successful prosecution obtained by WCC.
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	4 cases were listed under the Waste Management Act. None were heard during the month and were listed for hearings at a later date by the Courts.
Income - Litter	€150.00
Income- Waste Management	€50.00

DOG CONTROL, DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

Dog Control: For the month of September 2026, a total of 620 yearly dog licences and 24 lifetime licences were purchased. Of these licences purchased a total of 315 were purchased through the Licence.ie portal.

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

POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution Response & Investigation	
14	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
13	Water pollution complaints closed.
7	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
3	Noise pollution complaints closed.
4	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
Ambient Air Monitoring	

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0	Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Stations
Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme	
2	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
45	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations	
1	Catchment assessments carried out to identify the risks and impacts
3	Catchment activity/engagements/consultations
Good Agricultural Practice Inspections	
12	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
1	Inspection of a farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.
5	Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.
Well Grants	
11	New Water Grant application received
5	New Pumps granted
6	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
22	Inspections in advance/completion of works
Private Water Supplies	
1	Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 121 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
14	Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored.
11	Regulated Private Water Supplies were compliant.
3	Regulated Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with available results and required to take remedial action.
1	Boil water notices placed on Regulated Private Water Supplies in consultation with the HSE.
2	Boil water notice lifted from Regulated Private Water Supplies in consultation with the HSE after completion of remedial action and satisfactory water quality results.
2	Do not consume notices placed on Regulated Private Water Supplies in consultation with the HSE.
Bathing Water Monitoring Programme	
12	Bathing waters monitored had excellent or Good quality
1	Bathing waters monitored had sufficient or Poor quality
Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations	
1	Dry Cleaner installation issued compliance certificate
6	Paint Retailers inspected.
8	Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations inspected
Septic Tank Inspections	
1	Inspection relating to grant application in high status catchment.
1	Public Engagement Activities
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring	
38	River samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
4	Lake samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
5	Coastal waters samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
Planning & Development	
1	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
9	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.

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CEMETERIES

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

Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	2026
Total	138	94	125	105	99	103	101	101	108	974
WCC	55	32	42	44	38	36	25	44	34	350
Cremation	49	27	42	40	44	33	34	34	44	347
Other	34	35	41	21	17	34	42	25	30	277

Percentage Breakdown

%	**Total Published Death Notices**
36	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
36	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
28	Other Burial Grounds

OUTDOOR RECREATION

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

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS being completed at present:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR221WW02	***Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme***	The walk remains closed due to safety concerns.	
OR221WW01	***Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme***	Progressing to detail design Existing bridge remediation works to commence	31/12/26
OR322WW01	***Roundwood Recreation Area***	**Car park upgrade and 5 play areas completed. Signage installation completed. Bike pump track works completed with grass seeding growing. Official opening November 11th**	**Completed**
OR123WW01	***Hollywood Natural Play Area***	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play area specification ready. Landowner agreement in place. Works to commence shortly	30/12/26
OR223WW01	***Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure***	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed. Feasibility study for adjacent land purchased by Council nearly completed.	31/03/27
OR424WW01	***Disability and Outdoor Recreation***	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow. Consultant appointed and working to identify available/usable sites for 2 x water, 2 x bike and 2 x trail access for exploration.	26/02/27

OR124WW01	***Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area***	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest. Project screened out. Landowner licence agreement in place. Works to commence	26/02/27
OR124WW02	***Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac***	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability. Chair supply and installation during October.	26/02/27
OR124WW03	***Vartry Anglers Disabled Access***	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Under review	26/02/27
OR124WW04	***Wild Swimming Infrastructure***	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations. Tender out to appoint screen manufacture contractors.	26/02/27
OR224WW01	***Glen Turn Cliff Walk***	Complete surface upgrade and drainage works on cliff walk trail. Engineering consultants appointed to specify works and contract timeline.	30/11/27
OR224WW02	***Russellstown Link to Russborough House***	Trail link at Russellstown to Russborough. Tender process for consultant completed	30/11/27
OR324WW01	***Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration***	Djouce Mountain trail construction works to improve safety issues and restore habitat. Draft MOU and route planning discussed with NPWS and Powerscourt estate. Works specification being completed. Helicopter tender drafted for dropping materials at various locations on the trail.	30/11/27

LIBRARY SERVICE

Wicklow County Libraries continue to provide an important service to the community, with 31,152 active users, equivalent to approximately 20% of the county's population of 155,851, as recorded in Census 2022. This represents around one in five people in the county.

Up to the end of Quarter 3, total circulation reached 482,220 items, comprising 364,211 physical items and 118,009 digital circulations. This represents an increase of almost 5,000 items in borrowed compared with the same period in 2025, highlighting continued engagement with library resources across both physical and digital formats.

Halloween - October brings a varied programme of Halloween activities to Wicklow Libraries, including mid-term craft sessions, Spooky Storytimes, movies and costume swaps. Highlights include:

- **Arts & Crafts**: Tinahely and Ballywaltrim Libraries will host spooky Halloween crafts sessions, while Arklow Library craft sessions include the making of skeleton gloves, bats and Little Monsters. Carnew Library's window display and Lego Club creations will aim to scare.
- **Scary Storytimes:** Themed Storytimes will take place weekly across all branches including a session with local author Alana Davis at Greystones Library.
- **Halloween Movies:** Ballywaltrim Library's mid-week movie will include a classic Halloween screening for adults and Blessington Library will screen a movie for children.
- **Costume Swap Shops**: The popular and sustainable Costume Swap Shops are back with Ballywaltrim, Greystones and Wicklow Town branches taking part.

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Children and youth programming - The Children's Books Festival 2026 promotes the enjoyment of reading throughout the month of October with numerous author visits and events organised in Libraries throughout the country. October highlights for children at Wicklow Libraries include:

- **Author visits:** Alan Nolan will appear at both Tinahely and Wicklow libraries, Una Woods will host a Storytime session at Ballywaltrim Library while Marita Conlon-McKenna and Sadhbh Devlin will visit Wicklow Town Library. Niamh Donnellan presents her Little Irish History Heroes at Arklow Library and Bray Library welcomes author Carmel Uí Cheallaigh.
- **Class visits:** Journalist Joanna Donnelly will give a talk about weather and climate to local schools in Bray Library.
- **Space Week:** Young Engineers are holding workshops at Ballywaltrim and Greystones Libraries.
- **Childminders Week:** There will be puppet shows at Arklow, Ballywaltrim and Greystones Libraries alongside Wicklow Town Library's Comhrá agus Ceol Puppet show in partnership with Wicklow Child Care Committee.
- **Little Library Bags:** Moo Music will be facilitating two fun, interactive music and movement classes at Wicklow Town Library to promote the initiative for children starting school.
- **Teenagers:** Wicklow Library are piloting a Young Adult Advisory Group to help the library bring events and programming, as well as books and other items aimed at their specific needs and interests.

Adult & community events - Wicklow Libraries continue to offer opportunities for learning and connection for adults through a varied events and educational programme. Highlights include:

- **Language Groups:** Weekly conversations classes continue, including, Irish, French, German and Spanish. Enniskerry Library welcomes their new Irish conversation group this month while Greystones Library hosts Failte Isteach, an English Conversation session for non-native speakers. Rathdrum Library also runs a Portuguese Book Club.
- **Climate Action Week:** At Wicklow Town Library Knocksink Wood Nature Reserve will be giving a talk on Irish fungi, mushrooms and toadstools. Ballywaltrim Library will host a Climate Literacy Skills for Life workshop. The Seed swap has returned to Bray Library and will meet on the final Wednesday of each month.
- **Culture & Community**: As part of Ireland's EU Council Presidency, Ballywaltrim Library are hosting a literary conversation between a Spanish and Wicklow based writer exploring themes of connection, identity, culture. Eilish Slattery's Botanical Print Exhibition is on display at Arklow Library.
- **Local History:** Wicklow Library are hosting a local history Talk with Peader Curran, 'Letters from America'. Baltinglass hosted the Spanish Ambassador this month, with other dignitaries, they were given a talk on the Hillforts and a tour of the cells.
- **Lifelong learning:** Ballywaltrim Library are hosting two Lifelong Learning related workshops for adults. Bray Library the Talking Heads Podcast are running a workshop on all things podcasts.
- **Writing and literacy:** Wicklow Town Library is hosting a Memoir Writing Workshop with Susan Leonard with CEART given priority for bookings.
- **Music:** The Harp Meditation sessions return to Bray Library this month, with local Comhltas Branch sending a harp ensemble of students to celebrate *National Harp Day* on *Saturday 17th of October* while harpist Eibhlís ní Ríordáin marks the occasion in Greystones Library. A Harp recital as part of Lá na Cruite takes place in collaboration with Harp Ireland at Wicklow Library.

Regular Monthly Activities - Regular programmes across Wicklow Libraries include children's Storytimes, baby and toddler sessions, Chess and Comic clubs, book clubs, adult knitting groups, arts and crafts, digital skills classes and community support groups.

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Library of Things – New Addition - Bat detectors are now available to borrow! Six kits have been added to the Library of Things, each containing a Magenta 5 Bat Detector and an Identification Guide to Ireland's Bats. These resources support several UN Sustainable Development Goals, including Climate Action, Life on Land, Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities.

