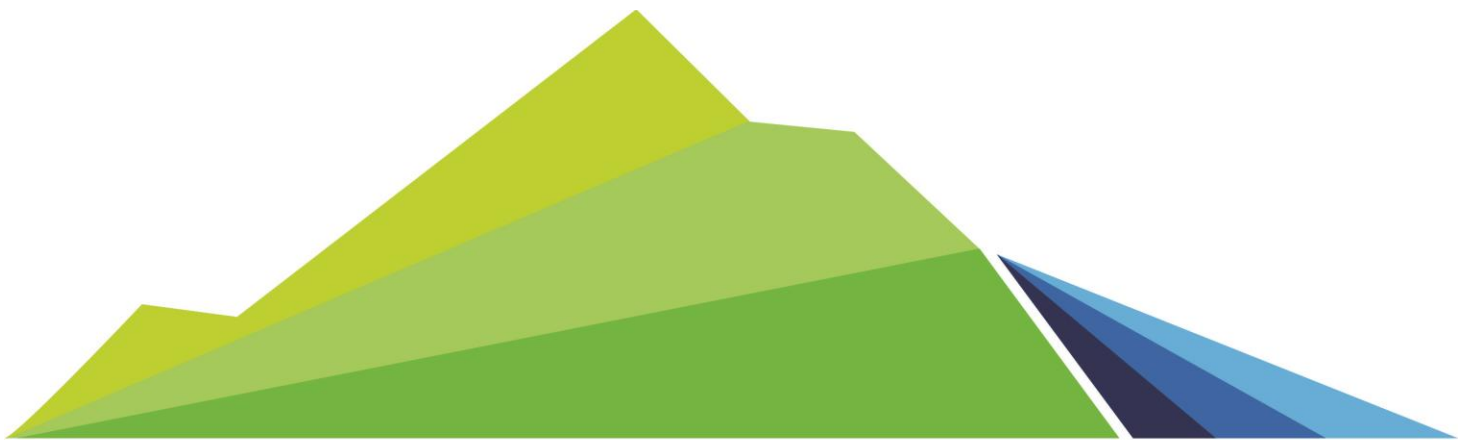


JULY 2023



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

County Wicklow is to receive €2.5m to assist in ending long-term vacancy and dereliction in the towns of Wicklow and Arklow.

The Urban Regeneration Development Fund is available to eligible local authorities for towns and cities and was established to support more compact and sustainable development of urban centres. It will complement several existing schemes that tackle vacancy and dereliction.

The aim of this particular fund is to address vacancy and dereliction, thus promoting vibrant communities. The fund will be administered through the Wicklow County Council Town Regeneration Office and covers the entire cost of acquiring suitable properties identified within Arklow and Wicklow towns which can then be purchased and developed.

Pre-Draft Public Consultation

Wicklow County Council will commence the pre-draft public consultation for the preparation of the new Wicklow –Town & Rathnew Local Area Plan on 19th July 2023 which will run until 28th September 2023. A new online consultation portal is available at the link below.

Submissions are invited from everyone via:

a) Through the consultation portal,

or

b) Write to: 'Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP', Administrative Officer, Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96

Web link to consultation portal: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew-Local-Area-Plan-2024>



Housing & Community

1. Housing

| | June 2023 | June 2022 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)* | 4471 | 4535 |
| No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS) | 169 | 225 |
| No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment | 2720 | 2555 |
| No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation | 23 | 21 |
| No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation | 32 | 31 |

Allocation of Social Housing

| | June 2022 | June 2023 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wicklow County Council | 12 | 17 |
| Approved Housing Bodies | 05 | 42 |

Social Housing Stock

| | June 2023 | June 2022 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Tenancies occupied | 4,819 | 4,750 |
| Total weekly rental accrual | 317,661.11 | 311,471.66 |
| Arrears | 2,897,544.70 | 2,931,441.83 |

| MD - | Added to list YTD 2023 | Completed YTD 2023 | Vacant April 2023* | WIP | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----|--|
| Arklow | 5 | 5 | 13 | 9 | |
| Baltinglass | 9 | 11 | 24 | 13 | |
| Bray | 10 | 23 | 59 | 16 | |
| Greystones | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | |
| Wicklow* | 3 | 5 | 45 | 8 | |
| Totals | 25 | 43 | 145 | 51 | |
| *Excludes CPOs. Includes 23 Hillview properties | | | | | |

