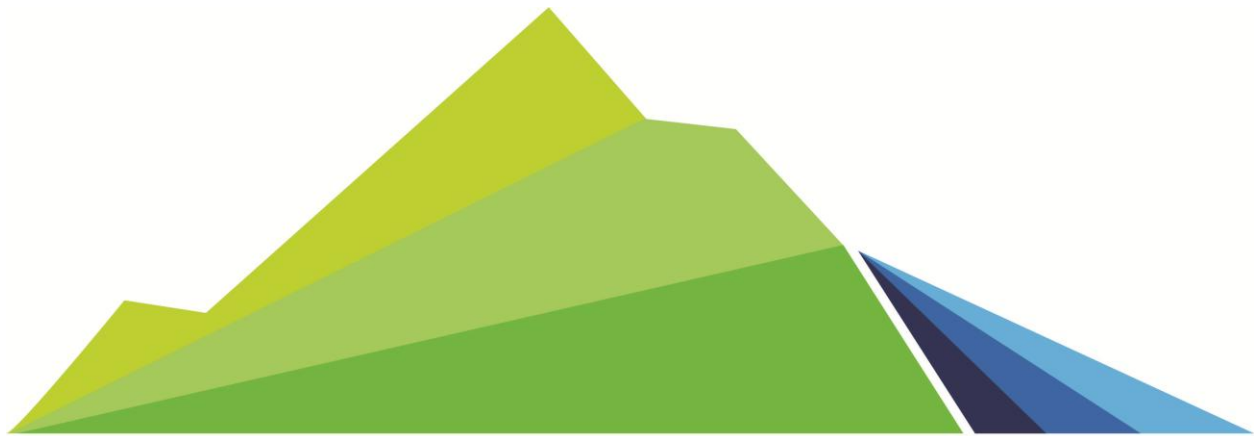


# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026



## Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – MAY 2026

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**This month:**

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

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

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

Seven projects for Wicklow have been approved as follows:

- Kilpipe medieval church
- Kilmacanogue Old Church
- Drumgoff Barracks
- Black Castle, Wicklow Town
- Killoughter (Old) Church & Graveyard
- Killadreenan Church
- Castletimon Church Ruins

## **Funding of nearly €170,000 allocated for Wicklow's Historic Buildings**

Wicklow County Council welcomes the recent announcement from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of capital funding for two properties in County Wicklow under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

Russborough House, Blessington has been awarded €101,817, while the Old Schoolhouse, Lacken has secured €66,433 for conservation repairs to the historic fabric.

Russborough House is a building of National importance and a key visitor attraction for County Wicklow, operated by the Alfred Beit Trust. The HSF grant will support a programme of extensive and essential stone repairs to secure the continued role of the structure as a heritage, educational and community asset.

The Old Schoolhouse in Lacken has been at the heart of community life in the village for more than 150 years, initially as a national school, and more recently as a community centre. The HSF funded conservation works will include repair of timber windows, overhaul of cast-iron rainwater goods, lime repointing, stone repairs and re-rendering in lime plaster.

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

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

## Social Development

### Housing

	April 2026	April 2025
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	82	93
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1319	1368
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	19	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	18	21

### Allocation of Social Housing

	April 2026	April 2025
Wicklow County Council	18	10
Approved Housing Bodies	12	2

### Social Housing Applications

	April 2026	April 2025
Customer Care: New Applications	3	-
Customer Care: Awaiting Information	51	72
Customer Care: Awaiting Processing	0	39
Housing: Awaiting To Be Logged & Then Processed	77	27
Housing: Awaiting Further Information	113	85
Housing: Awaiting EHO	26	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>231</b>

\*This represents an increase on applications received compared to April 2025. The reason for that increase is due to the inclusion of figures regarding applications that have been received by our Customer Hub and are en route to Housing. This gives an overall picture of applications being dealt by WCC at the present time.

### Social Housing Stock

	April 2026	April 2025
Tenancies Occupied	5160	5043
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€357,648.04	€341,524.56
Arrears	€2,478,076.77	€3,227,653.09

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## Rent

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

## 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.

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

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	April 2026
Applications Received	498	4
Completed	126	1
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

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## Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Not Started	In Progress	Completed but not yet tenanted	TOTAL Vacant	TOTAL Completed in 2026
<b>Arklow</b>	5 (-2)	4 (+4)	1 (0)	<b>10 (+2)</b>	<b>6 (0)</b>
<b>Baltinglass</b>	1 (+1)	10 (-1)	8 (0)	<b>19 (0)</b>	<b>4 (+1)</b>
<b>Bray</b>	4 (+2)	6 (+2)	7 (+1)	<b>17 (+5)</b>	<b>7 (+6)</b>
<b>Greystones</b>	3 (0)	3 (0)	6 (+1)	<b>12 (+1)</b>	<b>5 (+2)</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	5 (-1)	10 (-3)	6 (-1)	<b>21 (-5)</b>	<b>8 (+5)</b>
<b>2026 Totals</b>	18 (0)	33 (+2)	28 (0)	<b>79 (+2)</b>	<b>30 (+14)</b>
<b>2025 Totals</b>					<b>142</b>
<b>Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock</b>		<b>Figures in brackets indicate change on previous month</b>			<b>1.5 (-0.1)</b>

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



A Local Area Term Maintenance Framework for Planned Building Maintenance and Refurbishment Works was setup in 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.

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## Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

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

## Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status	TiCC
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 as - 2026
Houses complete	0

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Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

## **Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects**

### Hillview, Wicklow Town

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

Stock condition surveys (+Addjust) have been completed at Farrankelly Close. Phase 1 of the works to install new windows and doors to 11 properties has been delivered with associated improvements to insulation and ventilation completed by the Greystones MD team. The contract was recently awarded, and it is expected that the windows will be installed in Q3/Q4 2026.

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

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

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

### 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).

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out 2026 to date:
Targeted and complaint inspections	145

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	10
Prohibition Notice	4

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

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

Wicklow County Council completed 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.

## **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

## **Local Authority Home Loans up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Received	Approved in Principle
9	0

## **Local Authority Home Loans up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Received	Approved in Principle
22	5

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

## Homeless Services

### Homeless Figures for April 2026

<b>Addressing Homelessness</b>			
	<b>As at 30/04/2026</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>	<b>As at 30/04/2025</b>
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	17	103	24
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	7	33	5
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	3	34	5
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	22	114	25
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	3	15	0
<b>No. of Children</b>	5	59	10
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	4	28	5
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	16	51	9
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	0	8	3
<b>Mental Health</b>	3	3	1
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	6	61	21
<b>Arrears/Loss of Income</b>	0	0	0
<b>Addiction Issues</b>	3	7	4
<b>DV/DA</b>	0	3	0
<b>Medical Issues</b>	1	4	0
<b>Overcrowding</b>	0	2	2
<b>Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left</b>	0	3	0
<b>ASB:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Rough Sleeping*</b>	3	9	4
<b>Sofa Surfing*</b>	8	15	5
<b>Staying with Family*</b>	0	7	4
<b>Staying with Friends*</b>	1	7	2

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

<b>Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/04/2026</b>	
Families	21
Adults	36
Children	44
Single individual	12

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/04/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	26	21	8	1	4	6	7
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/04/2026								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	27	34	27	9	6	0	2	10

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, 702 households (490 families & 210 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1 st October 2018 to 30 th April 2026. (270 homeless cases, 384 prevention cases to date and 48 direct provision). 177 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.

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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.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – MAY 2026

## Community

### Community Awards Scheme (CAS) 2026

Applications for the Community Awards Scheme (CAS) 2026.

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

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

There is a maximum grant amount of €1,000.00 per organisation for small projects and group running costs. There is €95,000.00 allocated for the CAS in 2026, which is a €20,000.00 increase in Budget 2026 from last year.

The Community Section received 309 CAS applications altogether, a larger volume than last year. They are currently being processed for judging.

Please note applications are closed for 2026.



### IPB Pride of Place Competition 2026

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

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

The standard of applications this year was exceptionally high, and the selection process was very competitive. Wicklow County Council have nominated the following five entries to represent the county in the national awards in October. Judging by the Cooperation Ireland will take place in August.

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

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## County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

**Age Friendly Alliance:** Alliance meet 4 times per year. Met with Local link, BNWAP and the Library Service Age Friendly Champion this month to progress actions. Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**OPC Executive Committee:** There are 3 subgroups working on 4 actions in the Strategy. Next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

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

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

**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. Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May

**Over 55's Climate course:** The Age Friendly Programme Manager along with the Climate Action Officer Wicklow County Council are running a Climate Action Programme which is run by Jacinta Barrins. This six-week programme held 5th of its 6 sessions in April. Final session held in May.



## Comhairle na nÓg

- Youth Council met in April, progressing their work on the issue of transport and their survey
- Group have a representative on the Climate and Biodiversity SPC
- LCSP (Local Community Safety Partnership):
  - Awaiting approval for representation on this group
  - Supported the promotion of the LCSP Youth survey
- Dáil na nÓg 1<sup>st</sup> May
- Group will meet Cynthia Ní Mhuchú MEP, in Greystones in May

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## Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- **Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC)** Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May
- **Customer Hub disability awareness training:** dates set for 21<sup>st</sup> May in Council Chambers, to be facilitated by Laura O'Callaghan, Disability Federation of Ireland.
- **Website Accessibility:** Met with Communications team 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026. Funding agreed for Inventise to make necessary adjustments required for current Wicklow.ie website to ensure it is as accessible as possible. New website is being planned, which DISC will have an active part in development of to ensure maximum accessibility from the start. Next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026.
- **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.
- **The Sunflower Lanyard** aims to support people with hidden disabilities. In April, 130 lanyard & card packs were distributed, as well as 2 posters and window stickers, 10 supporter lanyards to Wicklow Library Services.
- **Accessibility Audit** in conjunction with KARE in Tinahely, with support from Cheshire Homes, Older People's Council and Tinahely Men's Shed, 30<sup>th</sup> April.