ARCHIVES SERVICE
County Archives collections continue to be catalogued on our collections management platform *Axiell Collections*. Collections catalogued to date include private estate collections; Wicklow business collections; Grand Jury and Boards of Guardians. Cataloguing of county council records series is ongoing – current collection Co Wicklow Board of Health & Public Assistance 1922-1942.

Digitisation programme - Funding secured through the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Culture Communications and Sport digitise records of Rathdrum Rural District Council,and Shillelagh Rural District Council. Digitisation company has been procured and project commenced.

Special projects/Outreach activities

Education programme - County Wicklow secondary schools contacted this month, inviting students to group visits of the County Archives and proposing archivist outreach visits to schools introducing our educational resources. Class visits this month from Dominican College Wicklow and Nuns Cross NS.

Outreach & Advocacy - County archivist presented at Heritage Council conference: *Shared Island: Building Connections, Exchanging Knowledge* at Monaghan Peace Campus. Senior management and heritage professionals of local authorities north and south came together to discuss their strategic role in supporting and delivering heritage policy at local level.

Special projects - Arklow Street Preachers publication – books now printed and planning is underway for launch next month

Wicklow Historic Towns Atlas – scoping and research continues

ICAN – Irish Community Archives Network meeting this month and support and training for our ten Wicklow groups continues

ARTS OFFICE
CIF Funding Application - The Arts Office was successful as a partner to three CIF funding applications to the new LAIT Integration Funding Award. One project is in partnership with Wicklow Town Library, one project will be in partnership with Cross care and County Wicklow Partnership involving East and West Wicklow young people and the third project will be with Blessington Library and Wicklow County Library Service.

Culture Night 2026 - Fifty-two creative and cultural events took place throughout County Wicklow for Culture Night on Friday, 18th September 2026. The programme featured more than 50 free arts events, performances, and workshops across towns and libraries countywide. Highlights included live music, open-air concerts, and community arts programs supported by the Wicklow Arts Office. Two thousand, eight hundred and sixty people attended these events and four hundred and fifty two performers were programmed.

Featured Events & Locations

- **Baltinglass:** Hosted local music showcases and community activities, including events at Baltinglass Golf Club and Baltinglass Library.
- **Bray:** Featured the Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre programme alongside special community and poetry sessions.
- **Arklow:** Offered a popular local Culture Crawl and performances at the Arklow Arts Centre.
- **Wicklow Town:** Provided dance workshops by Spotlight Studios, podcasting sessions with Createschool, and local library exhibits.
- **Countywide Libraries:** Partnered with the Wicklow County Council Library Service to host readings, music, and family workshops in branches like Greystones, Carnew, Dunlavin, and Rathdrum.

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EU Presidency - In October the Arts Office provided programming support and management for two EU Presidency events to be hosted by Wicklow County Councill to mark the twining of County Wicklow and Spain for the EU Presidency. The events will highlight the cultural intersections and fusions between both Spanish and Irish arts heritage and traditions.

Arts Capital Investment Fund, Department of Culture Communications and Sport

The Arts Office will provide support for County Wicklow applicants to the new Department of Culture, Communications and Sport **Arts Capital Investment Fund**. The fund is a €6 million pilot scheme providing grants for arts and culture facilities, equipment, and community participation. Applications are open from **1 October 2026** until **18 December 2026 at 5:00 PM**. There are three funding categories.

- **Category 1 (Equipment):** Grants up to **€100,000** for arts and culture organisations or multi-use centres (95% grant rate, or 70% for Local Authority-owned facilities). [1]
- **Category 2 (Construction & Refurbishment):** Grants up to **€200,000** for building w..orks, climate action upgrades, health and safety, and universal access (95% grant rate, or 70% for Local Authority-owned facilities). [1, 2]
- **Category 3 (Community Equipment):** Grants up to **€15,000** for community and voluntary groups to increase arts participation (95% grant rate). [1]

The Arts Office will provide a webinar information session and mentorship for up to five applicants seeking to apply. The webinar takes place on October 22nd at 3pm.

Theatre Artist Professional Development Training Wicklow County Council will partner with the Irish Theatre Institute to provide a County Wicklow artist with participation on the Six in the Attic professional development programme. Established in 2011, Six in the Attic is one of ITI's key artist development initiatives, supporting playwrights and theatre makers to develop their artistic practice, strengthen their professional skills and build sustainable careers in theatre.

The introduction of the Virtual Attic has allowed us to extend the programme nationally, supporting artists without requiring them to relocate to Dublin, while building connections between theatre makers across the country. Twelve practitioners nationally will be selected across both the strands, one of which will be from County Wicklow. ITI manages the open call and the Arts Office participates in artist selection.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Wicklow Sings for Health 2026 - Inaugural World Singing Day event in Glendalough in collaboration with Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland, featured eight Wicklow based singing for health choirs.

Eight singing for health groups from across County Wicklow came together for the first time on Saturday 17th October, World Singing Day, at the inaugural Wicklow Sings for Health event. The free event took place at the Brockagh Resource Centre in Laragh, Glendalough and over 170 people participated. The groups taking part were the Wicklow Parkinson's Choir, Canadh le Chéile from Greystones Cancer Support, Le Chéile Community Choir in Little Bray, Musical Memories from Wicklow Dementia Support, the Purple House Choir from Purple House Cancer Support in Bray, the Ukrainian Song Club and the Cross Community Choir, both supported by Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership, and the Flowers of Ukraine from Baltinglass.



Chief Executive's Report – October 2026

Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (12/10/2026) outstanding stands at 385 – 2.24% of total stock of 17,156. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 169 faults were attended in September, while 213 faults were noted/reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported – September	46	60	42	35	30	**213**
Faults Attended – September	45	39	21	27	37	**169**
No Supply						**0**
Access Issues (Attend)	8		13	1	10	**32**
Cable Fault (Attend)					2	**2**
Civils	2	6	12	6	6	**32**
Council Approval				4		**4**
ESB Notified	32	43	26	9	26	**136**
ESB Required	4	3				**7**
On Hold	2	2	26	3	2	**35**
PLEEP Fault	4	2		4	2	**12**
Submitted	9	35	9	8	19	**80**
TMR	4	3	6		4	**17**
Tree Cutting Required	4	1	13	4	6	**28**
Grand Total	**69**	**95**	**105**	**39**	**77**	**385**
Percentage Not Working	**2.02%**	**3.62%**	**2.82%**	**1.21%**	**1.85%**	**2.24%**
No. of Lamps	3418	2624	3730	3212	4172	**17156**
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	22%	19%	24%	**100%**

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Transportation Statistics

Transportation Statistics	Total 2024	Total 2025	Total 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Solicitors Queries	1014	1065	**919**	107	96
Road closure Applications	53	56	**56**	5	4
Road Opening Licences	1254	1494	**989**	141	105
Abnormal Load Applications	50	33	**43**	2	3

National Roads Projects

Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Scheme

The Phase 3 design and environmental evaluation work is progressing with submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála expected in Q2 2028.

Bulletin #8 – Project Status & Commencement of Phase 3 was published in April 2026 on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie

The project team will continue to engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases. Specialist ecological surveys are currently ongoing across the scheme boundary extents and Ground Investigation works are also underway.

N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

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

N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme

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

The Phase 3 Design Report has been approved by TII on 09/02/26.

A public consultation under Part 8 took place between 29th April 2026 and 28th May 2026 with an in-person Public Information Event held in the Glenview Hotel on the 14th of May 2026 between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Submissions were

accepted up until 12th June 2026. Full details including a summary presentation are available on the Council's Online Consultation Hub at www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub .

The scheme had been screened for the requirement of an Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment, and it was determined that neither was required. The screening reports and determinations were included in the Part 8 documents. Nevertheless, a third-party application has been received by An Coimisiún Pleanála for their screening determination as to whether an EIA and/or an AA is required. According to ACP website, a decision is due by 27th October 2026.

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025 and was completed in Q1 2026. The NTA are waiting on funding for the bus service before park and ride can be opened.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Land purchase has been completed. Construction is expected to commence in 2027 subject to funding being available.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being developed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office (PRDO). The PRDO are not currently progressing until progress is made with other Wicklow P&Rs and due to other priorities nationally
- Junction 20 Templerainey Park and Ride/Share is currently progressing through preliminary design. A part 8 planning route is envisaged, subject to AA and EIA screening processes. WCC are progressing land acquisition discussions in parallel with this design process.

N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Preferred Option was published in October 2025 on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The project team is currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation). Ground Investigation works are planned to commence shortly. The project team will engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases.

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

The construction was substantially completed in March 2026. The bus shelters were installed at the end of April 2026. Snagging and landscaping are continuing.

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

A suitable P&R location, that can be accessed from the regional road is being investigated. Based on this location, a supplementary Feasibility and Options Report and request for funding approval was formally submitted to TII on 20th May 2026.