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

| Schemes Recently Completed | UNITS | CURRENT STATUS |
|--|--------------|---|
| Ard na Greine, Bray | 31 | Completed and allocated |
| Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3) | 47 | Completed and allocated |
| Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build | 40 | Completed and allocated |
| Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build | 22 | Completed and allocated |
| Sheehan Court Arklow | 7 | Completed and allocated |
| Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build | 20 | Completed and allocated |
| Cedar Court Bray Design & Build | 14 | Completed |
| Schemes on Site | Units | CURRENT STATUS |
| | | |
| Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme) | 36 | Completion anticipated Q3 2023 |
| Cois Droichead, Greystones | 41 | Completion anticipated Q1 2024 |
| Ballard Shillelagh | 20 | Completion anticipated Q4 2023 |
| Pipeline Schemes | Units | Current Status |
| Lugduff Tinahely | 20 | Detailed design stage underway - Contractor appointed |
| Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2 | 21 | Construction ongoing |
| Fassaroe, Bray | 15 | Preparing tender documents |
| Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin, Wicklow | 10 | On site completion anticipated Q3 2023 |
| Burgage More Blessington | 106 | Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage |
| Lott Lane, Kilcoole | 75 | Tender advertised |
| Rehills, Bray | 80 | PPP bundle 5 |
| Burnaby, Greystones | 75 | PPP Bundle 5 |
| Ballinahinch Ashford | 25 | Design Stage |
| Tinahask, Arklow | 75 | Design stage. |
| Sheephouse Arklow | 30 | Design Stage |

Part V

| Location | No. of Units | Due for Delivery | Method |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|---------------|
| Bray | 2 | 18 Delivered, 2 Units delivered June 2023 | CALF |
| Rathnew | 3 | 3 Delivered Q1 2023 | WCC |

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-----------------------------|------|
| Delgany | 3 | Delivered June 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 3 | Scheduled Q3 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 7 | Delivered May 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 6 | Scheduled Q3 2023 | CALF |
| Arklow | 16 | Due for delivery Q3/Q4 2023 | CALF |
| Blessington | 5 | Delivery Due Q3 2023 | CALF |
| Bray | 1 | Delivery due Q1 2024 | CALF |
| Delgany | 3 | Delivered May 2023 | WCC |
| Greystones | 1 | Delivered Q1 2023 | WCC |
| Rathnew | 1 | Scheduled Q4 2023 | WCC |
| Bray | 4 | Delivered 2 2023 | WCC |

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Greystones, Ashford, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2023-2025. 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

| Location | No. of Units | Due for Delivery | Method |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Bray | 78 | Delivered June 2023 | CALF |
| Rathdum | 13 | Delivered Q1 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 30 | Scheduled Q3 2023 | CALF |
| Arklow | 32 | Due for delivery by Q4 2023 | CALF |
| Blessington | 40 | Delivery Due Q3 2023 | CALF |
| Bray | 17 | Delivery Date Q1 2024 | CALF |

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

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

Tuath have submitted the revised CAS application and it is currently being assessed. The Department had some queries which have been responded to.

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

All land registration issues have now been resolved. Respond are in the process of appointing a project manager.

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €2,352,438.16 - €823,150.59 spent to date
- › Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - €395,676.16 spent to date

2023 - 79 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 128 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

| Year | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of Grants Received/Processed | 249 | 216 | 266 | 327 | 281 | 264 |

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in September 2023. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22nd June and workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by the housing agency regarding the implementation plan.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

| | |
|---|---|
| Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties | Due to be Completed July 2023 |
| Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties | Contact on site - expected completion date August 2023 |
| Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units | Part 8 complete – design team is being procured at present |
| Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments | Detailed design complete – stage 3 approval received – contractor about to be appointed |

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 30 South Green, Arklow | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 5 Priory Way, Delgany | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy | House allocated and tenant in situ. |

| | |
|--|---|
| 5 Ashwood, Roundwood | House allocated and tenant in situ. |
| 108 Charnwood, Bray | Notice to Enter served July 2023. |
| 10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow | Compensation package to be agreed. |
| 33 Connolly Street, Arklow | House allocated and tenant in situ. |
| 6 Ashleigh, Ashford | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 114 Hillside, Greystones | Refurbishment to start shortly |
| 18 Delgany Glen, Greystones | Refurbishment underway. |
| 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town | Refurbishment underway. |
| 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town | Compensation now agreed. |
| 100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town | Refurbishment underway. |
| 53 South Green, Arklow | Compensation now agreed. |
| 53A South Green, Arklow | Compensation now agreed. |
| 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry | Refurbishment to start shortly |
| 2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow | Compensation package now finalised June 2023. |
| 36 Wheatfield Bray | CPO published March 2023. Currently engaging with owner with a view to purchase by agreement. |
| 27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray. | Negotiations under way |
| 1 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published. | |

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

Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

| Property | Progress |
|-------------|---|
| Croneyhorn | Sale approved by the members a the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress |
| Killacloran | Valuation done, applicant has been requested a deposit to progress application |
| Rednagh Rd | Sale approved by the members a the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress |
| Borkhill | No interested parties |

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023, and closed on 30/01/2023. There has been a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications for the 36 properties. Wicklow County Council are currently 'sale agreed' on all the 36 units, and are having an open day on site for clients on Saturday 22nd April. Breakdown of properties that were available are below.