- **Communication Boards:** Wicklow MD 6 playground signs being erected in May. Work ongoing to have 3 remaining MDs playgrounds ordered, delivered and erected.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026



Healthy  
Wicklow



Sláintecare.  
Healthy  
Communities

## Healthy Wicklow

### Maternal Mental Health

Maternal mental health is a key focus during May, with Healthy Wicklow providing funding to support targeted community initiatives. This funding will enable the delivery of the Minding Mums Programme in The Colour Club every Thursday throughout May, offering a supportive space for mothers to connect, share experiences, and access wellbeing resources. In addition, a Buggyfit Programme will be delivered in Carnew every Monday throughout May, promoting physical activity and social engagement for new mothers in an inclusive setting.



### Food Poverty

First of three cooking/shopping/budgeting events was held in Rathdrum Library. There were 21 people in attendance. Collaboration between HSCLS, KWETB, MABS, CIC and Healthy Food Made Easy was achieved. There was very good feedback from participants. The next Event is in The Little Flower Hall Bray on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 from 10-12.30.

### Exhale for Exams

A 5 week in person series designed to support teens (16+) as they prepare for exams, because it's not just about studying harder, it's about feeling calmer, more focused, and confident.

Running every Friday in May (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) in The Colour Club, Arklow from 16:30–17:30, this series will gently guide participants through:

- Building a positive mindset
- Strengthening resilience
- Managing stress & exam anxiety
- Simple breathwork techniques they can use anytime, anywhere

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Each session gives teens practical tools to stay grounded and clear headed in the lead up to exams.



## Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership

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

Chair - Cllr Tom Fortune

Vice Chair - Selena McKenzie

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

LCSP – 3 meetings

LCSP Steering Group – 4 meetings

Domestic Violence Working Group – 2 meetings

Roads and Road Safety Working Group - 2 meetings

Anti-social behaviour Working Group - 2 meetings

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

### **Wicklow Local Community Safety Plan**

A Community Safety event was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Arklow Bay Hotel 11am to 2pm. The event featured 8 guest speakers and information stands from 25+ service providers.

A youth survey was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and so far, has received 263 responses.

A Wicklow wide survey was also published on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and will be promoted through May. Despite not being promoted 90 responses have been received.

Focused consultations are also being coordinated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The first public meeting of the LCSP will be held on 15th June in Kilian House in Greystones in conjunction with the planned Public Consultation.



## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Ms. Kay O'Connor, previously SICAP programme manager at Co. Wicklow Partnership has just been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Co. Wicklow Partnership. Dr. Marianne Breen has been appointed new SICAP programme manager.



## Public Participation Network

Membership: Currently at 521 community groups across the county.

Governance & Community Groups: Co. Wicklow Partnership and Wicklow Volunteer Centre will work in collaboration with Wicklow PPN on the establishment and running of a Countywide Governance Network. In-person and an online event planned.

PPN Reps: Nominations received and approved for two SPC seats (Comm & Vol Seat on Housing SPC & SI Seat on Economic Dev & Enterprise Support SPC). Call for nominations onto: CYPSC; Volunteer Centre; Local Link; Heritage Forum; Community & Social Dev SPC (Env seat); PPN Secretariat.

Consultations & Funding streams: 4 local and 5 national consultations currently open for feedback. 25 funding streams currently available for applications.

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

## Planning, Economic & Rural Development

### Forward Planning

#### Local Plans

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

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

This Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan is to incorporate the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework. The draft LPF went on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day was held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. 67 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's (CE) Report on submissions received was prepared and issued to the Elected Members. The CE Report was considered by the Elected Members at the Wicklow County Council meeting of the 13 April 2026. Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the draft LPF were made. The Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the draft LPF have now been published. The PMAs will be on display from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 to 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 with submissions invited.

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

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

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan is the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2026. The draft LPF went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report on the submissions received was prepared and was issued to the Elected Members in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report was considered at the Council meeting on the 06 October 2025. Proposed Material Alterations to the draft LPF were proposed by the Elected Members and went on display from 24 October 2025 to 21 November 2025 with submissions invited. 86 submissions were received. A second CE report was prepared on the submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and the report was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. This CE report was considered at the Council meeting of the 9 February and the Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole LPF was adopted on the 9 February 2026, and it is in effect from 9 February 2026. It is available online and can be viewed [here](#).

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

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

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

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

## **Blessington Local Area Plan 2025**

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

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

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

Bray - More information can be found here -

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

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

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

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

## **Variation No. 5**

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

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More information is available here -

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

## Call for Sites

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

A 'Call for Sites' consultation portal was created to assist those wanting to send in a submission. Drop-in services were also held in County Buildings to provide assistance during the consultation stage. The "Call for Sites" consultation was open from December 2025 to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Over 200 submissions were received and are currently being reviewed, with the view to preparing a Proposed Variation of the County Development Plan. It is anticipated that this Proposed Variation will be commenced in Q3 2026.

More information is available here -

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

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

### Variation No 2

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

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

### Variation No 3

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

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

### Variation No 4

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

More information is available here –

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

### Variation No 5

Variation No. 5 revised the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets, and a number of related housing objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Written Statement

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to implement the new NPF Guidelines (see above). The Proposed Variation was on display from 5 December 2025 until 16 January 2026 with submissions invited. 119 submissions were received. The CE report on submissions received was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. Variation No. 5 was made and came into effect on 30 March 2026.

## **Proposed Variation**

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

This Proposed Variation is to incorporate the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework into the County Development Plan. The Proposed Variation/draft LPF went on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day was held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. 67 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's (CE) Report on submissions received was prepared and issued to the Elected Members. The CE Report was considered by the Elected Members at the Wicklow County Council meeting of the 13 April 2026. Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the Proposed Variation / Draft LPF were made. Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the Proposed Variation / Draft LPF were made. The Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the draft LPF have now been published. The PMAs will be on display from the 1 May 2026 to 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 with submissions invited.

The documents can be viewed here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Arklow/Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-to-the-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Proposed-Material-Alterations>

## **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**

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

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

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

**Submissions to Final 2026 RZLT Maps.** The final map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land are invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council to change the zoning of this land until 1 April 2026. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2026 liability on foot of such a request. 1 submission was received.

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

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

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

The RZLT process has two parts:

- 1) **Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax.** This is undertaken by local authorities through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps as outlined above.
- 2) **Administration of the tax.** This will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners. Please click the following link for further information:

<https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/rzlt/index.aspx>

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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 — FAQ’s:

<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 31 April 2026 are as follows:

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

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

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

## Planning and Development

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 April 2025	To 30 April 2026
Received (Valid)	344	359

A total of 119 valid applications were received during April as follows:

Type of Development	Number
Individual Houses	17 (15 Rural)
Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	09
Commercial	10
Other Developments**	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>

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

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Decisions issued in respect of 87 applications in April 2026;

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	00
Other Developments	85
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
RED III	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>

Decisions issued between January to April 2025, in comparison to the same period for 2026;

	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Total Number of decisions issued	289	337
Total Number of decisions to grant	242	294
% Grant Rate	84%	87%
No of applications withdrawn		5 (1 refer to rural house)

## Applications Lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

### Substitute Consent

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

### E-Planning Project

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

From January to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, we received a total of 350 applications of which **301 (86%)** were received through the Eplanning portal and 49 (14%) were received in hard copy.

For the **month of April**, a total of 118 planning applications were received of which **105 (88.98%)** were received online and 13 (11.02%) were received in hard copy.

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

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

- Construction of a 2 No. storey motor sales outlet principally comprising a car showroom and workshop with ancillary offices and staff facilities in Bray
- A number of one-off rural dwellings throughout the county
- RED III application Level 5 - non-ground source heat pump system (air-to-water heat pump) in Carnew
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Development of 16 no. 2-storey, terraced houses at land in Ashford
- RED III application Level 4 - installation of wall mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to the rear elevation of the existing dwelling in Bray
- Construction of 99 no. residential units with a mix of semidetached and terraced houses along with triplex apartments in Kilbride
- Agricultural shed with sand arena covered by structure 2. a concrete retaining wall 3. a covered dung stead in Newcastle
- Construction of a crèche adjacent to the 88 No. unit residential scheme originally granted permission under planning register 21/1141 in Dunlavin

## Planning Enforcement

Enforcement Files	Total
New Files	14
Advisory Letters	25
Warning Letters	2
Enforcement Notices	2
Legal Files	1
Closed	8

## Derelict Sites as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

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

## Heritage Office

**County Heritage Plan (CHP) Work Programme:** Funding applications for County Heritage Plan Fund from Heritage Council prepared and submitted for 2026. Confirmation of €20,000 funding received from Heritage Council for Community Archaeology role plus €40,000 for County Heritage Plan allocation.

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**Historic Towns Initiative (HTI):** Application for Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Wicklow prepared in association with Wicklow Town Team submitted to The Heritage Council. Confirmation that application was successful, €50,000 secured. Tender documents issued.

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

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

**Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology):** Applications to the Community Monument Fund secured a total allocation of €544,000 from National Monuments Service for seven projects as follows.

- Kilpipe medieval church €130,000 to repair and consolidate ruins;
- Kilmacanogue Old Church €105,000 for phase 2 programme of masonry repairs;
- Drumgoff Barracks €130,000 for phase 2 repairs to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century building associated with The Military Road construction;
- Black Castle, Wicklow Town €100,000 for conservation and stabilisation of the upstanding masonry remains;
- Killoughter (Old) Church & Graveyard €23,720 for Conservation Management Plan including archaeological, architectural, engineering, ecological and arboricultural assessment.
- 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.
- Castletimon Church Ruins €30,000 for small-scale, preventative conservation works to include consolidation of collapsed masonry and targeted stabilisation.

**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. Regional meeting held Donard on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

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

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

## Town Regeneration

### 1.0 Town Teams

There are currently eight Town Teams in County Wicklow: Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, and Wicklow. Newcastle is about to begin the process of becoming a Town Team.

### 2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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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. Both projects were originally required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. However, an extension has been granted.

### a) Blessington:

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

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

### b) Wicklow Town:

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

*Update:* The final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District and published in December 2025. A Part VIII application is being prepared.

## 4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

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

- a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. Construction works are progressing. Works are almost complete and a case study is being prepared in advance of Department drawdown.
- b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. Construction works are complete with case study and final drawdown to be finalised.