TII's response on the 11th of June 2026 refused funding stating that "*Without the relocation of the parking and bus stop"* (from Annalecky) "*to Hollywood there is no safety improvement evident in the submitted F&O report. As the proposal does not address the safety concern identified, safety funding is not applicable in this instance*."

WCC advised that whilst the removal of N81 parking at Annalecky is likely to be supported, the removal of the Annalecky bus stops altogether would be problematic as they will continue to support local use.

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

Wicklow County Council are progressing this project at the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4). This will likely be a Part 8 process.

N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project

A Technical Consultant was appointed in June 2026 and is now progressing the Phase 3 design.

N81 Hearn's Cross

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

N11M11 Resurfacing Works

Nighttime road resurfacing works were completed by the MMARC contractor on the N11 northbound between junction 7 and junction 5 between June and July 2026.

TII have appointed a contractor to carry out resurfacing works on the N11 southbound carriageway between Junction 14 and Junction 18. To mitigate noise impacts on properties near the N11, WCC requested that SMA material is used to resurface the road, however TII have advised that they intend to proceed with the resurfacing of this section of the N11/M11 using HRA in line with the existing pavement surface and current TII asset management policy. This work commenced as nighttime works from 7th September 2026 and is due for completion on 13th November 2026. Nighttime road closures will be in pace along with 24hour special roadworks speed limits orders.

N81 Resurfacing Works

Surfacing works on the N81 Mullycagh Lower and Upper were completed in August 2026.

Greenway & TII Active Travel Projects

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Meetings with the local stakeholders committee were held on Friday 22nd May, Thursday 25th June 2026 and Friday 25h September 2026. The committee were provided with an overview of the Project Programme, Key Project Deliverables and target dates, and updates on progress for the Design and Environmental Evaluation Phase (TII PMG Phase 3). A landowner workshop was carried out with Local Stakeholder Committee on 16th July 2026. The programme for the current Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) is a total of 24 months with the statutory planning submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála targeted for Q2 2028. Information on the scheme is available on the project website www.wicklowgreenways.ie

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

A non-statutory public consultation for the Emerging Preferred Route was undertaken in January and February 2026. The Public Consultation included two public display events in Greystones and Wicklow libraries. Submissions and observations were accepted up to 13th February 2026.

Meetings with landowners and stakeholders (including Iarnród Eireann and NPWS) have taken place.

The final preferred option is being considered. This will be submitted to TII for the Phase 2 Gateway Review approval.

Following TII approval, this route will advance to Phase 3 for Preliminary Design. Information on the scheme is available on the project website www.wicklowgreenways.ie

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Blessington eGreenway

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

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

The Phase 3 design, EIA works and landowner engagement are all continuing to progress. Information on the scheme is available on the project website www.kilmacanoguetosoutherncross.ie

Road Capital Projects

Blessington Inner Relief Road North

Construction work is progressing with completion expected later in 2026. The construction of the new roundabout junction with the N81 has commenced with works anticipated to be completed in Q4 2026.

Blessington Inner Relief Road South

A tender brief is being prepared for the appointment of Technical Consultants to carry out design works.

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

Construction work on the project commenced in April 2025. Section 1 construction works are complete and are fully open to the public. The original contract completion date for the full project was May 2026. The road reopened to two-way traffic from 30th September 2026.

Arklow Southern Port Access Road

A Technical Consultant has been appointed for the project in August 2026. The initial design phases 2 (options selection) and 3 (design & environmental evaluation) are expected to take 24 months to complete.

Rathnew Inner Relief Road North – Phase 3

A Technical Consultant has been appointed for the project in October 2026 to deliver this project through Design, Planning, Tender and Construction phases.

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) Road Projects

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advised, by letter dated 17 June 2026, that the projects listed below have been accepted onto the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) programme.

- Rathnew Inner Relief Road (RIIR)
- Fassaroe Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge across N11/M11, Bray
- Fassaroe Road Infrastructure N11 to Enniskerry, Bray

The Local Authority is the designated Sponsoring Agency for approved projects under HIIF Call 1 and is responsible for the direct delivery of the project in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Guidelines 2023.

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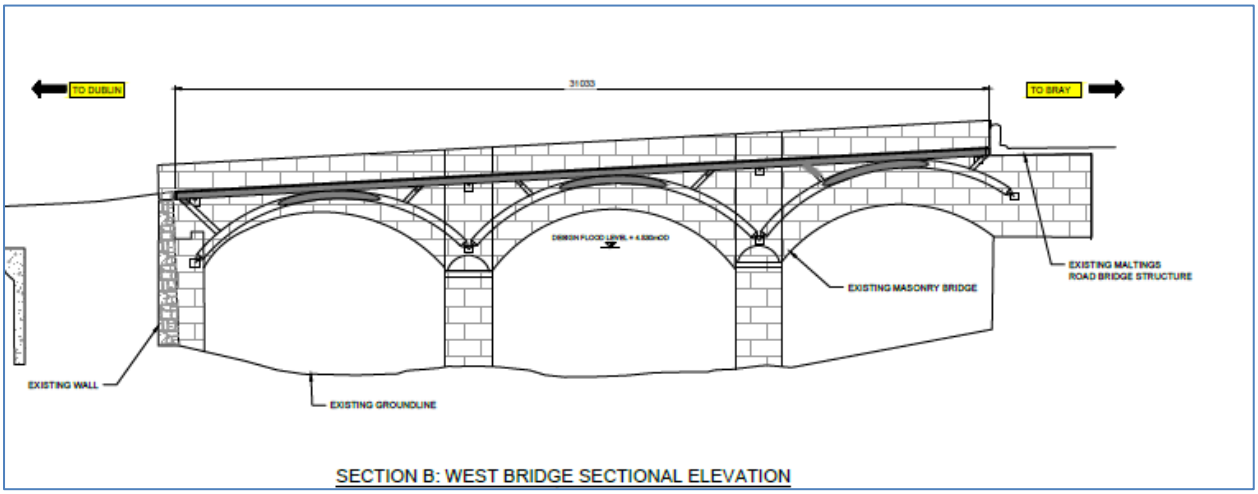
Active Travel Updates

Project Updates

Active Travel Bridge (Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route) Pathfinder
New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Archaeological Testing completed. Meeting to be held with NTA Rail Infrastructure team and Capacity Enhancement team to agree project management.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)
Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. Preliminary Design stage completed and approval received from the NTA to move to Statutory Stage. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4-7. Meeting held with Cllrs. to discuss preliminary design. Review of the design to be undertaken following this meeting.

Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins (Bray MD)
New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins are progressing with the preliminary design phase. The Structures Options Report and the draft Alignment Design have both been updated to reflect WCC comments and will now be issued to the NTA for review/comment. Atkins to arrange a progress meeting in October. A pre-application consultation meeting was held with MARA to determine if a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) would be required for the project. MARA advised that a MAC will be required.



SECTION B: WEST BRIDGE SECTIONAL ELEVATION

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)
Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis have Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis have completed the Options Selection Phase, and an emerging preferred option has been selected. The emerging preferred option is for the provision of a new pedestrian bridge structure on the north side of the existing bridge. The Consultant is progressing with the preliminary design phase. The Ground Investigation works have now been completed. Ground Investigation Report to be completed and Atkins to finalise the preliminary design.

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

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 -7. Part 8 submission period on the 30th September. CE report now to be prepared.

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Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Works commenced on site.

Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. The Preliminary Design Phase has been completed, and the project has progressed to Phase 4 – Statutory Processes. The public consultation phase has concluded, and a total of 83 public submissions were received. A presentation was provided to the GMD elected members on 29th September, and the proposed Part 8 plans were adopted by the members. Phase 4 Gateway Report to be submitted to the NTA, along with the planning outcome report. Tender documents to be prepared for the procurement of a consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 5 - 7.



Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)
The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. The alignment design has been completed, and the utility design is currently being finalised. A Stage 1&2 Road Safety Audit has been completed. Construction works have been further delayed until January 2027 to facilitate urgent Uisce Éireann works that are required on Church Road.

Blessington Main Street to Deerpark
WCC and NTA met to review preliminary design. NTA have approved gateway 2/3 pack to proceed to statutory process and Part 8. WCC screening determination reports approved, next step would be to advertise Part 8 however due to staff shortages this project is on hold.

Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme – Mill Road (Greystones MD)
The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. The Consultant for the scheme, EGIS, have advised that they do not have resources available to continue working on this project. A tender process will be required to appoint a new consultant for the scheme. However, works are on hold due to lack of resources.

<u>Other Projects -</u>

- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR*, Brittas Bay.***

  The project will include Brittas Bay NS Safe Routes to School project. Brittas Bay footpath construction underway. Gateway 4 approval has been submitted to the NTA following the Section 38 for the SRTS element.

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The Phase 1 Brittas Bay footpath project has now been included in the Safe Routes to School project under the active travel program for 2026. Works are underway.

- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird***

  Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. An Taisce and WCC to engage with school on revised delivery report. Due to staff shortages this project is on hold.

- ***Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry***

  Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete. Tender to be prepared for consultant to carry out feasibility study. Due to staff shortages this project is on hold.