| No. of units | Beds | Type | Story | House Price | Minimum House Purchase Price |
|--------------|------|------|-------|-------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 6 | 2 bed | Terrace | 2 Storey | €280,000 | €222,716 |
| 6 | 2 bed | End Terrace | 2 Storey | €290,000 | €236,702 |
| 16 | 3 bed | Terrace | 2 Storey | €315,000 | €252,295 |
| 8 | 3 bed | End Terrace | 2 Storey | €330,000 | €275,618 |

Wicklow County Council also received approval for future affordable housing schemes in the county in the past month – one development in Rathnew(44) and another in Baltinglass(22), These will be provided directly by the developer . Wickow County Council also has plans for further developments throughout the county.

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.

A grant of up to €70,000 is available.

If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available.

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 | 2023 to date | 2022 (6 Months) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Applications Received | 36 | 18 |
| Applications being processed, | 31 | 14 |
| Applications refused or withdrawn | 5 | 4 |

Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes in progress - expected completion date Q4 2023
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Part 8 to commence shortly

Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

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

environmental damage which is extremely expensive to clean up. All new boilers fitted now are condensing boilers which have higher thermal efficiency and use less fuel.

Local Authority Home loans up to June 2023

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Received | Approved in principle |
| 34 | 12 |

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

| | To date | June 2023 |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Applications Received | 402 | 2 |
| Completed | 99 | 1 |
| Declined | 278 | 1 |
| Ongoing | 24 | 24 |

Homeless figures for June 2023

| Addressing Homelessness | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | As at 31/06/2023 | Year To Date | As at 31/06/2022 |
| No of New Presentations | 20 | 185 | 57 |
| No. of Repeat Presentations | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child) | 10 | 82 | 14 |
| No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children) | 11 | 104 | 42 |
| No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children) | 2 | 10 | 1 |
| No. of Children | 14 | 145 | 28 |
| NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling | 8 | 64 | 17 |
| Family Circumstances | 3 | 54 | 15 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Leaving Prison/Hospital Care | 3 | 10 | 3 |
| Mental Health | 1 | 11 | 2 |
| Risk of Homelessness | 0 | 11 | 3 |
| Arrears/Loss of Income | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Addiction Issues | 3 | 20 | 7 |
| DV/DA | 4 | 14 | 3 |
| Medical Issues | 0 | 8 | 2 |
| Overcrowding | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left | 5 | 38 | 13 |
| ASB: | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Rough Sleeping* | 1 | 16 | 6 |
| Sofa Surfing* | 4 | 26 | 7 |
| Staying with Family* | 2 | 39 | 9 |
| Staying with Friends* | 1 | 5 | 2 |

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

| Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/06/23 | |
|---|----|
| Families | 17 |
| Adults | 28 |
| Children | 53 |
| Single individual | 2 |

| Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/06/2023 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | No. of Households | No. of Adults | No. of Children | < 3 mths | 3-6 mths | 6-9 mths | 9-12 mths | >12mths |
| Household breakdown | 2 | 23 | 25 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 4 |

| Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/06/22 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | No. of Households | No. of Adults | No. of Children | < 3 mths | 3-6 mths | 6-9 mths | 9-12 mths | >12mths |
| Household breakdown | 22 | 29 | 21 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 |

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, 453 households (328 families & 120 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31st July 2023. (187 homeless cases, 254 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 130 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

There are 8 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation at the moment.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon has been engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units – Six of the families have now transitioned or are in the process of transitioning to a permanent home and the resulting vacancies are in the process of being occupied with families experiencing or in danger of homelessness

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The facility providing 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas 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 Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There are plans now to move 6 of these persons on to own-front door accommodation which will in turn create space to move further people out of homelessness.

A homeless outreach service has being 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 to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Housing first recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 15 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that at least two further allocations will take place before the end of July 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

| | |
|---|---|
| Ballintekin – 3 houses | Contractor on site- expected completion date Nov 2023 |
| Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses | Approval received for funding from Department, – Contractor about to be appointed for the scheme. |
| Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses | Due to change in the family circumstances – new site selection is being investigated |

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 has been carried out and the 2023 will commence in September 2023.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been completed. Surveying of the houses identified for 2023 Programme is substantially completed and approx 35 have commenced on site.

2. Community

County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

Walkability Audit - Aughrim

As part of the work plan for this year, under the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027, a Walkability Audit in Aughrim is scheduled to be carried out on 20th July 2023.

The Walkability Audit will be co-ordinated by the Age Friendly Ireland Regional Manager South East (Alice Corbett) and the County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager (Clodagh Whelan), who will brief the participants in advance, using the [NTA Universal Design Walkability Audit Toolkit](#).

A diverse group of local community participants, with a mix of abilities and disabilities, have been invited by Kunstverein, Aughrim, Tidy Towns and Active Retirement Group representatives.