## 5.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

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

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## **Main Scheme Funding**

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

Tendering on Supply gov is due to take place shortly for contractor to complete the works.

## **Project Development Measure**

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

Full brief has been prepared; site plans are being completed.

## **Health checks**

Quotations were sought for Health checks for two towns: Carnew and Wicklow

Successful tenderers, Studio Myco, are beginning the Health Check of Carnew shortly.

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

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

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

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

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

A meeting between WCC's Capital Delivery Team (CDT) the Department's RRDF Team of the took place on the 25 February 2026. The Department requested some further information on the Councils proposals for Blessington and how they align with the original RRDF Application and grant of funding. The Department were accepting of the fact that a Town Centre First (TCF) Plan had been developed in line with the Departments guidelines since the awarding of the RRDF Grant and that it had been prudent to wait until that process had been completed to progress the RRDF further during the same time period to ensure the RRDF complimented the TCF Plan. The requested further information was sent to the

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Department on the 9 March, and a response is expected during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> March. Despite numerous reminders, no response has issued from the Department to date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Three projects were submitted to the Department for funding:

- Arklow Harbour Plan Development
- Wicklow Harbour Plan Development
- The Murrough Waterfront Park Enhancement

## **Tourism**

### **Wicklow Gaol**

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

Following the recent fire safety plan for Wicklow Gaol, a supplier to install a new fire safety system will be appointed shortly. This system will include new fire detection, alarm system, emergency lighting, fire doors and compartmentalisation. Works will start as soon as possible and will be prioritised to potentially allow partial opening of the Gaol.

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

### **Wicklow Naturally**

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

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

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

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

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

stone conversation expertise and ecological professionals. The Local Advisory Group met in December where they received an update on the CMP process along with anticipated timelines.

## **National Tourism Conference**

The Tourism team attended the LGMA Tourism Conference “Scaling Regional Tourism – New Opportunities, New Developments” in May. This dedicated conference focussed on tourism development by local authorities and shared information on developing future ready destinations. Data and insights were provided by local authority representatives, stakeholders including Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Ibec, DETE, industry experiences and attractions. The conference also provided opportunities to network with colleagues from other local authorities and stakeholders.

## **Economic Development**

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

Work continues at the Abbey Grounds as the phased implementation of the Destination Towns project moves forward. The delivery of new public amenities remains on track for the remainder of the year.

### **Special Projects**

Avondale Business Park: Site sales at Avondale Business Park continue to move forward, with the disposals of Sites 11 and 12 successfully approved at the April council meeting. Ongoing expressions of interest continue to be explored, alongside an assessment of options for developing the necessary on-site supporting infrastructure.

**Strategic Enterprise Lands:** Strategic enterprise land in County Wicklow remains under active review as assessments continue to determine optimal and suitable use.

**The GRID:** The signing of contracts with the new operator is nearing completion, and the formal transition remains on track for a full handover in June. Office occupancy has increased, with only three office spaces remaining available. The Phase 2 fit-out is now complete and the final units are ready for new licensees.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** The site registration process is moving forward as the Law Agent continues to engage with the Property Registration Authority, the matter continues to advance toward an anticipated resolution.

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

A meeting of the ORE network took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, where members heard presentations on permitting updates for the Arklow Bank Wind Park and a "state of the nation" briefing on the roles and remits of agencies supporting the offshore wind sector. Members continue to remain actively engaged in these developments with the next meeting planned for June.

### **Skills Strategy**

Implementation of the Wicklow Skills Strategy is advancing steadily. A recent meeting of the taskforce took place on the 14 April with updates reflecting that projects continue to progress and that the rollout of priority 2026 initiatives remains a key objective of the taskforce.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

## Local Enterprise Office (LEO) For April 2026 Meeting:

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
Metrics: Grants	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	14 BEG / 2 Priming / 8 Feasibility / 3 (MEG) Total: 27- €546,033	33	2 (€56,060)
Gross Jobs Created	696	188	-
Net Jobs Created	50	105	-
New Job Commitments 3 Years	N/A	84	5
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
Metrics: Training/ Capacity Building	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	117	90	59
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	156	90	60
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1139	720	318
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	20	20	3
Metrics: Business Advice & Mentoring	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Number of new clients added to database.	580	-	215

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – MAY 2026

*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	544	270	247
<b>Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Year to Date 2026/27</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1170	1170	1449

<b>Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>No of transfers</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Year to Date 2026</b>
Number of transfers	6	5	3

<b>Lean, Green &amp; Digital Start For Micro Projects</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	15	15	9
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	21	27	13
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	34	27	9
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	5	18	2
Energy Efficiency Grant	9	18	9
RD&I Grants (inc IP) Approved	1	1	1
<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	17	19	8
<b>New Exporters</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	3	3	TBC

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Activities took place in April / May

- **Student Enterprise Programme – National Final**  
Preparations were undertaken to support the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior category winners from the Wicklow County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme 2026 following their success at the Arklow Bay Hotel, as they prepared to represent Wicklow at the National Finals held at the Mullingar Park Hotel on 7th May. Supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Elodie O'Brien and Ema Marcu from Woodbrook College won the Sustainability Award for their student enterprise, Bin Better, a sustainable bokashi food waste bin.
- **AI Works for Ireland – Regional Development Sessions**  
Explores practical applications of AI in SMEs to improve efficiency, enhance customer experience, and unlock growth opportunities, while providing real world insights and future trends shaping the business landscape. These sessions are being delivered collaboratively by Local Enterprise Offices across the regions in partnership with Google.
- **Expression of Interests**  
Expression of Interest calls are currently open for Showcase 2027, providing Local Enterprise Office Wicklow supported businesses with the opportunity to showcase their craft and products at one of Ireland's leading trade events. Expressions of Interest are also open for participation in the National Ploughing Championships, offering businesses a platform to exhibit and promote their products to a national audience, as well as for the Food & Drink Export Development Programme targeted at businesses within the food and beverage sector seeking to expand into international markets.
- **Dublin Tech summit**  
The Dublin Tech Summit takes place on 27th and 28th May at the RDS, with Local Enterprise Offices represented through a dedicated stand to promote enterprise supports and raise awareness of services available to businesses. Complimentary tickets were also allocated to relevant LEO clients to support attendance, networking, and engagement with the wider technology and innovation ecosystem.

## LEO Training in April / May:

- Digital Marketing Clinics
- A Layman's guide to Income Tax.
- Bookkeeping for Small Business
- Finance and Tax Clinics
- Start Your Own Business Course
- Sources of Finance for Small Business
- Sales Strategies for Your Business
- LinkedIn for Business

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

### HARBOURS AND PORTS

#### WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS

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

<b>GENERAL CARGO DATA 2026</b>	
General Cargo/Container	21
Gross Tonnage	54,988

<b>SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN 2026</b>			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
500	999	2	1704
1,000	1,999	0	0
2,000	2,999	15	39626
3,000	3,999	4	13658
			54988

<b>2026 CARGO BREAKDOWN</b>			
CATEGORY	Imports	Exports	Total
Forestry Products	20480.017	1770.16	<b>22250.177</b>
Metals		17562.61	<b>17562.61</b>
	<b>20480.017</b>	<b>19332.77</b>	<b>39812.787</b>

### CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

**E-Mobility Scheme:** A Shared Mobility Hub scheme has been tendered for the County. The scheme includes Bray, Greystones and Wicklow with options to extend to Arklow and Blessington. Bolt has won the tender and have commenced operations in Bray and will be extending into Greystones and Wicklow Town in May.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



**Developer Provided Infrastructure:** Garden Village: Wicklow County Council has received funding approval of **€1,274,539** from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Garden Village scheme, which consists of **221 dwelling units**. This funding will enable the Council to **decommission the existing wastewater treatment plant** serving Garden Village and **construct a new foul sewer and pumping station** in its place. **Part 8 Planning** is the next step in progressing the scheme.

Rath Luain: Irish Water connection offer received. Wicklow County Council to estimate costs of project and seek funding for the scheme.

**Dark Skys:** A County Wicklow Light Pollution Policy and an Environmental lighting master plan, light assessment report and lighting energy audit for the towns of Donard, Laragh, Roundwood and Aughrim have been tendered and Kerem Asfuroglu is the preferred tender.

The reserve core would be located in the southern part of the Wicklow Mountains National Park with a buffer zone of 700 KM around the park where the lighting policy will be developed to reduce the impact of light pollution.

**Spongeworks EU horizon programme:** The Spongeworks project is proceeding into the first phase of identification of opportunities through site assessment. Wicklow County Council has undertaken recruitment of experts to deliver two assessments. The first is a wetland survey which will be undertaken by Wetlands Survey Ireland. It will look at 22 sites surveyed in 2011 and assess their current status, making recommendations on how they could be protected and restored in collaboration with interested landowners. The assessment will also scope out any smaller wetland sites that should be added.

The second assessment will be farm water management assessment and opportunity mapping. This piece of work will be led by Prof. Mary Bourke of Trinity College. It will identify measures specific to demonstration farms and map out opportunities across the wider landscape. Assessments will be undertaken on arrange of farm types. Let us know if as a landowner you would be interested in taking part in this research.

Community Climate Action Engagement: Community Climate Action Programme



Photos from some Arklow United FC Interventions

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

**Phase 1:** A total of 19 projects are progressing through various stages where it is expected that the majority of the €646,000 allocation will be spent by the groups.

**Phase 2:** The second round of the Community Climate Action Programme, offering €646,000 in funding was evaluated where a total of 27 groups were recommended to receive funding out of a total of 49 applications received to the value of €2.3m.

The Department sought a reserve list where the council submitted an additional list of 11 community projects. The council also added 10 of the projects where partial funding was recommended under phase 2. The councils reserve list totals to €899,280.93.

**Greystones Municipal District Community Climate Action Team:** The group are currently working on a Community Climate Action Plan.

**Wicklow Sustainable Energy Communities:** A series of four information clinics were undertaken with Arklow SEC in Arklow Library on insulation, solar panels, the warmer homes scheme and SEAI Grant.

Information clinics will also be delivered in Wicklow Library starting on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.