- ***Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely***

  Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works extended to include two additional pedestrian crossings on School Road. Section 38 consultation completed. Works complete

-  

  Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow

  Project extended to include 560m footpath, pedestrian crossing and access ramp at link to Coolgreaney Road. WCC to fund cost of ramp construction. Construction works ongoing. Gas Networks Ireland & ESB services to be moved. Gas Networks Ireland works to be completed in November. Works on ramp to recommence once GNI works complete.

- ***Redford Park Junction, Greystones***

  Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities Lidl have verbally confirmed the boundary lines with their solicitor. WCC waiting on written confirmation from Lidl. Project on hold due to lack of resources.

- ***Bus Priority Little Bray***

  Enhancement of bus and active travel infrastructure between Fassaroe Townland and Sunnybank Junction Review drawing and options assessment as bridge in Rehills development is no longer part of this plan and not feasible as part of river cycle way option. Draft Feasibility & Options Report under review with WCC. Project on hold due to lack of resources.

- ***Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme***

  Works to commence in Newtownmountkennedy on 19th October. Glenealy design to be prepared and issued to NTA for approval.

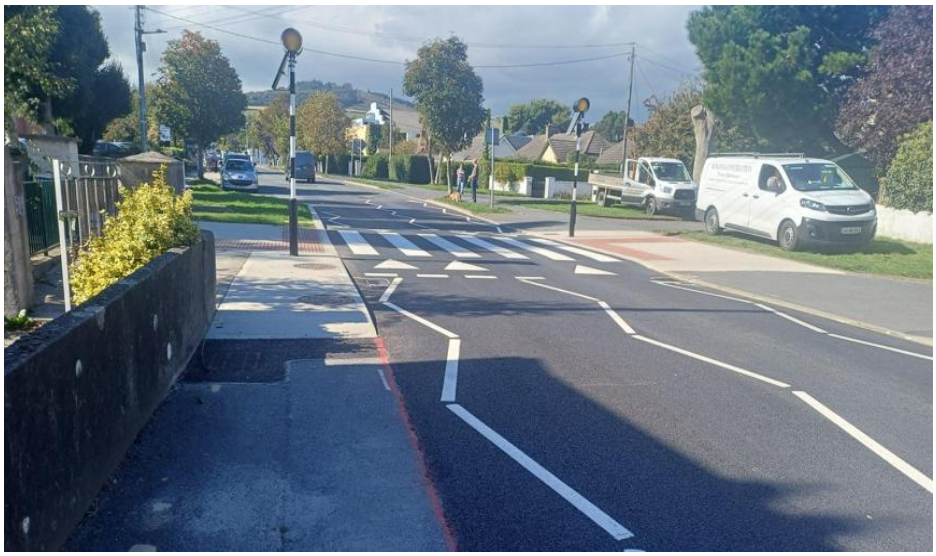
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- ***Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme***

  2 Pedestrian crossings to be completed as part of the Coolgreany Road improvement scheme which will be funded under Arklow MD Junction Tightening Works. Section 38 advertised 19th August 2026 submission period ended 2nd September. Reported completed Part 8 recommended for this scheme. No timeline can be given at this stage for this process to commence.

- ***Greystones MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme***

  Gateway 5 approval received from the NTA. Sea Road, Victoria Rd & Newcastle Rd awaiting ESB connections. Victoria Road crossing is operational with temporary belisha beacons (Permenant Belishas will be installed once ESB connection complete). Works are ongoing on Kilcoole Main Street and Newcastle Rd Crossings.



Victoria Road Zebra Crossing

- *Baltinglass MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme*
  Design drawings to be completed for crossings in Baltinglass & Shillelagh and issued to NTA for

<u>New Projects in 2026</u>

- **SRTS Round 4 Scoil Naomh Brid, Talbotstown**

  Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools. Due to staff shortages project on hold
- **SRTS Round 4 St. Brigid's NS, Greystones**

  Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools. Due to staff shortages project on hold
- **SRTS Round 4 St Brigid's NS. Manor Kilbride**

  Prepare brief Design support for round 4 school. Due to staff shortages project on hold
- **SRTS Round 4 Wicklow Educate Together**

  Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools. Due to staff shortages project on hold
- **Deerpark Cycle Link, Bray**

  Draft design to be reviewed.
- **Giltspur to Charnwood Active Travel Link -**

  Phase 1 – PGAF approval to be sought from NTA
- **Arklow MD Permeability Links**

  Phase 1 - 2026 list of 2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for Gateway 5 approval.

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- **Arklow MD Junction Tightening works –**

  GAF approved. Coolgreaney Road Pedestrian Improvement works scheme will use this funding to provide junction tightening and new pedestrian crossings on Coolgreaney Road. Section 38 advertised 19th August 2026 submission period ended 2nd September. Reported completed Part 8 recommended for this scheme. No timeline can be given at this stage for this process to commence.

- **Bray MD pedestrian crossings**
  GAF has been submitted to the NTA for approval. Design Drawings have been completed for the 3 proposed locations – Killarney Road (Springfield cemetery), Upper Dargle Road (Egan Centre), Southern Cross Road (Belmont). Stage 1&2 Road Safety Audits are currently being completed. A tender process has been completed for the traffic signals. Phase 5 Gateway Approval Request to be submitted to the NTA. Construction works to commence at the end of October.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

- *New NTA BSEP tracker being actively populated from sources below to Outline Plan for BSEP that can be delivered in 2026 & into 2027.Currently 131 locations. Includes Bus Shelter requests.*
  - *TFI/NTA directly*
  - *LA - CRM, MD's inputs.*
  - *Representations – Councillor / TD requests / SPC*
  - *Public Consultations*
  - *Reporting Safety / Accessibility Issues – directly TFI/LA*
- *100 SPC items from each MD have been added to the BSEP tracker & categorised for progression.*
  The requests are primarily shelters but locations noted also highlighted ancillary works also needed. NTA will these for suitability and will recommend level of works/progress required. Some items may overlap with Connecting Ireland (CI) works & some have already been installed.
- *Current & Completed works 2026.*
  - *2 new stops being installed in Dunlavin. including resurfacing of adjacent road surface.*
  - *2 new stops Naas Road Blessington*
  - *2 New Stops Blessington MD*
  - *2 new stops Stratford On Slaney*
  - *2 New Stops Ballynerrin Wicklow*
  - *2 New Stop facilities installed on Roundwood Main Street ahead of resurfacing.*
  - *New Shelter & Stop installed in Rathnew and existing stop to be relocated to shelter.*
  - *Bus cage lining to progress where missing or faded locations being grouped.*
  - *TFI flagpole and carousels to be installed by NTA at 11 locations where recent upgrades of stop infrastructure are complete.*

  Bus Eireann installing Pole & Flags at a number of 183 location.

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

- Work completed at Ballinastoe Bridge.
- Works completed at Ballyteigue Bridge.

Machinery Yard

- Draft Tender Docs for EV leasing contract completed.
- Trial supply of HVO in bilk tanks awarded and awaiting commencement.
- Framework bulk fuel supply commenced with Circle K. Commencing soon.
- RSA audit and inspection completed and passed.

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Winter Maintenance 2026/2027

Gritting season commenced on Monday 12th October. No call outs in Week 1.

Parking Income

January to August 2026

Parking Income by Municipal District	**EURO**
Bray Municipal District	821,767.87
Greystones Municipal District	301,994.53
Wicklow Municipal District	400,071.51
Arklow Municipal District	222,204.98
Parking Permits	90,632.50
Parking Fines	504,766.50
Wicklow County Council Total	**2,341,437.89**

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Infrastructure Delivery

Housing Delivery Action Plan.

The Department of Housing published ***Delivering Homes, Building Communities: An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness, 2025-2030*** on 13 November 2025. The plan articulated government policy regarding housing delivery and sets a target of delivering 300,000 homes by 2030. Included in this is a targeted delivery of an average of 12,000 social homes per year.

As part of the plan, local authorities are to prepare Housing Delivery Action Plans for the 2027-2030 period. These plans will indicate local priorities and delivery mechanisms for social and starter homes (formally affordable) for the period of the plan. *Delivering Homes, Building Communities* indicated that these plans will be informed by national and local targets and would ensure that local authority delivery of social housing is in line with the type and size of social housing needed in their area.

Circular 25/2026 dated 7th of July provides guidance and timeframes for the preparation of these Housing Delivery Action Plans. In addition to the circular, Wicklow County Council has received its targets for 2027-2030. Wicklow County Council also received a target of starter homes for the period Submission of HDAPs and Department Engagement. Local authorities are required to submit data (draft plans) for both social housing and starter home delivery through the HDCO's HDAP Portal. Delivery data must be submitted formally via the HDAP Portal no later than 25th September 2026. Thereafter, the Department will examine the submitted social housing and starter home data to ensure consistency with local needs (e.g. house types and sizes, specialist need, etc.) and broader national policy requirements and, where required, will engage bilaterally with relevant local authorities. The HDAP portal will provide the mechanism for review of submitted HDAPs and engagement between local authorities and the Department to finalise the Plan. On approval of the submitted data, a starter homes delivery target will be issued to each local authority. Local authorities will then finalise their HDAPs, using the template provided in the HDAP Guidance Document, prior to publication on their websites. The process is to be completed before the end of November 2026.