Municipal District representatives, Elected representatives and Garda representatives have also been invited to participate.

Census 2022 Preliminary Results - County Wicklow’s Age Profile of over 55s

Central Statistics Office has published preliminary results for Census 2022. This provides data on population by year of birth.

In County Wicklow, 2,344 people were identified as 85yrs and over, accounting for 1.5% of the population. A total of 23,661 people were 65 and over, accounting for 15.18% of the total population of 155,851. While 42,288 people were 55 and over, representing 27.13% of the population of the county.

Based on these figures the population of the county aged 65 and over is expect to increase by almost 80 % over the next decade. This will have consequent effect on demand for services to support the needs of older people. It also raises the importance of investment in health and wellbeing educational programmes for the over 55s and the Healthy Age Friendly Home Programme.

Further details below:

| Census Preliminary Results 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|---------|------------|--------|---------|
| Co. Wicklow | Population | Males | Females | % of Tot | | |
| | Population | Males | Females | Population | Males | Females |
| | 155851 | 76564 | 79287 | | | |
| 55 and over | 42288 | 20297 | 21991 | 27.13% | 26.51% | 27.74% |
| 60 and over | 32361 | 15456 | 16905 | 20.76% | 20.19% | 21.32% |
| 65 and over | 23661 | 11189 | 12472 | 15.18% | 14.61% | 15.73% |
| 70 and over | 16384 | 7665 | 8719 | 10.51% | 10.01% | 11.00% |
| 75 and over | 10120 | 4612 | 5508 | 6.49% | 6.02% | 6.95% |
| 80 and over | 5237 | 2238 | 2999 | 3.36% | 2.92% | 3.78% |
| 85 and over | 2344 | 902 | 1442 | 1.50% | 1.18% | 1.82% |
| | | | | | | |
| | | Males | Females | | | |
| 55 and over | 42288 | 48.00% | 52.00% | | | |
| 60 and over | 32361 | 47.76% | 52.24% | | | |
| 65 and over | 23661 | 47.29% | 52.71% | | | |
| 70 and over | 16384 | 46.78% | 53.22% | | | |
| 75 and over | 10120 | 45.57% | 54.43% | | | |
| 80 and over | 5237 | 42.73% | 57.27% | | | |
| 85 and over | 2344 | 38.48% | 61.52% | | | |

Source: <https://data.cso.ie/>

Community Recognition Fund

The list of successful applicants under the Community Fund has been released by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Wicklow County Council is to receive a total of €1.6m from this fund.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages which are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants (“new arrivals”) including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. It aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.

Among the projects that will be supported are:

- The refurbishment of local sports clubs and facilities
- The upgrade of community facilities such as play areas, walkways, parks and community gardens
- The purchase of equipment to benefit local clubs, festivals, music and arts organisations
- The enhancement of school or parish facilities that are open to the wider community after hours or on weekends
- Transport infrastructure such as community vehicles and bus shelters

The funding will be drawn down over 2023 and 2024 with projects being delivered by the local authorities in conjunction with community organisations.

| Town | Project |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Bray | Community Centre |
| Baltinglass | Community Park |
| Bray | Parish Centre |
| Wicklow Town | Wicklow Town Place making Project |
| Arklow | Playing pitch and Associated Works |
| Rathdrum | Community Park |
| Greystones | Community Park |

Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O’Brien TD, recently announced the successful projects in Co. Wicklow under the 2022 Community Support Fund, the amount of which is €308,834.

€100,000 of this funding was ring-fenced specifically to support Women’s Sheds. The key theme of the fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their energy bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

The Community Support Fund is a once off fund provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority, in each area.

Applicants will be notified directly by CCSD and arrangements made to pay the successful applicants in accordance with the terms of the fund.

Pride of Place 2023

The Judge's panel for the Co-Operation Ireland, Pride of Place Competition 2023 is scheduled to visit Co. Wicklow in September 2023. The four entries will have an opportunity to make a presentation to the judges and showcase the wonderful work being undertaken in their communities.

2023 Nominations:

| ENTRY | CATEGORY |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Greystones Tidy Towns | Creative Place Initiative |
| ReWild Wicklow | Climate Action and Biodiversity |
| Hollywood Village | Population - 0-500 |
| Avoca Village | Population - 500-1500 |

Blessington EGreenway

Planning documents were submitted to An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, with a deadline of 4th March 2022.

On 16th of March 2023, WCC received a request for further information (RFI) from An Bord Pleanála. The Board had sought a response to this RFI request, by the 8th June 2023. However, due to the significant information sought by ABP, an extension to the 29th January 2024 was granted by ABP.

WCC staff, in conjunction with Aecom, the consultants, are preparing a full comprehensive response to this RFI to meet this new deadline.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

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 Scheme is funded under “Our Rural Future” which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.