Wicklow SEC is planning its annual Energy Awareness Day for the 13<sup>th</sup> of June with support from Wicklow County Council and SEAI.

Greystones SEC has signed up 26 homes for its solar meitheal project. Greystones Sports SEC is expected to be granted by the SEAI shortly.

**Wicklow Biodiversity Week:** Wicklow County Council is encouraging people of all ages to get out and enjoy nature during National Biodiversity Week, taking place from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026. A range of events will take place across the country as part of National Biodiversity Week, including a number supported by Wicklow County Council:

- **Thursday 21st May | 6.45pm – 7.45pm | Arklow Librar**

Life on the Wing - Swift Walk & Talk with Oran O'Sullivan

- **Thursday 21st May | 9am – 12pm | The Orchard Centre, Tinahely**

Nurturing Nature – A Celebration of Women in Farming in partnership with Wicklow Uplands Council and Wicklow IFA

- **Friday 22nd May | 7pm | Raheen Car Park, Bray Head**

Plants on the Edge – Walk & Talk on the flora of Bray Head

Coastal Erosion:

**Greystones North Beach** – Jacobs from the ECRIPP project have issued a proposal to complete a coastal erosion management study for the Greystones North Beach that will review various options. WCC are in discussions with the OPW on the proposed study. The council have queried SISPAR in relation to the restoration of the access to the North Beach, the ongoing Beach Nourishment (which will reduce erosion) and the possible removal of construction debris on the North Beach

**Arklow:** Interim report 1 and 2 for the Seabanks project is completed in draft, which in summary considers a range of options for each of the study locations and recommends options that should be brought forward and considered in the Economic appraisal of the Final report.

**Brittas Bay & Ennerilly:** Interim Report 1 to be completed.

**ECRIPP:** Advancing towards submitting a planning application in Q3 2026

**The Murrough:** Irish Rail is considering emergency works for another 100m, will be advanced after planning submission.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

No. of Complaints Created	171
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	161
No of Litter Fines Issued	16
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	13
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	19
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	10
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	19
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	3
Income - Litter	€1050
Income – Waste Management	€100

## DOG CONTROL, DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

**Dog Licences:** For the month of April 2026, a total of 530 annual and 37 lifetime dog licences were issued to owners of dogs in County Wicklow. The Dog Wardens are commencing a targeted approach to ensuring that all dogs are licenced by visiting every house in certain locations. They will be starting in Arklow shortly. Anyone to be found not in possession of a dog licence will be given 10 days to produce a valid licence or a fine will issue.

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

**Beaches:** At an awards ceremony on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, An Taisce announced that Wicklow County Council had retained their 3 Blue Flags at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South.

Arklow South Beach once again has been successful in attaining a Green Coast Flag.

The Blue Flag season runs from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> September. There will be lifeguards on these beaches from 11am to 7pm daily for this season.

Lifeguards will also be on duty on Bray South Beach, Wicklow Harbour and The Cove, Arklow, during this period.

Sampling of Identified and Non-Identified Bathing Waters commences on 25<sup>th</sup> May, in line with the bathing season.

## POLLUTION CONTROL

<b>Pollution Response &amp; Investigation</b>	
14	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
4	Water pollution complaints closed.
5	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
5	Noise pollution complaints closed.
2	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
4	Air pollution complaints closed.
<b>Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme</b>	
14	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
22	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

<b>Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations</b>	
2	Investigative samples taken.
<b>Good Agricultural Practice Inspections</b>	
5	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
3	Follow up 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.
<b>Well Grants</b>	
26	New Water Grant application received
2	New Well granted
7	New Pumps granted
7	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
28	Inspections in advance/completion of works
<b>Private Water Supplies</b>	
1	Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 121 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
9	Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored.
8	Regulated Private Water Supplies were compliant with available results for microbiological standards.
1	Regulated Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with available results for microbiological standards and placed under boil water restrictions upon HSE advice and required to take remedial action.
<b>Petrol Vapour Recovery</b>	
2	Stage 1b (petrol tanker delivery vapour recovery) application assessed
<b>Deco Paint Solvent Regulations</b>	
1	Vehicle Refinisher (car spraying) Installations issued with Certificates of Compliance.
<b>Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer</b>	
4	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
4	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
<b>Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring</b>	
31	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.
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	
4	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
6	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
4	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
2	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations/compliance were completed concerning quarries development.
1	Environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## CEMETERIES

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

### Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>105</b>								
<b>WCC</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>								
<b>Cremation</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>								
<b>Other</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>								

462	<b>Total Published Death Notices 2026</b>
37%	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
34%	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 :

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion/ Update
OR221WW02	<b>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</b>	The walk remains closed due to safety concerns. Route corridor has been identified. Discussions with landowners on rerouting on Greystones side, specialist contractor to carry out investigation of the slopes identified in the RPS report, subject to possible environmental considerations.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	<b>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</b>	Engineering contractors engaged to provide report on remedial works and costs following flood damage to bridge. Tenders being prepared for remedial works. Bridge to remain closed until works complete	Ongoing 2026
OR222WW03	<b>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</b>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	Ongoing 2026
OR322WW01	<b>Roundwood Recreation Area</b>	Car park upgrade and 5 play areas completed. Bike pump track works nearing completion. Signage installation due.	Ongoing 2026 – near completion
OR423WW02	<b>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	Feasibility project to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Plan nearly completed. Public consultation took place May 19 <sup>th</sup> . Final draft of Plan to be completed	Ongoing 2026 – near completion
OR123WW01	<b>Hollywood Natural Play Area</b>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Awaiting sign off to publish tender, subject to Licence Agreement	30/07/2026

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OR123WW06	<b>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</b>	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Signage contract awarded for 4 new trailheads will be erected at Raheen, Kilmacanogue, Great Sugarloaf, Mullinaveigue. Sign installation due.	30/05/2026
OR223WW01	<b>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</b>	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed during November 2025. Multi-disciplinary design team appointed to prepare feasibility / scoping study	30/06/2026
OR223WW02	<b>Three Trout's Bridge, Delgany</b>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the pathfinder route. Consent process to progress managed by MD office	Q4 2026
OR223WW03	<b>Tinahely New Loop Trail</b>	Funding for additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Review of project being undertaken.	TBC
<b>ORIS 2024</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Completion</b>
OR424WW01	<b>Disability and Outdoor Recreation</b>	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow. Background specification underway to identify available/usable sites for 2 x water, 2 x bike and 2 x trail access for exploration in the study.	26/02/27
OR124WW01	<b>Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area</b>	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest. Awaiting licence agreement prior to tender for contract	26/02/27
OR124WW02	<b>Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac</b>	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability. Tender to be evaluated and awarded	26/02/27
OR124WW03	<b>Vartry Anglers Disabled Access</b>	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Project under review	TBC
OR124WW04	<b>Wild Swimming Infrastructure</b>	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations.	26/02/27
OR224WW01	<b>Glen Turn Cliff Walk</b>	Complete surface upgrade and drainage work on cliff walk trail.	30/11/27
OR224WW02	<b>Russelstown Link to Russborough House</b>	Proposed trail linking Russelstown Wood to Russborough House & Park. Tender for planning consent to be issued	30/11/27
OR324WW01	<b>Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration</b>	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 tender awarded.	30/11/27

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## LIBRARY SERVICE

### National Events

**Bealtaine:** Bealtaine Festival is Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity as we age. This year's theme is "Lust for Life," and it's all about energy, creativity and enjoying life. Wicklow Libraries have kept this in mind with many related events across the library branches for the month of May including chair yoga, one-to-one sessions on using library services, a 1926 Census talk and music and poetry. Saturday the 23rd of May has been designated as Age Friendly Saturday.



**National Biodiversity Week:** takes place from Friday the 15th to Sunday the 24th of May 2026. This annual event is organised by the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), with funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Events are run by IEN members groups, as well as by Local Authority Biodiversity Officers, through the Heritage Council's Ceangal programme, NPWS Rangers, and other local groups.

This year Wicklow County Council's Library Service is hosting a wide range of events promoting biodiversity and encouraging the whole family to engage with nature

- *Diversity is Key* exhibition, highlighting the importance of garden pollinators, this exhibition was created by service users at Sunbeam House in conjunction with students from Loreto, Bray. The exhibition was launched on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May with a talk on the importance of bees, by Ian Edwards, Head Guide with National Parks and Wildlife Service. The exhibition will be on display throughout National Biodiversity Week.

ECO-UNESCO are giving a talk "*Exploring Ecology and Biodiversity*" for teenagers and adults at on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May at 11am and *People's Emergency Briefing*", a new film featuring Chris Packham, leading climate and nature scientist organised by Green Greystones on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm, both event taking place in Greystones Library

*Weird and Wonderful World of Ireland's Wasps: a talk by Brian Murray and Irish Bees for Beginners.* at Blessington Library on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May at 7-8pm.

*Biodiversity and Sustainability in the Garden:* a talk with Rosemary O'Flynn, gardener at Powerscourt Gardens. Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, from 11:30am-1p at Ballywaltrim Library

*Swifts in County Wicklow* -. The first of two free Walk and Talk Events with ornithologist and author Oran O'Sullivan, will take place at Arklow Library, Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May from 6:45-7:45pm. Rathdrum Library will host the second event on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June from 6:30-7:30pm.

*Birds and Biodiversity* a talk with Marie from Unwind with Plants, on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at 11am in Arklow Library

*Funghi of Ireland*, on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May presented Delia Tremeni at Wicklow Town Library.

Children's events include "*Time to Grow*", a drop-in seed planting session at Arklow Library on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May from 11am-1pm. While children at Enniskerry Library can enjoy a Bird Identification themed Treasure Hunt throughout the week. Many of our branches will also feature book displays focusing on biodiversity and the environment.