Social Housing Targets.

Circular 25/2026 indicated that targets have been developed having regard to social housing need and demand nationally and locally including house size, older person units, disability and traveller specific units. In developing their HDAP, local authorities will be required to justify how their plan will meet the identified need under each category while taking account of local knowledge and their own Social Housing Waiting List data. In addition, Government policy places an emphasis on increasing the level of local authority and AHB own build programmes as a percentage of the delivery pipeline

Wicklow County Council has prepared a draft housing delivery plan based on the circular's requirements.

Table1 Social Housing Targets & Plan 2027-2030

	2027	2028	2029	3030	Total Target 2027-2030
Target	280	280	311	325	**1,196**
Draft plan	**263**	**290**	**304**	**343**	**1200**

This is based on 15 own build schemes (2027-2030). (See local authority schemes below together with a range of other delivery options.

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		%
Local Authority Build Traditional Social Housing	569	47%
LA Indirect (Part V and Turnkey) Approved Housing Body CALF	417	34%
New Site (s)	50	4%
Buy and renew/CPO Activation	10	2%
Approved Housing body	154	13%

Former PPP Sites

- **Burgage.** -The site at Burgage More (Sli Bhride) comprising of 106 units and creche has started on site (Q2 2026 with programmed delivery in 2028

- **Tinahask** 69 units were included for delivery Tinahask (Phase 2) in the housing delivery plan delivery scheduled for in 2030. This site is sufficient for 128 units and a creche.
  Tinahask (Potters Bay) contains 74 units and is considered as Phase 1. The contract has been awarded. The remainder of the site will be developed as either a phased social housing development or starter home housing.

- **Burnaby and Rehills.**

  Rehills. -The development of the Rehills site is dependent on the construction of a bridge over the River Dargle. As the bridges main function is to facilitate the housing development of these lands and in the absence of an identified funding source the cost of the bridge will have to be charged to the future housing scheme. Two main approaches to this site.

  Local authority to develop a relative low density mixed tenure site of affordable and social housing. A higher density (as favoured previously by the PPP). Significant time was expended during the preparation of the Housing Delivery Plan looking at various options for both sites that would allow (some) social housing development by the local authority during course the plan. These are larger sites. With a limited design staff and a large range of schemes to be developed by the local authority, it was not considered that the local authority could realistically progress these schemes in the short to medium term.

Engaging with Delivery Partners

The circular indicated the need to actively engage with delivery partners including AHBs and the LDA. The Land Development Agency Act 2021 indicates that a local authority may request the LDA to provide services to help develop large-scale, mixed-tenure housing sites. Services including:

- Preparing masterplans and assessing development potential
- Applying for planning permissions and approvals
- Delivering infrastructure to service housing sites
- Constructing housing and related urban development works
- Managing cost-rental units.

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Due to the complexity and size of the Burnaby and Rehils sites and potential timeframes the local authority is in preliminary discussions with the LDA with an aim of early development of these sites.

Starter Homes Assessed Need

The circular indicated that during the period 2027-2030 around 31,000 new starter homes are required to be delivered nationally to provide for the cohort of households who are deemed to have an affordability constraint. This has been broken down to local level which indicates that Wicklow County Council has a need for 1070 in the period.

Starter Home Assessed Need 2027-2030 (Aggregated)	First Home Projections 2027-2030 (Aggregated)	Starter Home Delivery 2027-2030LA/LDA/AHB (excluding FHS)
1,070	746	324

The circular indicated that each local authority's assessed need (net of First homes projections) for the period 2027-2030 is now required to be met by way of

- existing local authority,
- Approved Housing Body (AHB)
- Land Development Agency (LDA) delivery pipelines,

Wicklow County Councils current (draft) starter home plan 2027-2030 is based on the following

Cost Rental	121
Part V affordable	76
Wicklow County Council own Build	85
Developer Agreed Schemes	42

Bray MD

Schemes on site	Units	Current Status
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Contractor has commenced on site, expected completion date Q3/Q4 2027.
Schemes recently completed	**Units**	**Current Status**
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Completed and allocations underway.
Future schemes	**Units**	**Current Status**
18 Old Conna Grove, Bray	3	Detail design ongoing. Stage 3 funding application submitted September 2026.
Parnell Rd, Bray	16	Part 8 process in progress. Public display period has now concluded. Scheduled to be included on agenda for November Bray MD meeting.
Lauderdale Estate, Bray	6	Design stage
Ballywaltrim Cottages, Bray	3	Design stage
Kilbride Lodge, Bray	18	Design stage
Rehills, Bray	140	Options being considered, post PPP

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Greystones MD

Schemes on site	Units	Current Status
1A Mill Rd, Greystones	3	Nearing completion. Expected completion date Q4 2026.
Lott Lane Ph 1, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site, expected completion date Q1 2027.
Lott Lane Ph 2, Kilcoole	26	Contractor on site, expected completion date Q1 2027.
Schemes recently completed	**Units**	**Current Status**
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed and allocated.
Future schemes	**Units**	**Current Status**
Lott Lane Ph 3, Kilcoole	46	Preparation of tender documents complete. Currently out for tender.
Lott Lane Ph 4, Kilcoole	5	Detail design due to be progressed in 2027
Burnaby, Greystones	262	Options being considered, post PPP

Wicklow MD

Schemes on site	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeting Ph 3, Rathnew	7	Nearing completion. Expected completion date Q4 2026
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Nearing completion. Expected completion date Q4 2026
Schemes recently completed	**Units**	**Current Status**
Merrymeeting Ph 2, Rathnew	21	Completed and allocated
Future schemes	**Units**	**Current Status**
Hawkstown Park Ph 2, Wicklow	54	Preparation of tender documents complete. Currently out for tender.
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Part 8 approved at September 2026 Wicklow MD meeting. Preparation of tender documents underway.

Arklow MD

Schemes on site	Units	Current Status
Tinahask Ph 1, Arklow	74	Contractor has commenced on site, expected completion date Q2 2028.
Schemes recently completed	**Units**	**Current Status**
Avondale Ph 3, Rathdrum	3	Completed and allocated.
Future schemes	**Units**	**Current Status**
Barndarrig	20	Preparation of tender documents complete. Currently out for tender.
Sheephouse, Arklow	57	Design stage ongoing. Funding application to be submitted October 2026. Part 8 expected to go on public display in Q1 2027, subject to funding approval.
Tinahask Ph 2, Arklow	128	Funding application to be submitted November 2026. Part 8 expected to go on public display in Q1 2027, subject to funding approval.

Baltinglass MD

Schemes on site	Units	Current Status
Burgage More, Blessington	106	Contractor on site, expected completion date Q2/Q3 2028.
Mountain View, Blessington	10	Contract awarded, construction to commence in coming weeks. Expected completion date Q1 2028.
Schemes recently completed	**Units**	**Current Status**
Ard Darach, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed and allocated

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Affordable Housing Information as of 30th September 2026

Mariner's Point, Wicklow – 4 x Affordable Houses

- 4 x two-bedroom houses have been assigned. All sales are closed.

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

- Applications for 4 x 2-bedroom houses and 3 x 3-bedroom houses. 2 available units remaining. Portal reopens 9th October until 6th November.

Ballycomyn, Blessington, Co. Wicklow 42 x Affordable Houses

- 30 x 2-bedroom houses and 12 x 3-bedroom houses. The applications portal reopened on 2nd October and will remain open until 30th October 2026. Applications are being processed.

Lott Lane, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow – Phase 2, 26 x Affordable Houses

- 26 Affordable houses have been approved. 24 x three-bedroom, 2 x two bedroom
- Due to launch Q4 2026/Q1 2027
- Showhouse will be ready Q3 2026
- Phase 3 AHF application approved 17th July 2026

Lott Lane, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow – Phase 3

- AHF approval has been granted for 46 houses. The tender is out.

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

- Application for 9 Affordable Houses at Rockbrae, Bray was approved on 28th January 2026. Construction has commenced.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	7	3 Delivered Q2. Remainder due Q4 2026	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Dunlavin	7	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Wicklow	7	Delivered Q3 2026	WCC
Newcastle	1	Delivered Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	6	2 delivered Q2. Remainder due Q4 2026 to Q1 2027.	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivered Q3 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2027	WCC
Delgany	11	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Rathnew	19	9 Delivered Q2. Remainder due Q4 2026	WCC
Rathnew	16	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC

Delgany	1	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Kilcoole	1	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Enniskerry	8	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Delgany	4	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Delgany	10	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivered Q1 2026	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q4 2026	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	16	Delivered Q3 2026	CALF
Bray	12	Delivery due Q4 2026	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	22	Delivery due Q4 2026 to Q1 2027	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	26	Delivery due Q4 2026	CALF
Blessington	6	Delivery due Q4 2026 to Q1 2027	CALF
Wicklow	11	Delivery due Q4 2026	CALF

Potential units

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

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

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivered Q3 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Baltinglass	10	Delivered Q1 2026	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q4 2026	CALF

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Newtownmountkennedy	6	Delivery due Q4 2026	CALF
Blessington	58	Delivery due Q4 2026 to Q1 2027	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing to be advertised in Q3.