In line with “Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors”, outdoor recreation is defined as activities that take place in the natural environment, such as walking, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering and wild swimming.

The call for 2023 funding applications has been announced.

| <u>Measure</u> | <u>Application Deadline Date</u> | <u>Approval Date (Indicative)</u> | <u>Timeline for Project Completion</u> |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| Measure 1 | 5:15 p.m. on 5th September | Qtr. 1 2024 | 18 months |
| Measure 2 | 5:15 p.m. on 27th October | Qtr. 1 2024 | 24 months |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Measure 3 | 5:15 p.m. on 27th October | Qtr. 1 2024 | 24 months |
| Project Development Measure | 5:15 p.m. on 28th July | September 2023 | 18 months |

The table below is a list of current projects which are being progressed and were funded under the ORIS funding stream.

| ORIS Project | Present Position |
|--|--|
| North Wicklow Trails | The Vartry Reservoir section is close to completion and an Official Opening will be take place in the near future. |
| Avonmore Way, Avondale | Trail segments linking the Avondale River to the Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way are now complete. |
| Stratford on Slaney | This project is completed with a new connection to Stratford village |
| Clogherna Access | Works to improve surface and increase traffic safety is commencing at the end of June at the Clogherna access to Baravore Bridge, Glenmalure. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August. |
| Wicklow Blueway | 1) Greystones - contractors are on site at Greystones South Beach to install a boardwalk which will make the beach more accessible to all individuals including those with varying degrees of ability. A Live Cam has been installed and will soon be streaming the sea conditions in real time. |
| | 2) Research is underway to determine the possibility of enhancing amenities along the coastline at Wicklow, Kilcoole and Bray. |
| | 3) Arklow - Bicycle stands, privacy screens for changing, planting, information boards and cleaning of graffiti are some of the features of the plan in place for The Cove, Arklow Rock and South Beach Arklow. |
| | 4) Brittas Bay - An upgrade of existing facilities is planned for Brittas Bay along with new information boards in conjunction with the guidance of the Heritage Officer. |
| Avonmore Kayak Project | Plans are in place to improve of a number of access and egress points along the Avonmore River and the fitting of railings and privacy screens at the Meetings of The Waters in Avoca. |
| Kilmacanogue Nature Trail | Work is in progress to enhance the links between Wicklow Uplands and the Sugarloaf Way. |
| Cliff Walk Protection Scheme | The project has been paused briefly to allow for finalising the purchase of third party land. |
| Kilcoole Mass Path | Recently completed. |
| Lacken Mass Path | Recently completed. |
| Keadeen Access | Recently completed. |
| West Wicklow Access Points | Recently completed. |
| Sugarloaf Repair | This project entails the manual pitching of stone at the Sugarloaf to create ascent and decent points, work scheduled to commence soon. |
| Three Trout Route Project Developments | Now at project design stage following the identification of two crossing points connecting the stream with existing infrastructure. |
| Ballyboy Equestrian Trail | Under way for resurfacing and improved access points. |
| Miner's Way | Under way for resurfacing and improved access points. |
| Glen Turn Cliff Walk | Work has commenced to improve trail surface. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Red Kite Loop Wild Play Area Avoca | Play structures have been identified and design is currently under way. |
| Wicklow Uplands | This project entails the airlifting of materials to sensitive sites in the Wicklow Uplands. |
| Russborough Parklands and House Trail | It is planned to enhance the existing walking trails and install a cycle hub. |
| Glenmalure Recreation Area | The project will include the upgrading of the existing trail, removal of damaged boardwalk and replace with a sustainable surface. |
| Coolkenno Equestrian Trail | The aim of this project is to construct an 8km equestrian trail and associated access points. |
| Roundwood Recreation Area | Development of the layout has commenced. The project will include the provision of a bike hub, way-marking and promotion of Roundwood Recreation Area. |

Community Centres Investment Fund 2023 – New Builds Measure

In conjunction with the Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team, Wicklow County Council has submitted an application for funding for the construction of a purpose built multi-functional community centre, at Sraghmore, Anna Carter, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The facility would be open to the wider community and would cater for outdoor recreation, education and rescue response. The application is currently with the Department of Rural and Community and Development for consideration. The total cost of the project is €2,560,885 with funding of €2,304,797 sought from the Department.

County Wicklow Archives

Finding Wicklow in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

A great evening was had at Wicklow Library where Wicklow County Archives recently hosted the Virtual Treasury Roadshow. This was a chance to see the history of Wicklow and its people through the lens of this exciting new online resource. Ciarán Wallace, Deputy Director of the Virtual Record Treasury spoke about Ireland’s public records – their destruction and recovery. Brian Gurrin, Virtual Record Treasury Research Fellow, discussed Wicklow records in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland and highlighted items of interest in the Wicklow County Archives collection.