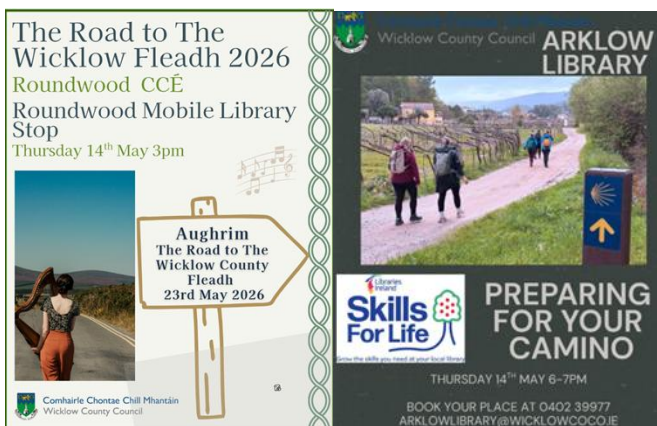
**National Initiative: My Little Library Bags 2026:** Children across County Wicklow who are starting school in September 2026 can pick up a free *My Little Library* Book Bag at their local library. This initiative is a partnership between Libraries Ireland, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 strategy

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



**Wicklow Initiative: Activator Poles:** Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, in partnership with Wicklow Libraries, has launched the Get Moving Wicklow initiative by making 130 sets of Activator Poles available to borrow free of charge across 13 libraries in the county

**National Initiative - Fleadh Music Series:** This month, all roads lead to the Wicklow Fleadh 2026 at Aughrim on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026. There are many events lined up to enjoy before the main event including Rathdrum Library on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May from 12- 12.30pm, Donard Mobile Library Stop on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 3-3.30pm, Roundwood Mobile Library Stop on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, and Tinahely Library on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.



**Arklow Library:** engagement through the Little Library initiative, with staff visiting local schools where possible to promote *Little Library bags* and encourage incoming Junior Infants to join the library. The library's cultural programme includes two art exhibitions during May, beginning with an exhibition of work by St Mary's Art Class students, followed by exhibitions from members of the 402 Art Collective, including Stephanie Sloan and Pam Bowie.

**Ballywaltrim Library:** May brings a dual focus to Ballywaltrim Library, celebrating creativity and connection through the Bealtaine Festival, while also launching the exciting *My Little Library Bags* initiative including events run by older adults for adults of all ages: from Sashiko stitching to the craft of writing to a performance of music and poetry by a local creative collective to a discussion on the 1926 Census in Bray. Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May is designed as Age Friendly Saturday with chair yoga, one-to-one sessions on using library services, a 1926 Census talk and music/poetry. Partnering with Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership CARA services, the team are delighted to host an art

Other events this month include an online parenting talk with Dr Joanna Fortune, supporting parents during exam season, Activator Poles sessions, a World No Smoking Day workshop, and poetry-themed workshops and school visits ahead of National Poetry Day.

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**Baltinglass Library:** Weekly activities include Enda's Film Club on Fridays, InSync Youth Diversion Programme sessions on Mondays, and Creative Places Baltinglass open clinics for artists and creatives with Camille Lynch most Wednesdays. The regular adult and community activities continue, including the Creative Writing Group, Baltinglass Film Club screening *Hell or High Water*, and Fidelma Farley's resumed monthly Mindfulness sessions. The recently installed SurfBox technology is also proving very popular and accessible for users.



**Blessington Library:** National Biodiversity Week has been a particular highlight, with events delivered in partnership with local speakers and groups. These include Brian Murray's biodiversity events, the upcoming "*Weird and Wonderful World of Wasps*" talk, and a visit from the BCC Youth Climate Group. Healthy Ireland programming has also continued through wellbeing and physical activity sessions, while *Skills for Life* priorities have been supported through conversation groups, Chess Club, Writers' group, and local history activities.

## The Weird & Wonderful World of Irelands Wasps



Blessington Library  
Tuesday, May 19 from 7 - 8pm



## Blessington Library

Sound healing and Reiki energy work  
with Trish Reiki Angel Healing

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at  
10 am

Booking essential! (045) 891 740  
blessington@wicklowcoco.ie



**Bray Library:** an exhibition of artwork on the theme by Sunbeam House & Loreto; a visit from UNESCO staff to speak to 4 local classes about Marine Life; seed planting with Edible Bray, and a representative from Wicklow National Parks will come and speak to the exhibition artists about the importance of bees.

**Carnew Library:** A new LEGO Club, with lots of enthusiasm. The young participants are now proudly showcasing their LEGO creations in an exhibition display within the library. The library also hopes to launch the *My Little Library Bag* initiative this month with a special Teddy Storytime event.

**Enniskerry Library:** To celebrate Bealtaine, a four-week Tai Chi programme with Aedin Twamley is running each Tuesday morning throughout May. Also, an embroidery workshop with Bríghíd Cullen is taking place over two evenings in May and has received an exceptionally strong response

**Greystones Library:** four-week Tai Chi series running on Wednesday mornings, alongside a range of creative writing, arts and health-focused workshops supporting lifelong learning, creativity and wellbeing within the community. The

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Bealtaine programme also includes a short story workshop delivered by local writer Colm Brennan and the first of two Creative Writing workshops with Dr. Kevin McDermott at the end of the month. The *Healthy Ireland* programme continues throughout the month with a fully booked Rapid Transformational Therapy workshop early in May, followed by a Harp Meditation workshop on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. A Pressed Flower workshop will be delivered by Sheelagh Wherity, while artist Nicola Sedgwick will lead a Watercolours Painting Class. As part of National Biodiversity Week, the library will host an "Exploring Ecology and Biodiversity" talk by ECO-UNESCO for teenagers and adults, along with an Irish premiere screening of *People's Emergency Briefing* on Climate Change.

**Wicklow Library:** As part of the national Bealtaine programme, the library will host Chair Yoga and Zumba classes, while the Community Choir and Wicklow & Arklow Ukulele Players will perform in the branch on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. National Poetry Day will also be marked with a "Blackout Poetry" workshop for a local 5<sup>th</sup> class group.

**ALL LEVELS ZUMBA CLASSES**  
WICKLOW TOWN LIBRARY  
MAY  
MONDAYS: 11TH, 18TH, & 25TH  
10:15 - 11:15 am  
Ask at the desk, call 0404-67025, or email: [Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie)

**WICKLOW LIBRARY**  
**PREPARING FOR YOUR CAMINO**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 11:30 - 12:30 pm  
Registration Required  
Call: 0404-67025 or email: [Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie)

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

## WICKLOW COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE

**Special projects/Outreach activities:** Archivist presented updates at the Wicklow Community Archives ICAN network regional meeting, hosted by Donard Imaal History. Research continues for the Wicklow Historic Towns Atlas project. Genealogy service and schools programme continues.

**Conservation programme:** The current items out for conservation treatment are two Wicklow Town maps dated 1850s and two Wicklow Corporation rental rolls dated 1850 and 1860. Funding for this project has been secured from Heritage Council under Heritage Stewardship Grant programme 2026, and a Heritage Week event will mark this project.

## ARTS OFFICE AND CREATIVE IRELAND

### County Wicklow Creative Ireland Team

Launch of the Wicklow Cruinniú takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> May with an extensive social media campaign led by two Wicklow Ambassadors; Freya (17) and Fionn (15)

Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for children and young people, will return to County Wicklow on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The theme for this year is "Unleash Your Creative Spark!". Attendees can look forward to seeing children and young people engage in music, dance, STEM activities, poetry, visual arts, as well as participate in creative workshops throughout the county. Ireland is the first, and only, country in the world to have a national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan to nurture expressive potential of children and young people.

This year's programme features a diverse and extensive line-up of events, activities and workshops. All events and activities are free, though some may require pre-booking. More than 50 events, performances, and workshops will take place in twenty-three locations across the county, including:

- **Create School, ScreenHub:** "Make a Movie on Your Mobile" workshops in Rathnew - the perfect introduction to filmmaking for young creatives.

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- **Mr. Sands Youth Theatre:** An open day drama session at Wolfe Tone Community Centre, Bray, where children can get the flavour of theatre and drama, play games, interact with theatre members and experience the excitement of youth theatre first hand.
- **Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely:** Two special workshops will be held here; Ciorcal Ceoil is a bilingual family session filled with songs, stories, rirá agus ruaille buaille! Along with an art tetra pak printmaking workshop with Aileen Crossley.
- **Arklow Music and Arts, Arklow Library:** These workshops will promote various aspects of the arts for young people, including song, music, stained glass, dance and drama.
- **Bray Library:** Young readers will be entertained with interactive session in Irish about Gruaig Áine le Sadhbh Devlin and later taught how to make giant bubbles in the library garden with The Bubble Guy!
- **Enniskerry Library:** Alpaca Crafts session with Alpaca Joe. Joe will deliver an interactive, educational talk outdoors. Inside the library there will be Alpaca related crafts for the participants.
- **The Whale Theatre:** This workshop will facilitate “Our Place - Children's Haiku”, where children will experiment with Haiku, a vivid form of poetry that originated in Japan.
- **Russborough House:** Hosting “Printing in Nature” workshops, children will explore the landscape, forage for natural materials, and use their found objects to create unique, nature-inspired prints.
- **Tearmann Community Gardens, Baltinglass:** Hosting “Threads of the Tuatha: A Botanical Yarn Trail” - an inspiring, hands-on exploration of textile art, local heritage, and Irish mythology with a guided tour followed by a weaving workshop.

**Together We Flow – multidisciplinary, arts project commences in the St. Catherines Special School** - This project has been developed to support St. Catherine's Special School community as they prepare to move into a new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art building in Kilcoole. To support this transition, the aim is to bring a sense of continuity into the new building through collaborative artworks created by the pupils. These pieces will help them feel grounded, connected and represented in their new environment. The central theme of this project is water.

The project will create a large, ceramic installation made up of individual tiles. Each pupil will design and make their own tile, which will then be combined into one larger piece. Each tile represents a pupil, and together they form a connected whole—just like the school community. This approach ensures that every pupil is included and that their voice is part of the final artwork.