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of VPRG Applications to date	363
Applications Approved in Principle to date	162
Number of Applications paid to date	129
Value of 129 Grants paid out to date	€7,040,547.60
Further Information Requested	0
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	72

Number Expert Advice Grant Applications to date	3
Applications Approved to date	3
Number of Applications paid to date	2
Value of 2 Grants paid out to date	€8253.40
Further Information Requested	0
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	0

In addition, 3 new schemes have launched:

- The Expert Advice Grant (up to €5,000)
- The Vacant Above the Shop the Grant (up to €135,000)
- The Conversion of former Commercial/Public Use Building (up to €110,000)

Detailed information on all 3 schemes is available at www.wicklow.ie

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Integration and Emergency Response

Operational Fire Statistics September 2026

There were 143 incidents attended during the month of September 2026. Due to false alarms (non-incidents, 28) and laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types (21 incidents), individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 158 occasions including 18 mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of September 2026 saw a decrease in mobilisations over the previous month August 2026 (232 mobilisations) a decrease of 74 mobilisations or 32%. The most significant reduction was in gorse fires which had been unexpectedly prevalent across the country in August (-35 in September). There was a decrease in mobilisations to RTCs (-17). While the number of maliciously set fires in urban areas decreased (-11) the number remained high at 43 incidents across the county or 27% of all activity for the month.

During the month of September 2026 activity included:

• Small fires set maliciously in main urban areas	43	27%
• False alarms	28	18%
• Mobilisations in other counties	18	11%
• Ambulance and Garda Assists	17	11%

This represented 67% of overall activity.

The following incident types accounted for 20% of overall activity based on stations mobilised:

• Road Traffic Collisions (14 incidents)	23	15%
• Fires in Buildings (6 incidents)	12	5%

Compared to activity in the equivalent month in 2025 (September) there was an increase of 13 mobilisations or +9%. This was accounted for by an increase in maliciously set fires in urban areas (+19), an increase in incidents attended in neighbouring counties (+7), Garda and Ambulance assists (+6). There was a reduction year on year to RTCs (-16 mobilisations or 8 incidents).

Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total, samples below):

- 03/09/2026 Fire Crews from Blessington and Dunlavin attended a 2-car RTC at Broadleas Commons, Ballymore Eustace.
- 06/09/2026 Fire Crews from Dunlavin and Baltinglass attended an RTC at Ballytore.
- 08/09/2026 Blessginton fire crew supported crews from Naas at an RTC at Eadestown.
- 14/09/2026 Blessginton fire crew supported crews from Tallaght at an RTC at Kilteel.
- 17/09/2026 Blessginton fire crew supported crews from Tallaght at a caravan fire at Kilteel.
- 18/09/2026 Dunlavin fire crew supported crews from Naas at an RTC at Calverstown.
- 29/09/2026 Dunlavin fire crew supported a crew from Carlow at an RTC at Castledermot.

Incidents in County Wexford (6-incident total, samples below):

- 01/09/2026 Carnew and Tinahely Fire Crews attended an RTC at Hollyfort.
- 24/09/2026 Carnew fire crew assisted a crew from Gorey at an RTC at Craanford.

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Fire Prevention Statistics August 2026

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	17	6	4	0	8
Revised FSCs	3	0	0	0	1
FSC 7-Day Notice	9	0	3	0	4
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	1	0	0
Total FSCs	29	6	8	0	13
DACs	23	6	1	0	6
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Total DACs	23	6	1	0	6
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	1

29 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment in August. Observations were made on 20 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	16	23		42	38
Circuit	2	0	0	0	0
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	0	0	0	1	0

Activities during the month of September included:

- A two-week Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearer course was undertaken in Hacketstown County Carlow with 4 students from Wicklow all of whom successfully completed the course.
- An additional 4 students successfully completed a 2-week Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearer Course in Tullamore
- Senior Assistant Chief Mick Gahan was nominated as Course Director to deliver the national "Heavy Vehicle Rescue" course in Monaghan.
- Community Fire and Road Safety activities included:

Greystones - Emergency Services Day 16th September
Arklow – "Just-1-Life" Safety Event 28th September
Greystones – Fire Station Open Day
Blessington – Fire Station Open Day

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Building Control Statistics September 2026

Commencement Notices for September 2026:

- Commencement Notices Submitted: 40
- 11 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 14 Opt Out Declarations
- 10 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 5 Seven-Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 28% of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 63% of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 25 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
    - 10 with Compliance Documentation (33%)
    - 7 are Opt Out (57%)
    - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (3%)
    - 5 Seven Day Notice (7%)
- 22 Valid Commencement Notices
- 39 New build residential units
- 11 Apartments
- 13 domestic extensions
- 9 Non-Res new builds
- 7 Invalidated CNs from July

Certificates of Completion processed in August 2026

- 21 New No. of CCC submitted
- 14 Required Revised Information (66%)
- 24 No. Validated
- 1 No. Invalid
- 55 new Residential units & 24 Apartments
- 1 Non-Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

24 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 16 No. CCCs submitted in August
- 8 No. CCCs submitted in July

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

39 new residential houses, 11 apartments, 13 residential extensions and 9 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 81 newly residential units with an additional 24 Apartments were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in September.

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

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

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In September, Building Control increased site inspections to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 6 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued. Building Control also organised a joint inspection with the National Building Control Office, however NBCO were unable to attend on the day.

Revised Information requests remained high in September for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 63% of Commencement Notice submissions & 66% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

In September, Building Control Officers attended the NBCO Eastern Regional Budling Control Meeting in County Louth, a NBCO CPD Day on the re-use of existing buildings and materials in Co Kildare and a Workshop on Domestic Regulations for Market Surveillance of Construction Products in the Customs House.

Civil Defence

1. Overview

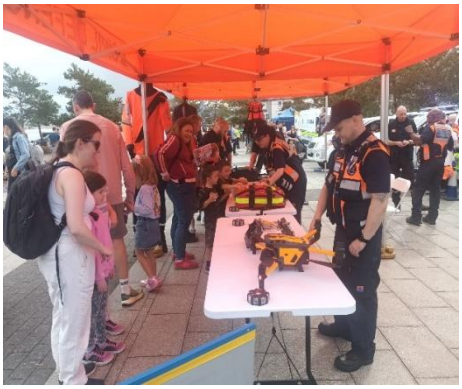
Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers have been involved in community events, medical cover, specialist training, professional development and the continued development of our operational capabilities.

2. Greystones Emergency Services Day – 12 September

Wicklow Civil Defence attended the Greystones Emergency Services Day in Greystones Harbour, providing an opportunity to showcase the organisation's capabilities to the public.

Volunteers demonstrated a range of our equipment and skills, including **drone operations, sonar, search and rescue, emergency response, first aid and community engagement**. The event provided a useful opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of skills and specialist resources available within Wicklow Civil Defence and Wicklow County as an invaluable resource in times of emergency.





3. Grass Track Racing – Arklow

Wicklow Civil Defence provided first aid cover for a grass track racing event in Arklow on **5 and 6 September**. Volunteers provided a dedicated medical response capability throughout the event, ensuring first aid support was available to participants and spectators. Civil Defence also provided first aid cover at a further grass track racing event on **20 September**.

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4. Search Managers Course

The CDO and ACDO continued their participation in the Search Managers Course throughout September, as part of the wider course programme running across August, September and October.

The course covers multiple aspects of search management, including:

- Search planning and operational management
- Search strategies and coordination
- Management of volunteers and personnel
- Welfare of search teams
- Management of equipment and resources
- Coordinating resources from multiple agencies and specialist teams

The training is providing both officers with further skills and experience in managing volunteers and coordinating complex search and rescue operations. This will strengthen Wicklow Civil Defence's ability to support An Garda Síochána and other agencies during missing person and search operations.

5. National CFR Conference – Mullingar, 19 September

The ACDO attended the National CFR Conference in Mullingar on 19 September and delivered a presentation on **Community First Responder (CFR) operations**.

Wicklow Civil Defence was also acknowledged during the conference, with thanks given for the organisation's support through the provision of equipment and volunteer time.

6. EMT Graduates

Two Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers, **Terry Watson and Jessica Davis**, successfully completed their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) examinations during September and are now licensed EMT practitioners within Wicklow Civil Defence.

Their achievement represents a significant commitment to training and development and increases the organisation's clinical capability, allowing them to provide a higher level of emergency care when deployed on Civil Defence ambulances.

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9. Summary

September has demonstrated the continued **operational capability and development of Wicklow Civil Defence**. Volunteers have provided medical cover at multiple events, engaged with the local community, demonstrated specialist search and rescue technology, and continued to develop our emergency response capability through advanced training.

The continued development of personnel, including the successful qualification of two new EMT practitioners and the ongoing Search Managers training of the CDO and ACDO, further strengthens Wicklow Civil Defence as a **trained, equipped and locally available county asset under Wicklow County Council**, capable of providing volunteer support to emergency services and the community when required.