In June 1922 the Public Record Office of Ireland was destroyed in the battle of the Four Courts, the opening engagement of the Civil War. In a single afternoon seven centuries of Irish history went up in flames. The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland is an all-island and international research programme working to digitally reconstruct, as far as possible, these lost archives. By tracking down copies and transcripts in libraries and archives around Ireland and overseas, tens of thousands of documents relating to every corner of Ireland have been recovered, making them available online free of charge.

Cllr Paul O Brien, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow Municipal District Council, said: “I welcome The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow to Wicklow, which is the first stop on its national tour. We are very proud that Wicklow County Archives is a participating partner in this important project which has virtually reassembled the Irish archives lost in the fire of the Public Records Office in 1922. Our County Archives has contributed digital versions of the Wicklow Grand Jury records to the Virtual Record Treasury and I look forward to learning about the other Wicklow treasures restored and made available by the Virtual Record Treasury.”

Ms Emer O’Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, stated: “The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow highlights the value of archives to everyone, having reassembled 700 years of Irish archives lost during the Civil War. Indeed,

archival sources and especially local authority archives have featured strongly in Decade of Centenaries programmes, which have brought local stories and experiences to life. We are very proud of the collections in our own Wicklow County Archives and look forward to a continuing collaboration between Wicklow and the Virtual Record Treasury project”.

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Places Baltinglass - Brain Health Village

‘Respond’ and ‘Global Brain Health Ireland’ have been working on a special project to develop a model framework for a ‘Brain Health Village’. Wicklow Arts Office staff recently participated in one of the focus groups in order to align this work with Creative Places Baltinglass.

The ‘Brain Health Village’ is an innovative project and emerged as a result of a partnership between Respond and the Global Brain Health Institute (University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD)). It aims to examine the understanding of brain health and how it can be applied to housing design and to the provision and development of sustainable communities. This approach inherently touches on social justice, equity, and creativity and Wicklow Arts Office will now join as a member of this Local Stakeholder Group.

Creative Places Baltinglass Seed Funding Scheme

The Creative Places Baltinglass Seed Funding Scheme supports a range of projects that explore innovative ways to increase engagement between people, arts, culture, heritage, climate action, biodiversity and creativity. The scheme was put in place to support the delivery of the Creative Places Baltinglass and its aims.

The scheme was open to artists and local community arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups based in Baltinglass. The awarded projects must take place in, and benefit the residents of Baltinglass.

A callout for applications was circulated on 10th May 2023. The deadline for receipt of applications was Friday 2nd June 2023. A total of 11 applications were received and 6 artists were selected and awarded funding by an independent panel.

Creative Places Baltinglass Coordinator

Monika Sapielak was recently appointed to the role of Creative Places Baltinglass Coordinator and joined the Wicklow Arts Office team on Monday, 3rd July 2023.

Monika will be responsible for programme development and ensuring that there will be an ongoing mechanism of listening and responding to the community and artists. The Creative Places Baltinglass programme is designed to celebrate the natural heritage and beauty of the town and support social regeneration alongside wider infrastructural regeneration plans.

Strategic Projects Awards Scheme 2024

The closing date for applications for the Strategic Projects Awards Scheme 2024 is Friday 11th August 2023 at 4pm. The Scheme is open to artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and / or artist collectives, applications should focus on nurturing practice, enhancing connectivity, generating new perspectives and cultivating new voices within County Wicklow.

Healthy Ireland & Sláintecare



Healthy
Wicklow



Sláintecare.
**Healthy
Communities**

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Enhancement Fund Projects: Site visit in Ballywaltrim took place on 23rd June with contractors for the installation of calisthenics equipment and climbing boulders. All parties agreed that the two companies involved, Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd and Spraoi Linn Ltd, will synchronise the work to minimise disruption to the site. Therefore, the work is due to begin in the first week in August and will take a maximum of two weeks to complete. The installations will be officially lanced in early September.

SEED Fund projects: The revisions to the 2022 seed fund projects have been approved by the Department of Health, and we are still awaiting approval for the 2023 submissions. These are expected to be received shortly.

U12's Mental Health Committee: a new structure has been set up by the early years services in Bray with a variety of stakeholders to look specifically at U12's mental health and explore the current situation, service gaps and opportunities to respond. There is considerable potential that SHC will support initiatives through this structure using future seed funding.

Period Poverty Project: products have been delivered to the FRCs, Community Centres, youth services and Intreo Office in Bray. Products have also been delivered to 4 direct provision sites (Kippure Lodge, Baltinglass, the Esplanade Hotel in Bray, and the Grand Hotel in Wicklow). The products have been very well received, in particular the addition of the discrete dispensers which the services were delighted with. Already it is clear that the products are required and will be used by the targeted communities.

Healthy Wicklow

Active Community Initiative



- A Walk and Talk programme is taking place every Thursday evening on the new walking track in Coolafancy Community field.