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## Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

### Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (18/05/2026) outstanding stands at 311 – 1.91% of total stock of 16,255. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 88 faults were attended in April, while 54 faults were reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported – April	6	15	11	11	11	54
Faults Attended – April	15	20	20	14	19	88
No Supply						0
Access Issues (Attended)	2	1	6	2	5	16
Cable Fault (Attended)			3		1	4
Civils	3		5		7	15
Council Approval	1		1	4	2	8
ESB Notified	12	25	9	5	14	65
ESB Required	5	11	26	7	8	57
On Hold	2	3	14	5	5	29
Submitted	30	12	2	17	6	67
TMR	9	1	11	9	5	35
Tree Cutting Required	2	1	8	2	2	15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>311</b>
Percentage not working	2.00%	2.20%	2.44%	1.66%	1.39%	1.91%
No. of Lamps	3298	2459	3488	3066	3944	16255
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	21%	19%	24%	100%

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

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

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## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2024	Total 2025	Total 2026	March 2026	April 2026
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	1014	1065	<b>363</b>	97	90
<b>Road closure Applications</b>	53	56	<b>18</b>	4	3
<b>Road Opening Licences</b>	1254	1494	<b>412</b>	115	104
<b>Abnormal Load Applications</b>	50	33	<b>17</b>	7	4

## National Roads Projects

### Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

Bulletin #8 – Project Status & Commencement of Phase 3 was published in April 2026 on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie)

The project team will continue to engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases.

### 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 are 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](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub)

### 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).

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- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025. Commissioning and testing by the NTA have commenced and is ongoing. Opening expected in 2026.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Land purchase has been completed. Construction is expected to commence later in 2026 subject to funding being available.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office. Lodgement to An Coimisiún Pleanála is now expected in 2027.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The construction was substantially completed in March 2026. 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 in May 2026.

## **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

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

## **N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project**

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

## **N81 Hearn's Cross**

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

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

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

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## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

Construction work on the project commenced in April 2025. The main footpath, cycle lane and road surfacing works are complete in Section 1 and are fully open to the public. The full road closure for Section 2 is in operation up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026. The original contract completion date for the full project was May 2026 with the contractor now reporting a completion date of September 2026.

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

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

## **Blessington eGreenway**

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

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

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

## **Arklow Southern Port Access Road**

The Business Case for the Arklow Southern Port Access Road was approved at a Senior Management Team meeting in May 2026. A tender to appoint a consultant for the development of this project is currently underway.

## **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

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has been completed. Archaeological Testing completed. Detail design work to continue. Ongoing liaison with Irish Rail on the detail design.

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

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

## **Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins (Bray MD)**

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins are progressing with the preliminary design phase. Traffic Surveys have been completed within the scheme extents, and Topographic/GPR surveys have been procured. Atkins to complete the Options Report for the new pedestrian bridge structures. Preliminary design for scheme to be progressed.

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

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis have completed the Options Selection Phase, and an emerging preferred option has been selected. The emerging preferred option is for the provision of a new pedestrian bridge structure on the north side of the existing bridge. Atkins are progressing with additional feasibility works - environmental, land acquisition, geotechnical etc. The recommended ecological surveys have been procured and are currently in progress. Tender documents have been prepared for the geotechnical investigation works. Atkins/WCC have commenced consultation with the two affected landowners.

## **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. Atkins Realis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 -7 Preliminary Design completed and issued to NTA. Atkins appointed as consultants for Phase 4 - 7. Preliminary design drawings to be revised following discussions with NTA.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. The NTA have provided feedback on the latest design with the school street removed. Gateway documentation to be completed and submitted for approval. Section 38 for the scheme to be prepared.

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

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. The Preliminary Design Phase has been completed, and the project has progressed to Phase 4 – Statutory Processes. The Part 8 was advertised on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, and the public consultation period has now concluded. The Part 8 submissions are currently being reviewed by the Consultant, and they have commenced preparation of the Chief Executives Part 8 Report for the project. The Part 8 Report is scheduled to be issued to the elected members on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

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## **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. A meeting was held with the Killincarrig Village Residents Association to update them on the latest design. Positive Feedback received. Construction works are scheduled to commence when the Chapel Road Scheme has been completed. Expected start date is Q3 2026.

## **Blessington Main Street to Deerpark**

WCC and NTA met to review preliminary design. Gateway 2/3 pack received and sent to the NTA for review and approval. The NTA have approved gateway 2/3 pack to proceed to statutory process and Part 8.

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

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

## **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. A tender process will be completed in Q3 2026 to appoint a new Consultant for the scheme. It is planned to progress the Detailed Design and Procurement Phase in 2026, and progress to the Construction Phase in 2027.

## **Other Projects -**

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSR\*, Brittas Bay.**  
The project will include Brittas Bay NS Safe Routes to School project. Brittas Bay footpath construction underway. Finalise SRTS design and updated costs and submit to NTA for Gateway approval
- **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.

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



- **Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow**  
Project extended to include 560m footpath, pedestrian crossing and access ramp at link to Coolgreaney Road. WCC to fund cost of ramp construction. Construction works ongoing.



- **Redford Park Junction, Greystones**  
Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Lidl have verbally confirmed the boundary lines with their solicitor. WCC waiting on written confirmation from Lidl.
- **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 Rehill's development is no longer part of this plan and not feasible as part of river cycle way option.
- **Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**  
2026 list of proposed locations to be submitted to Active Travel Team by WMD and issued to NTA for approval.
- **Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**  
Construction completed in Rathdrum and Avoca. 2026 list of locations to be submitted to NTA for approval.

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

## **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

- New NTA BSEP tracker being actively populated from sources below to Outline Plan for BSEP that can be delivered in 2026 & into 2027. Includes Bus Shelter requests.
  - TFI/NTA directly
  - LA - CRM, MD's inputs
  - Representations – Councillor / TD requests / SPC
  - Public Consultations
  - Reporting Safety / Accessibility Issues – directly TFI/LA
- SPC items from each MD have been added to the BSEP tracker. 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.
- The CI priority Works from 2025 budget (approx. €150,000) are in construction/completed by DW Civil Engineering i.e.
  - New additional Stops
    - 2 x Naas Rd in Blessington - Complete
    - 2 x Hawkstown Road Wicklow MD – In progress
  - Full Installation/Upgrade Stops
    - 2 x Blessington MD Office being - constructed
    - 2 x Stratford (CI List) – Completed
    - 2 x Dunlavin locate/construct (CI List) – Locations agreed with MD for next stage of construction
    - 2 x Wicklow Town (CI List) – design and layout to be agreed with MD
    - 1 stop at Tinakilly being relocated to facilitate shelter south of graveyard – DWCE to complete after Hawkstown Stops
- Upgraded Line Marking County wide – compiling list all districts
- Numerous bus cages/line markings around Wicklow MD to be repainted or new installed.
- Further CI works & NTA agreed works will be tendered in & progressed by MD's and BSEP. These will all be tracked on NTA master tracker
- From the Connecting Ireland Schedule of works Wicklow MD are commencing construction on 5 identified locations also using DWCE. These locations are items 30,31,32,45 & 46 on the 'Connecting Ireland Bus stop Audit Report' covering Rathnew and Wicklow Town.

## **New Projects in 2026**

- SRTS Round 4 Scoil Naomh Brid, Talbotstown  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools
- SRTS Round 4 St. Brigid's NS, Greystones  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools
- SRTS Round 4 St Brigid's NS. Manor Kilbride  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 school
- SRTS Round 4 Wicklow Educate Together  
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools
- Deerpark Cycle Link, Bray –  
Phase 1 – PGAF approved. Consultant to be appointed to complete design.
- Giltspur to Charnwood Active Travel Link -

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Phase 1 – PGAF approval to be sought from NTA

- Arklow MD Permeability Links  
Phase 1 - 2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for approval.
- Arklow MD Junction Tightening works –  
Phase 1 2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for approval.

## Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work continuing at Carrigmore (Coolacork) Bridge since mid-March.

Structural assessments of Colbinstown Bridge undertaken by consultants.

## Winter Maintenance

The season ended on the April 30th. Season stats are currently being compiled for assessment.

Between 18/04 and 30/04, over 13 nights there were 0 callouts.

## Machinery Yard

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

3 new telescopic handlers being delivered this week.

## Parking Income

\*January to April 2026\*

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	349,395.80
Greystones Municipal District	127,370.33
Wicklow Municipal District	171,779.55
Arklow Municipal District	90,714.50
Parking Permits	33,860.00
Parking Fines	210,277.50
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>983,397.68</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Infrastructure Delivery

### Affordable Housing Information as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeeing, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Contractor on site.
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	Tendered by WCC due back March 26
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Options being considered
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Tender docs being completed
Carrig Eden Tiglin	14	On hold
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Tender docs being completed
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Mountainview, Blessington	10	Tendered by WCC due back March 26
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	20	Part 8 approved Oct 25
18 Old Conna, Bray	3	Part 8 approved Dec 25

## Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

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

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

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

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

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

### Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

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

### Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	7	2 Delivered Q2. Remainder due Q2 to Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Dunlavin	14	Delivery due Q2 to Q4 2026	WCC
Wicklow	7	Delivery due Q2 to Q3 2026	WCC
Newcastle	1	Delivered Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	6	Delivery due Q2 to Q3 2026	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Bray	12	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2027	WCC
Delgany	11	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Rathnew	19	Delivery due Q2 2026 to Q4 2026	WCC
Rathnew	16	Delivery due Q2/Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivery due Q2	WCC
Kilcoole	1	Delivery due Q2	WCC
Enniskerry	8	Delivery due Q2 to Q3	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivered Q1 2026	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	16	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF

## Potential units

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

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

## Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2026:

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

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

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

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

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

Number of Applications to date	320
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	5
Applications Approved in Principle to date	161
Number of Applications paid to date	90
Value of 90 Grants paid out to date	€4,822,042.50
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	64

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Integration and Emergency Response

Fire Service

### Operational Fire Statistics April 2026

There were **119** incidents attended during the month of April 2026. Due to false alarms (non-incidents) and laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **152 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 with the exception of requesting a water tanker on two occasions.

Operational activity for the month of April 2026 **was virtually unchanged (-2 mobilisations) on the preceding month March 2026 (154 mobilisations)**. The annual trend of increased gorse fires in April was apparent with an increase of 29 incidents in the number when compared to March. There was also an increase in the number of small urban fires set maliciously (+ 8 incidents month on month). Activity in other counties also increased (+6 incidents month on month). The better weather which contributes to malicious urban and rural fires tends to decrease the number of RTCs (-17 mobilisations month on month) and a reduction in false alarms.