Wicklow Integration Services

1) Wicklow Community Integration Forum

- **Meetings**

The **West Regional Group** had their final meeting of 2026 as a group via Microsoft Teams on the 8th October 2026. At this meeting the Communication Strategy and CIF Funding were discussed, as well as any arising matters for the members. Details of the final End of Year Meeting for all groups, East, West and Management Group in November were shared.

- **CIF Funding**

Following on from the successful restructure of the Community Integration Forum, CIF members have demonstrated a great contribution and commitment to the Forum. CIF members of the Regional Groups, both West and East Wicklow are currently drafting workplans to continue and grow their collaboration. To support their workplans, a pilot funding opportunity has been made available by Wicklow County Council to CIF members. The benefits of the funding include:

- Enhancing CIF members working collaboratively across the mainstream services, NGO, community and voluntary organisations, in providing local services and initiatives to new communities.
- Enabling local organisations and community partners to pilot new initiatives, respond to identified local needs, and strengthen supports for new communities.
- Creating meaningful, sustainable outcomes that support inclusion, participation, and community wellbeing.

CIF members have been invited to propose projects that fall under the following criteria:

- CIF members collaborating on a project. (Required to have a minimum of **two CIF members** involved.)
- **Evidence of promoting social inclusion** must be provided with a **level of targeting** of new communities' cohort demonstrated.
- The project must also align with one or more of the relevant CIF **thematic area(s):**

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1. Children / Young People
2. Education / Employment
3. English Language
4. Therapeutic / Mental Health
5. Family Support
6. Diversity and Inclusion
7. Legal Welfare / Human Rights
8. Health / Wellbeing

- **Intercultural and Anti-racism training**

24 CIF members attended Intercultural and Anti-racism training, provided by the Immigrant Council of Ireland on the 9th October 2026 in Clermont House, Rathnew. This training is aimed at employers and organisations to help them recognise and better harness the strength of intercultural workforces and be sensitive to any practices or unconscious biases that may hinder inclusivity for migrant employees in the workplace.



2) Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- **Topline data**

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)		
MD	**IPAS**	**Ukrainian Response**
Arklow	0	11
Baltinglass	706	31
Bray	210	401
Greystones	0	101
Wicklow	190	89
Total	1,106	633

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IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	8
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,106
Of which are children	368

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2026	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	138
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	704
Total number of sessions with single adults	280
Total number of sessions with couples	36
Total number of sessions with families	291

- **LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for September 2026**

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	17
No. of Individuals	44
No. of Couples	6
No. of Families	35
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	3
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	9
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	30
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	43
No. of International Protection Applicants	72
No. Persons with Status	14
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	4

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	10
Community/Family	6
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	48
Employment/Enterprise	44
Events	0

Finance/Welfare	18
Health/Wellbeing	11
Language/Communication	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	12
Transportation	1
Miscellaneous	1

Additional Activity September	
Emails sent for Clinic work	53
Emails Received	235
Emails Sent	293
Contacts with stakeholders	21
Referrals	4

Other Activity

LAIT supported Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) in delivering an information session on education pathways in Ireland for residents of Esplanade IPAS accommodation centre on Friday, 11 September 2026. The session provided residents with information on available educational opportunities, training programmes, and pathways to further education and skills development in Ireland.

3) Ukrainian Response

- **BOTP in State Contracted Emergency Accommodation**

As of the end of September 2026, there are **633** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **11**
- Baltinglass MD: **31**
- Bray MD: **401**
- Greystones MD: **101**
- Wicklow MD: **89**

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

BOTP Centre information in Wicklow	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	633
Of which are children	155

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- **Update on State-supported Ukraine accommodation in Co. Wicklow**

The Government agreed to phase out accommodation that has been provided to people from Ukraine since 2022. This means that the State will no longer be offering accommodation to all people who are beneficiaries of temporary protection who arrived into Ireland before March 2024. This change is being introduced on a phased basis which commenced at the end of June. List of accommodation centres returning to original or alternative use.

Residents in State-supported Ukraine accommodation in the Wicklow area were informed that they may no longer be accommodated at these centres from October 2026. The first centres affected by this announcement in Wicklow include:

Name	Location	Number of Residents	Last date of accommodation
The Royal Hotel Bray	Wicklow	211	18/10/2026
Astervale	Wicklow	16	31/10/2026
Sinnotts Carnew	Wicklow	15	31/10/2026
Jacob's Bed & Breakfast	Wicklow	14	30/11/2026

- **Accommodation Centres in Wicklow**

There will be a number of Designated Accommodation Centres available in locations around the country. Some existing centres will close and be returned to private use. The next use of the property after a contract ends is a decision for the owner.

Some existing centres may become Designated Accommodation Centres, and some residents whose application is accepted may be able to stay in their current accommodation. Others will be assigned to a new location. The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration will try to give successful applicants as much notice as possible of their allocated accommodation and date of transfer, if applicable.

The **Royal Hotel Bray** property will continue to provide accommodation to beneficiaries of temporary protection who have been successful in the application process for ongoing accommodation. Current residents who may be in need of further State supported accommodation must still submit an application within the timeframe (4th August 2026 – 11th September 2026) for completion and submission of an application form. Residents who don't apply for ongoing accommodations, or apply but are not accepted, will be required to leave the accommodation by 18th October.

- **Temporary Protection Transition Scheme**

Applications for the Temporary Protection Transition Scheme permission are now open. The application period will remain open until 30th March 2027. Applications can be made through the Irish Immigration Service Online Application Portal at https://inisonline.jahs.ie/user/login

The "Temporary Protection Transition Scheme" will be provided on a Stamp 4 basis. It will be granted for a period of up to two years and renewable for periods of two years thereafter. Time on the permission will count towards naturalisation. The permission will include the whole family unit who have been resident in Ireland under temporary protection.

The eligibility criteria for this permission will include:

- being resident in Ireland for a minimum of one year as a beneficiary of temporary protection on or before 30 September 2026;
- employment or self-employment for six months on or before 30 September 2026, with a minimum yearly salary of €29,432;
- not be availing of state supported accommodation such as commercially provided UCTAT accommodation, rapid build programme or hosted accommodation supported by the Accommodation Recognition Payment at the time of application.

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- **Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)**

From 1st of September 2026, the ARP scheme's monthly payment rate will be reduced from €600 to €400 per eligible property used to accommodate people granted Temporary Protection. As the payment is made in arrears, the first payment at the rate of €400 will issue in October 2026.

The Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022 (Section 9(2)) (Amount of Financial Contribution) Order 2025 (Revocation) Order 2026 (S.I. No. 368 of 2026) gives effect to this change.

The ARP scheme is due to end on 31 March 2027.

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Organisational Development

Recruitment:

The following interviews were held in September 2026:

- Recycling Facilities Manager (Avoca) Interviews
- Intercultural Support Worker Interviews
- Craftworker Electrician (Arklow Municipal District) Interviews
- Administrative Officer (Shortlisting)
- Executive Planner Interviews
- Harbour Constable Interviews

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026
Managerial/Administrative	361	367	363	372
Professional/Technical	146	151	160	159
Outdoor	238	234	235	238
Temporary/Seasonal	58	60	96	89
Non DoHPLG	2	2	1	1
Total	**805**	**814**	**855**	**859**

Freedom of Information

September 2026: 20	September 2025: 11
January – September 2026:157	January – September 2025: 79

Ombudsman Requests

September 2026: 4	September 2025: 0
January – September 2026: 25	January – September 2025: 24

Press Releases

September 2026 – 8

Register of Electors

Wicklow County Council's Franchise Section went live as part of Wave 2 onto www.voter.ie on Thursday 11th June 2026 as part of the new National Register of Electors. All 32 Local Authorities have now migrated to www.voter.ie

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All applications for updating details and new registrations are now coming to Wicklow County Council via www.voter.ie

We are continuing to work on data quality on the Register and are also planning a programme of voter registration drives including visiting Secondary Schools in late Autumn 2026 along with renewal and updating of disabled voters, nursing homes and defence force voters lists.

Customer Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2026 - September			
Communication Channels	**No.**	**Public Counters**	**No.**
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	11,562	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,651
No. of Customer Service Emails received	4,251	Revenue Transactions	1,229
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	103	Housing Counter Visits	470

Energy Office

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

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

- Monthly energy reports on our Significant Energy Users (SEU)
- Library Service – New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing libraries and fleet
- Fire Service - New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing fire stations and fleet
- Fleet Management – Monitoring energy and carbon emissions of the WCC fleet
- Wicklow Gaol – Installation of a new boiler system, transitioning from kerosene to HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel to improve sustainability and reduce emissions.

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

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

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Planned SEAI Pathfinder Projects for 2026.