- 8 people attended a taster activator pole session which was ran in Carnew Mart on 6th July.
- Healthy Wicklow and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership collaborated with the Irish Heart Foundation and arranged for the mobile bus to attend Carnew Mart on 13th July.
- 40 individuals availed of a free health check.

Healthy Ireland Round 4 Funding - €70,310.18 was credited to the account on 13th July which is 90% of the Healthy Ireland Round 4 allocation for 2023.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Over 250 people participated in the 'Run with Ray' series in Avondale House in July. RTE broadcast from Avondale house followed by a 5km run of the parkrun route.



HER Wicklow Her Outdoors

HER Wicklow Her Outdoors Week is a week in which women are encouraged to participate in outdoor recreation and try something new. This is a national campaign lead by Sport Ireland and delivered locally with the LSP. Wicklow will have a national kick off event on Sunday the 12th of August, with the main week of activities running from 14th to 21st of August.



Summer Activities for Direct Provision

€15,000 has been invested into the delivery of sports equipment to IPAS centres and gaining access for residents to summer camps, over 110 children have been included throughout Wicklow.

Inclusion Camps

A series of disability inclusion camps have been delivered throughout Wicklow in Powerscourt, Bray and Blessington.

Country Library Service

Ballywaltrim Library Capital Project



The proposed new library for Ballywaltrim was presented to Bray MD Cllrs at their June meeting, where it was positively received. The Part 8 process has now commenced. Wicklow County Council has submitted it for grant aid funding, ahead of the June 16 deadline, as part of DRCD's library capital programme. There is approximately €30m available nationally for a 5 year programme from 2023 – 2027. A national announcement of successful projects is due in September.

The proposal is for a library of 1,300+ sq. mtrs, over 2 stories, on the site of the current Ballywaltrim library and the adjacent area (shown above). The ground floor will include books for loan, community room, art exhibition area and separate adult and children's libraries. The first floor will comprise study and IT area, in addition to 18 dedicated work from home hubs. QS report foresees a total cost of circa €8.5m, while an 18 month build is anticipated.

Summer Stars



Wicklow County Council Library's Summer Stars reading initiative has hit the ground running this year. Reports from all libraries indicate that children around the county are very busy reading and listening to books, in fact already we have over 2,000 children signed up and enjoying regular visits to all libraries.

Shelton Abbey 50th Anniversary Open Day



On the 11th of July, our Mobile Library visited Shelton Abbey to help celebrate their 50th Anniversary Open Day. This Open Prison is home to varying numbers of men who have almost served their sentences and are getting ready for their re-entry to ordinary everyday life. There was a large turnout of all ages to support this event in the beautiful surroundings of Shelton Abbey. The Mobile Library and staff were delighted to welcome hordes of children and adults to check out the 'library on wheels', do some crafts, enjoy a story time and borrow books! People from all over the county attended and many expressed surprise that they could return their library books at any library across the country. Broadcaster and Journalist, Charlie Bird who recently was conferred with the Freedom of County Wicklow paid a very special visit to meet everyone; he shook a lot of hands and delivered some heartfelt words.

Pictured here is Karen, our Mobile Librarian with Charlie in the foyer of Shelton Abbey as well as one of the many creations made by children in attendance.

Ballywaltrim Library Activities



Acrylic Pouring Art Workshop
with Nicola Sedgwick

This is a workshop for adults
Ballywaltrim Library
Saturday 22nd July
2.30-4.30pm



Age 5+
Summertime Arts and Crafts
Ballywaltrim Library
3pm
Friday July 21st

Book your place at the desk at Ballywaltrim or
tel: 01 2723205
email: ballywaltrimlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie

Ballywaltrim Library is planning a great summer of activities for children and adults. Featured activities include storytime every Tuesday and Saturday at 11.30, Tummy Time for tiny babies and their adults, and a Bumper Tovertaffel Family session. Extra programmed events include a Summer Arts and Craft workshop for children and a poured paint workshop for adults.

Cross-stitching at Wicklow Town Library

Wicklow Town Library began a fantastic 4-week 'beginner' cross-stitching workshop on Tuesday the 11th of July from 10.30 am.

Participants will complete a Teddy Bear design and gain helpful tips and tricks to be able to continue this hobby at home. Workshops are suitable for ages 14 plus!



Cosplay Pageant at Wicklow Town Library

Creative Teens in Wicklow Town library have been meeting regularly and putting their hearts and souls into crafting extraordinary costumes in preparation for the upcoming Pageant at the Library. Prepare to be dazzled by their work which will include exceptional costumes featuring just about anything – could be superheroes, princesses, fierce warriors or mythical creatures, their imagination know no bounds. Cosplay is not just about the costumes; it's also a journey into makeup artistry and participants will have brushed up on their public speaking skills to introduce their character and talk about their costume.