There was a reduction of 8% in operational activity for the month of April 2026 **over the equivalent month in 2025** (April 2025, 165 mobilisations). There was an increase in gorse fires (+12) and mobilisations to other counties (+10) but there was a reduction in RTCs (-19 mobilisations) and false alarms.

During the month of April 2026 23% of overall activity across the county was responding to gorse fires, 17% of activity related to small fires set maliciously in urban areas and 12% related to false alarms, a combined total of 52%. 10% of activity related to fires in buildings and 12% related to RTCs.

### Incidents in County Kildare (12-incidents total, samples below):

- 03/04/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Punchestown.
- 08/04/2026 Dunlavin and Baltinglass Fire Crews attended an RTC involving an overturned road tanker with large quantity of spilt milk at Timolin, Ballytore.
- 12/04/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Forenaughts, Naas.
- 12/04/2026 Dunlavin Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a single vehicle RTC involving a car on its side that had left the road at Kingsland, Usk.
- 22/04/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a domestic house fire at the Paddocks, Tipper west.
- 24/04/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a single vehicle RTC at Arthurstown, Kill.
- 28/04/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported units from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Perrystown Cross.

### Incidents in County Wexford (4-incident total):

- 16/04/2026 Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at a 2-car RTC at Craanford.
- 22/04/2026 Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at a 3-car RTC at Craanford.
- 25/04/2026 Carnew crew attended a small outdoor fire at Hollyfort.
- 26/04/2026 Carnew crew attended an ambulance assist call at Ballytarsna, Askamore.

### Fire Prevention Statistics April 2026

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	4		2		6
Revised FSCs	1		0		1
FSC 7-Day Notice	2		1		3
Regularisation FSCs	0		0		0
DACs	7		2		9
Revised DACs	0		0		0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0		0		0

39 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment in March. Observations were made on 31 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	0	1	2	0	0
Circuit	3	1	0	0	0
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	1	3	0	3	0

## Activities during the month of April included:

- A 5-day Pump Operators Course took place in Bray with 12 personnel successfully completing the training.
- Operational Training Plan for the county was updated to include additional firefighter skills training.
- Fire Service management presented to the Chief Executive at the regular quarterly meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- A meeting of the Major Emergency Management Eastern Region Working Group took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

## Building Control Statistics April 2026

### Commencement Notices for April 2026

- Commencement Notices Submitted: 45
- 9 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 24 Opt Out Declarations
- 9 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 3 Seven Day Notice

### Submission Statistics

- 52 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 60 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 27 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

- 8 with Compliance Documentation (30%)
- 11 are Opt Out (40%)
- 3 Without Compliance Documentation (11%)
- 5 Seven Day Notice (19%)
- 35 Valid Commencement Notices
- 45 new build residential units
- 13 Apartments
- 12 domestic extensions
- 6 Non Res new builds
- 9 Invalidated CNs from April

## Certificates of Completion processed in April 2026

- 23 New No. of CCC submitted
- 14 Required Revised Information (60%)
- 21 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 64 new Residential units & 48 Apartments
- 2 Non Res. Builds

## Submission Statistics

21 No. Validated CCCs related to:

- 19 No. CCCs submitted in April
- 2 No. CCCs submitted in March

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

45 new residential houses, 13 apartments, 12 residential extensions and 6 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 64 newly residential units with an additional 48 apartments were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in April. These commencement figures would indicate that construction activity in Wicklow will continue to rise in 2026.

9 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 requests 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.

With the improvement in weather conditions in April, Building Control increased site inspections to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 8 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued. Building Control achieved NOAC performance indicators targets for Q1 2026 & submitted quarterly figures to the NBCO.

Revised Information requests remained high in April for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 60% of Commencement Notice submissions & 60% 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.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Building Control staff continue to contribute to the NDFEM Codes of Practice Subgroup on a weekly basis both online and in person.

## Civil Defence

### Overview

April was another active month for Wicklow Civil Defence, with volunteers responding to multiple search operations, continuing specialist training, and engaging with new recruits interested in joining the organisation.

### Operations & Callouts

Missing Person Search - Garda Search Assistance

At the beginning of the month, Civil Defence responded to two separate search operations on consecutive days following requests for assistance from An Garda Síochána. Volunteers supported coordinated search efforts and provided additional manpower and operational support during both incidents. Incidents took place in Bray and Tomnifinnoge Wood.

Missing Person Search – Glendalough

During April, our Drone Team was requested by Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue to assist in a missing person search in the Glendalough area. Our volunteers provided aerial support and search capability in difficult terrain.



# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Recruitment & Community Engagement

### Open Night for New Recruits

An open recruitment evening was held during the month, providing members of the public with an opportunity to learn more about Civil Defence, meet volunteers, and explore the different roles within the organisation. The event was well attended and generated strong interest from potential new recruits.

## Training & Development

Training continued across several operational areas throughout April, ensuring volunteers maintain and develop their skills. Areas of training included:

Search & Rescue

Boat Operations

Drone Operations

First Aid & Medical Response

These ongoing sessions continue to strengthen operational readiness and support volunteer development across the unit.



## Summary

April highlighted the continued dedication and flexibility of our volunteers, balancing operational callouts with ongoing training and recruitment activities. The willingness of members to respond at short notice and continue developing their skills remains a key strength of Wicklow Civil Defence.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Wicklow Integration Services

### 1) Wicklow Community Integration Forum

The Wicklow CIF hosted its Q2 Management Team meeting in Clermont House on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

This meeting provided an important opportunity to come together as members reflected on the progress since the last meeting on 21st January 2026. The purpose of this meeting was to continue strengthening collaboration across the CIF members' network. Key updates on the CIF restructure implementation, including Terms of Reference, attendance, and directories were shared with the group.

The work and valuable insights from the CIF regional groups in East and West Wicklow were presented to the CIF Management group. This was then followed by CIF member presentations from Jesuit Refugee Service Ireland and the Department of Social Protection, highlighting their important work and services supporting our communities. Brief updates relating to IRPP, the Wicklow Migration Strategy, and Visibility Award's were also shared.

Representatives from the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and the Local Government Management Agency were also in attendance.



### 2) Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

#### Topline data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	9
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,128
Of which are children	388

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IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	35
Baltinglass	696
Bray	194
Greystones	0
Wicklow	203

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2026	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	75
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	305
Total number of sessions with single adults	102
Total number of sessions with couples	12
Total number of sessions with families	163

## LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for April 2026

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	14
No. of Individuals	76
No. of Couples	4
No. of Families	48
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	8
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	7
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	17
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	18
No. of International Protection Applicants	47
No. Persons with Status	6
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	14

## Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	4
Community/Family	34
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	22

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

Employment/Enterprise	11
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	18
Health/Wellbeing	40
Language/Communication	8
Legal/Justice/Civic	37
Transportation	25
Miscellaneous	17

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	2
Employment/Enterprise	1
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	7
Health/Wellbeing	6
Language/Communication	4
Legal/Justice/Civic	0
Transportation	4
Miscellaneous	3

Overall Support April	
Emails sent for Clinic work	156
Emails Received	234
Emails Sent	270
Contacts with stakeholders	80
Referrals	14

## Additional LAIT Activities

A Water Safety Awareness Event was held on 15 May 2026 at the Grand Hotel with the aim of promoting water safety knowledge and encouraging safe swimming practices amongst the residents of IPAS Centre. The event was delivered in partnership with Water Safety Ireland and received a very positive response from attendees.

The session focused on:

- ✓ Recognising safe places to swim
- ✓ Understanding what to do if someone is in trouble in the water
- ✓ Demonstrating how to use a ring buoy correctly
- ✓ Sharing simple water safety rules that can help save lives

The event also promoted healthy lifestyles and community participation by offering free swimming and gym day passes to participants.

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The event was greatly attended, with strong engagement from all participants throughout the session. A total of 31 people (adults and children) registered for swimming lessons, highlighting the high level of interest generated by the initiative and the positive impact of the awareness session.

Participants actively engaged with the presentations, demonstrations, and discussions delivered by the two tutors from Water Safety Ireland.

Outcomes:

The event achieved several positive outcomes, including:

1. Increased awareness of water safety practices
2. Improved understanding of emergency response actions near water
3. Strong community engagement and participation
4. Registration of 31 individuals for swimming lessons
5. Promotion of health, wellbeing, and confidence around water activities
6. Following the success of the event, positive discussions also began around further collaboration with Water Safety



### 3) Ukrainian Response

#### BOTP in State Contracted Emergency Accommodation

As of the end of February 2026, there are **760** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **16**
- Baltinglass MD: **31**
- Bray MD: **513**
- Greystones MD: **110**
- Wicklow MD: **90**

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

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BOTP Centre information in Wicklow	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	760
Of which are children	188

## **BOTP accommodation changes in 2026/2027**

In preparation for BOTP accommodation changes an internal operational network has been set up between the Local Authority Integration team, Customer Service Hub and Homeless Team to address and discuss housing needs and available supports for BOTPs who present to Wicklow County Council without accommodation.

No official statements in relation to BOTP accommodation policy changes have been announced from the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in relation to centres closing, reduction of ARP from €600 to €400, nor repatriation payments.

Information leaflets for BOTPs (English and Ukrainian) and WCC staff have been created to assist in signposting housing supports for BOTPs.

## **Offer a Home programme**

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

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

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

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

## **4) Irish Refugee Protection Programme: Wicklow IRPP3**

Wicklow County Council launched IRPP3 on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026. This will be the third round of the programme to be delivered in Wicklow and is set to settle and support 51 individuals in the county. **IRPP** is a state lead initiative that provides a safe and legal route to Ireland for displaced and vulnerable refugees. It is distinct from the International Protection system in that all applications for the programme are processed before arrival. Hence, all IRPP refugees arrive in Ireland already holding official refugee status.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Organisational Development

### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in April 2026:

- Temporary Senior Executive Quantity Surveyor Interviews
- Temporary Senior Executive Planner Interviews
- Foreman Craft (Electrical) Interviews

### Employee Numbers

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

### Freedom of Information

April 2026: 20	April 2025: 15
January – April 2026: 81	January – April 2025: 30

### Ombudsman Requests

April 2026: 2	April 2025: 5
January – April 2026: 8	January – April 2025: 15

### Press Releases

April 2026 – 21

### Register of Electors

Wicklow Co Co Franchise Section have finished phase 2 of the 'GoLive' preparatory for the migration to the new National Register of Electors Database [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) .