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

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

Mid-East Energy Unit

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
    - One stop shop for SEAI Pathfinder projects for Mid-East Region
    - Framework agreement established with the three successful contractors
    - 2 projects in WCC currently at detailed design stage
- First EPC project for Kildare County Council contract signing took place in June 2026
- Second EPC for Meath County Council contract signing took place in July 2026
- Installing heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process
- Third EPC for Wicklow County Council invitation to compete in competitive dialogue ongoing
- Fourth EPC for Louth County Council invitation to compete in competitive dialogue ongoing

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30 Sep 2026							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	53,106,663	62,990,719	84%	(54,743,509)	(65,142,671)	84%	(1,636,846)
Road Transport & Safety	22,382,872	28,055,651	80%	(16,101,846)	(19,804,843)	81%	6,281,026
Water Services	2,434,274	4,382,330	56%	(3,617,373)	(5,354,831)	68%	(1,183,099)
Development Management	13,864,335	19,296,387	72%	(8,361,595)	(11,199,854)	75%	5,502,739
Environmental Services	15,389,429	20,044,291	77%	(4,235,132)	(6,082,483)	70%	11,154,298
Recreation and Amenity	8,107,369	10,517,175	77%	(1,247,518)	(1,393,762)	90%	6,859,850
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,663,606	2,081,928	80%	(534,499)	(694,328)	77%	1,129,107
Miscellaneous Services	7,158,781	9,588,050	75%	(12,988,543)	(17,287,651)	75%	(5,829,763)
Central Management Charges	21,258,238	27,283,644	78%	(722,957)	(1,050,000)	69%	20,535,281
Local Government Fund	0	0	0	(16,357,560)	(21,810,080)	75%	(16,357,560)
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Commercial Rates	0	0	0	(25,933,711)	(34,419,672)	75%	(25,933,711)
	145,365,567	**184,240,175**	**79%**	**(144,844,246)**	**(184,240,175)**	**79%**	**521,322**

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st to 30th Sep 2026.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th Sep 2026					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2026	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/09/2026
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,487,427	68,367,694	(48,424,994)	(619,960)	31,810,167
Road Transport & Safety	(24,249,158)	13,914,245	(3,467,888)	(958,786)	(14,761,587)
Water Services	(6,335,116)	725,962	(436,607)	(135,000)	(6,180,761)
Development Management	(64,738,651)	596,823	(10,356,000)	826,222	(73,671,606)
Environmental Services	4,635,816	4,400,465	(2,738,594)	(460,589)	5,837,098
Recreation and Amenity	3,302,756	5,540,142	(1,396,993)	(1,535,360)	5,910,545
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,225,465)	115,361	0	(446,250)	(2,556,354)
Miscellaneous Services	(6,311,917)	1,638,597	(841,766)	2,333,443	(3,181,643)
	(83,434,307)	**95,299,288**	**(67,662,842)**	**(996,280)**	**(56,794,140)**

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

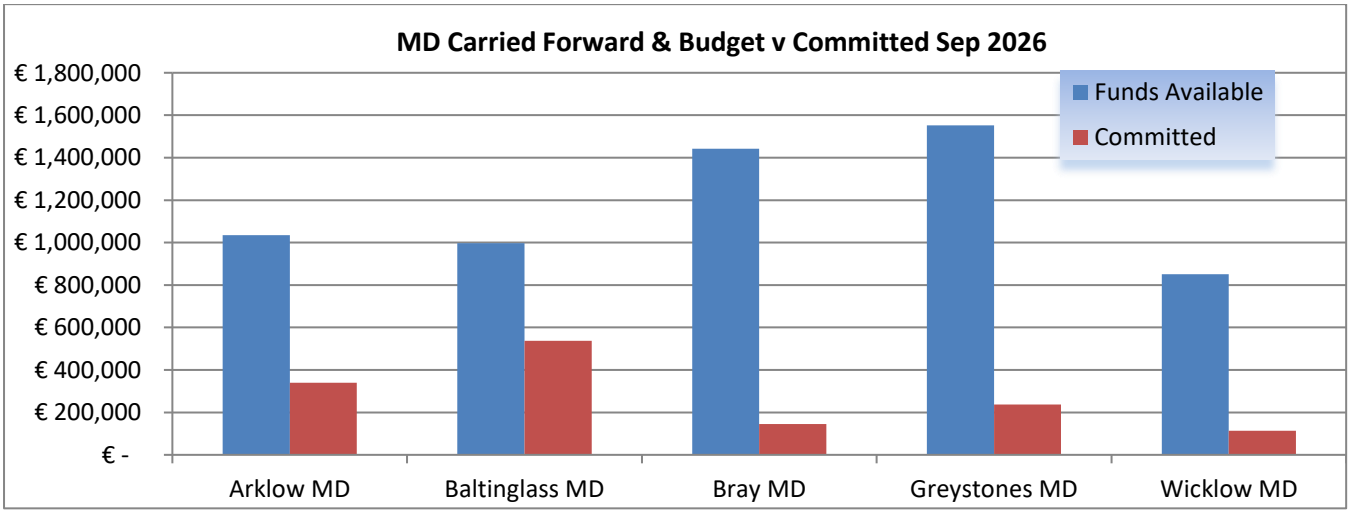
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30 Sep 2026										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2026	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/09/2026	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	2,830,358	34,577,034	(11,259)	(143,248)	121,396	37,201,326	(30,286,699)	6,914,627	517,038	83%
Rents & Annuities	2,760,539	15,028,764	0	(55)	0	17,789,248	(15,452,898)	2,336,350	0	87%
Housing Loans	447,005	1,644,084	0	0	0	2,091,089	(1,763,462)	327,627	0	84%

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

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2026

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2025	Adopted Budget 2026	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	517,434	518,009	1,035,443	339,374	696,069
Baltinglass MD	317,834	679,901	997,735	537,617	460,118
Bray MD	604,785	838,142	1,442,927	145,711	1,297,216
Greystones MD	1,040,878	511,584	1,552,462	236,948	1,315,514
Wicklow MD	213,125	637,288	850,413	113,031	737,382
Total	**2,694,056**	**3,184,924**	**5,878,980**	**1,372,681**	**4,506,299**



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Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028

The Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028 for Wicklow County Coucil 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 11th May 2026. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL	Dev Charges[1]	Loan	Grant Aid[2]	Other[3]	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	114,226,000	128,000,000	130,400,000	**372,626,000**	-	30,000,000	295,418,500	47,207,500	**372,626,000**
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	29,906,000	31,040,000	35,960,000	**96,906,000**	38,851,000	-	54,465,000	3,590,000	**96,906,000**
WATER SERVICES	255,000	140,000	140,000	**535,000**	-	-	535,000	-	**535,000**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	4,021,000	5,185,000	4,270,000	**13,476,000**	3,206,000	-	7,260,000	3,010,000	**13,476,000**
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	14,080,000	33,165,000	26,895,000	**74,140,000**	-	-	64,365,000	9,775,000	**74,140,000**
RECREATION AND AMENITY	12,865,000	16,660,000	32,890,000	**62,415,000**	19,337,500	-	41,017,500	2,060,000	**62,415,000**
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	7,250,000	22,310,000	23,200,000	**52,760,000**	2,377,500	-	44,657,500	5,725,000	**52,760,000**
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,350,000	950,000	950,000	**3,250,000**	-	-	-	3,250,000	**3,250,000**
OVERALL TOTAL	**183,953,000**	**237,450,000**	**254,705,000**	**676,108,000**	**63,772,000**	**30,000,000**	**507,718,500**	**74,617,500**	**676,108,000**

NOTES

1. Commencement of, and progression on, projects funded fully or in part by Development Charges is subject to the availability of funds.
2. Where grant aid is not forthcoming the associated schemes may not progress.
3. Other Income includes among others, disposal of assets, own resource revenue and capital account provisions, and private sector investment.

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

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Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

Rathnew Transportation Projects

- GIS mapping and spatial data was prepared to support ongoing transportation projects in the Rathnew area. This included the provision of aerial imagery and terrain datasets for use in project planning and design. The information provides project teams with geographic context for assessing existing conditions and proposed works. Further GIS support will be provided as the projects progress.

Arklow SPAR Project

- GIS support was provided for the Arklow SPAR project, including the preparation of spatial datasets required for the project. Work was also undertaken to identify an appropriate method for delivering the required GIS information. This ensures that relevant mapping and geographic datasets are available to support the project.

Call for Sites – Public Consultation and GIS

- GIS support was provided for the Council's Call for Sites public consultation, which invited suggestions of lands that could be considered for future housing zoning. An interactive public mapping system was developed to allow users to examine sites against relevant planning and environmental information and submit site details through the online consultation process. Following the consultation, further GIS tools were developed to assist with the review and assessment of submitted sites.

Planning Enforcement System

- Technical work continued on the Council's Planning Enforcement system following recent system changes. This included investigating an improvement to reporting functionality. The work is aimed at maintaining reliable access to the system and its associated reporting facilities.

Roads GIS Viewer

- Ongoing technical support was provided for the Roads GIS Viewer, which provides access to geographic information used by the Roads service. GIS queries associated with the viewer were also addressed as required. This work supports the continued use of mapping and spatial information in the delivery of Roads projects and services.

Tailte Éireann Mapping and Data Licensing

- Work was undertaken to support the appropriate use of Tailte Éireann mapping and geospatial data within Council projects. This included reviewing current licensing requirements and providing guidance on the use and sharing of mapping information. Updated information on mapping attribution and third-party data usage was also provided where required. This work helps ensure that geographic information used in Council projects is managed in accordance with the relevant licensing requirements.

Infrastructure

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