As part of the 'Go Live' process for Wicklow all online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) had to be completed before the 20th April 2026. All applications that were parked due to their minor nature such as updating contact details etc. have also now been followed up and completed. Phase 3 of the works on the process to migration to the live [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) environment will commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026.

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Wicklow CoCo are moving to [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) in Wave 2 along with 3 other local authorities and we are on scheduled to 'Go Live' with [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) in week commencing 8th June 2026 .

## Customer Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	7,670	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,821
No. of Customer Service Emails received	3,724	Revenue Transactions	1,492
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	83	Housing Counter Visits	455

## Energy Office

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

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

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

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

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

## **Mid-East Energy Unit**

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Finance, Water & Information Systems

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH APRIL 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	17,465,760	62,990,719	28%	(18,172,555)	(65,142,671)	28%	(706,794)
Road Transport & Safety	5,550,487	28,055,651	20%	(2,898,293)	(19,804,843)	15%	2,652,194
Water Services	1,243,410	4,382,330	28%	(1,589,933)	(5,354,831)	30%	(346,523)
Development Management	5,545,802	19,296,387	29%	(2,803,329)	(11,199,854)	25%	2,742,472
Environmental Services	6,783,567	20,044,291	34%	(2,030,365)	(6,082,483)	33%	4,753,202
Recreation and Amenity	3,418,458	10,517,175	33%	(518,596)	(1,393,762)	37%	2,899,862
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	743,279	2,081,928	36%	(273,972)	(694,328)	39%	469,307
Miscellaneous Services	3,211,051	9,588,050	33%	(5,831,413)	(17,287,651)	34%	(2,620,362)
Central Management Charges	9,417,702	27,283,644	35%	(333,299)	(1,050,000)	32%	9,084,403
Local Government Fund	0	0	0	(7,270,026)	(21,810,080)	33%	(7,270,026)
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Commercial Rates	0	0	0	(11,502,428)	(34,419,672)	33%	(11,502,428)
	<b>53,379,516</b>	<b>184,240,175</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>(53,224,211)</b>	<b>(184,240,175)</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>155,305</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

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

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th Apr 2026					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2026	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/04/2026
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,487,427	21,941,976	(19,517,539)	(205,579)	14,706,285
Road Transport & Safety	(24,249,158)	6,612,334	(594,530)	(175,000)	(18,406,354)
Water Services	(6,335,116)	270,961	(693)	(45,000)	(6,109,849)
Development Management	(64,738,651)	31,950	(1,980,946)	(203,750)	(66,891,396)
Environmental Services	4,635,816	1,214,374	(713,732)	(208,125)	4,928,333
Recreation and Amenity	3,302,756	1,172,662	(227,620)	(74,500)	4,173,297
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,225,465)	25,103	0	(88,750)	(2,289,112)
Miscellaneous Services	(6,311,917)	(365,132)	(242,371)	2,726,925	(4,192,495)
	<b>(83,434,307)</b>	<b>30,904,226</b>	<b>(23,277,430)</b>	<b>1,726,221</b>	<b>(74,081,290)</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30th April 2026										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2026	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/04/2026	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	2,830,358	34,506,037	(4,891)	(54,140)	121,396	37,225,805	(15,724,586)	21,501,219	546,313	43%
Rents & Annuities	2,760,539	6,695,999	0	0	0	9,456,538	(6,815,423)	2,641,115	0	72%
Housing Loans	447,005	822,616	0	0	0	1,269,621	(796,813)	472,808	0	63%

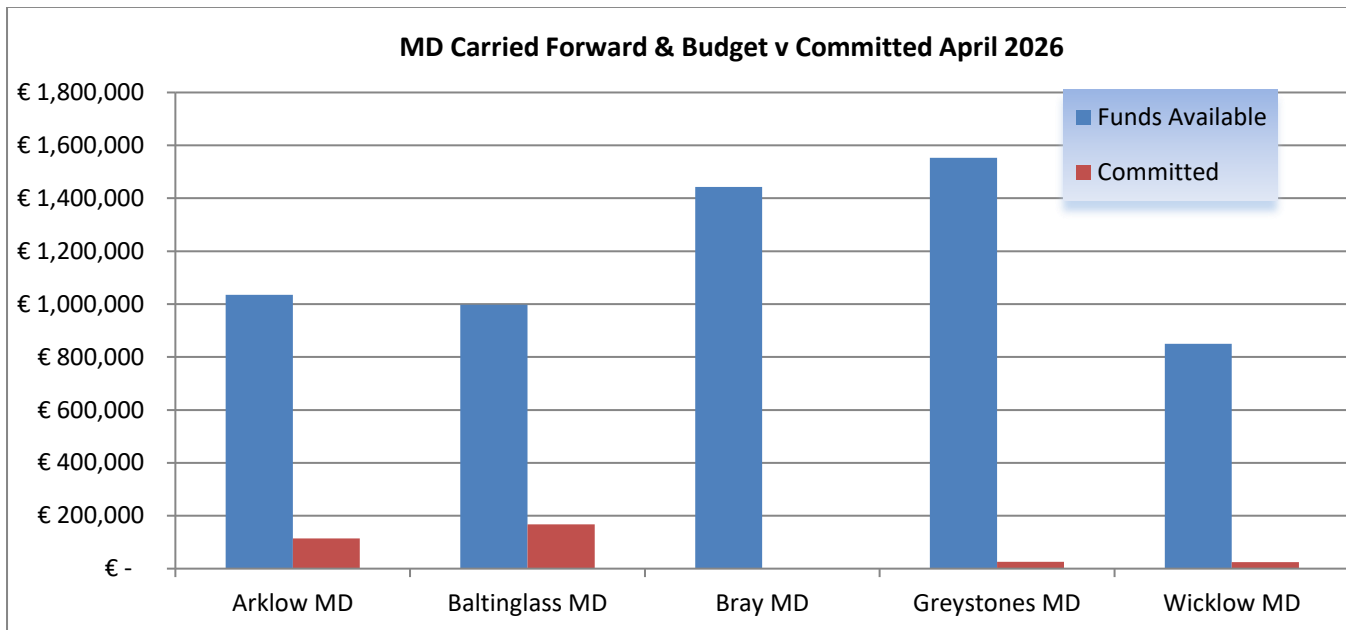
**NB:** Collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

## 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	114,171	921,272
Baltinglass MD	317,834	679,901	997,735	167,149	830,586
Bray MD	604,785	838,142	1,442,927	1,293	1,441,634
Greystones MD	1,040,878	511,584	1,552,462	26,098	1,526,364
Wicklow MD	213,125	637,288	850,413	24,272	826,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,694,056</b>	<b>3,184,924</b>	<b>5,878,980</b>	<b>332,983</b>	<b>5,545,997</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026



## Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028

The Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>HOUSING AND BUILDING</b>	114,226,000	128,000,000	130,400,000	<b>372,626,000</b>	-	30,000,000	295,418,500	47,207,500	<b>372,626,000</b>
<b>ROAD TRANSPORT &amp; SAFETY</b>	29,906,000	31,040,000	35,960,000	<b>96,906,000</b>	38,851,000	-	54,465,000	3,590,000	<b>96,906,000</b>
<b>WATER SERVICES</b>	255,000	140,000	140,000	<b>535,000</b>	-	-	535,000	-	<b>535,000</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT</b>	4,021,000	5,185,000	4,270,000	<b>13,476,000</b>	3,206,000	-	7,260,000	3,010,000	<b>13,476,000</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	14,080,000	33,165,000	26,895,000	<b>74,140,000</b>	-	-	64,365,000	9,775,000	<b>74,140,000</b>
<b>RECREATION AND AMENITY</b>	12,865,000	16,660,000	32,890,000	<b>62,415,000</b>	19,337,500	-	41,017,500	2,060,000	<b>62,415,000</b>
<b>AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</b>	7,250,000	22,310,000	23,200,000	<b>52,760,000</b>	2,377,500	-	44,657,500	5,725,000	<b>52,760,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES</b>	1,350,000	950,000	950,000	<b>3,250,000</b>	-	-	-	3,250,000	<b>3,250,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>183,953,000</b>	<b>237,450,000</b>	<b>254,705,000</b>	<b>676,108,000</b>	<b>63,772,000</b>	<b>30,000,000</b>	<b>507,718,500</b>	<b>74,617,500</b>	<b>676,108,000</b>

### 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.

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Capital Funded Projects

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

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

# Chief Executive's Report – April 2026

## Information Systems

### Operations

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

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Planning and Mapping Support**  
Provided GIS and mapping support for a range of Planning projects, including Local Area Plans, Tree Preservation Orders, Part 8 applications, and housing analysis work. This included converting and updating mapping datasets and assisting with Planning GIS Viewer queries.
- **Public-Facing Mapping Projects**  
Launched a new Swift survey mapping application in partnership with Irish Garden Birds, including an online map and data collection form to support public engagement and biodiversity recording.
- **GIS Systems and Data Management**  
Continued maintenance and improvement of GIS systems and datasets, including updates to Nutrient Management Plan layers, Housing BER records, and preparation work for national planning data submissions.
- **GeoCollect and Survey Development**  
Progressed work on the GeoCollect system and developed a number of online survey and reporting solutions using ArcGIS Survey123 and FME, supporting internal Council operations and data collection.
- **Technical Support and Staff Assistance**  
Provided ongoing technical support to Council staff, including GIS Helpdesk assistance, ArcGIS Pro and AGOL account setup, software installations, troubleshooting access issues, and user training.
- **Research, Meetings and General Administration**  
Attended project and software integration meetings, responded to mapping and historical research queries, and completed general administrative and ICT-related tasks in support of GIS operations.

### Infrastructure

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