Wildlife Illustration Workshops

As part of summer Stars across a number of Wicklow libraries in July, Wicklow County Council Libraries invited young nature enthusiasts and budding artists (aged between 6 and 10 years) to unleash their creativity at one of the libraries taking part. Participants learned fascinating facts about hedgehogs and their habitats, and embarked on a unique artistic journey guided by experienced illustrator **Aga Grandowicz**.



Arklow Library Dogs Trust Storytime

Arklow Library was delighted to have Dog's Trust visit on Thursday 27th of July to host storytime. There was lots of fun and frolics as well as dog safety messages for children aged 5 – 10 years.



Arklow Writer's Group Book Launch

Talented authors and poets from the Arklow-based writing group 'The Writers Room' who meet regularly in Arklow Library have published a new collection of works entitled 'Glimpses' in aid of the Arklow RNLI Lifeboat Station.

Launched in Arklow Library on Tuesday, July 25, '**Glimpses**' was a feast for anyone who loves a good story and features a collection of new short stories and poems composed by members of the writing group.



Let's Play Outdoor Games packs for loan at each Library

Wicklow County Council – in conjunction with Healthy Wicklow, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, and Wicklow County Council Library Service – is delighted to announce the imminent availability of

Outdoor Games for borrowing at Wicklow’s libraries. These will be a great addition to an outdoor birthday party or picnic or indeed any outside instance where children are coming together and require some extra activities to build the atmosphere. The packs include beloved classics such as Snake and Ladders, Jamanga Towers, Sports Day Set, Horseshoe Pitching Game, and Big Fish Small Fish Game.

Let’s Play took place on Wednesday 28th June at Ballywaltrim Library, signifying the official unveiling of the ‘Let’s Play’ packs which will be made available soon at local libraries. Other sessions took place adjacent to Dunlavin, Rathdrum and Greystones Libraries.



Baltinglass Library Summer Activities

Baltinglass Library is planning plenty of extra Summer activities commencing mid-July. Programming consists of events for children and adults. The town has become home to a new community from varying parts of the world and the Library wishes to extend a warm welcome to all. With this in mind, one of the first items to be organised is an English Conversation group in the Library on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 pm – currently the library is seeking the support of adults from Baltinglass and the surrounding area who may be like to lend a hand by coming along and simply engaging in a chat with other adults who are learning English as a second language. There will be no requirement for teaching, this is an opportunity to meet new people, relax and have a conversation.

Children’s activities will include regular art and crafts, story times and films. Please follow Wicklow County Library on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with scheduled events.



Baltinglass Library
Storytime
Saturdays at 11am

English as a Second Language Conversation Group
Baltinglass Library
Tuesday evenings at 6.30 pm

STORY STONES ART WORKSHOP
FRIDAY, 14TH JULY @ 3PM
BALTINGLASS LIBRARY
With professional actor & storyteller Carmel Stephens

BOOKING REQUIRED

Children 8+

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP 2023 Mid-Year Review- Wicklow LCDC and Pobal have now reviewed all information submitted and have found KPIs and targets sufficiently progressed and budget spend largely in line with expectations. Once any issues arising are fully resolved, the reports will be fully approved by the LCDC and the next instalment of funding will be released to both Partnerships.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

Consultations: Wicklow Climate Action Plan, EU Restore Nature Bill, National Philanthropy Policy, Freedom to Advocate Survey, National Waste Management Plan, Wicklow CYPSC County Plan, Wicklow Skills Strategy, Ireland's Private Residential Rental Sector Review, Climate Conversations, Festivals, Audiences & the Digital Experience Survey.

Training Opportunities: Cavan PPN Climate Change Training, Hi Digital Training & Digital Champions, The Wheel Grant Writing Tips.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Bray MD Pilot Community Space Enhancement Scheme, Supervalu Tidy Towns Waters & Communities Special Award, Creative Youth Nurture Fund, International Charity Bazaar, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, CLÁR Programme, AIB Community €1m fund, Coca Cola Thank You Fund, Ecclesiastical Insurance Launch Movement for Good, WCC Tidy Towns Estates & Sustainable Development Awards, Circular Economy Fund, Meet & Code, Community Centres Investment Fund – New Builds Measure, Water Heritage Day Grant Scheme, LGBTI+ Community Services Funding, WCC Arts Office 2024 Strategic Projects Awards Scheme.

Please see www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN social media channels for further information on above and more.

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

LECP 2023 – 2029

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

The LECP will be developed in two sections to allow for flexibility and adaptability:

- 1) Strategy, with the high level goals and objectives for a period of six years
- 2) Implementation Plan, with actions, for a period of two years (renewed every two years)

The Economic and Enterprise Development SPC has the remit for the development of the economic element of the LECP and has held a number of meetings and workshops to achieve this. The LCDC has the remit for the development of the community element of the LECP. The Advisory group will oversee the process.

The LECP is developed from three main elements (i) data and evidence from the socio-economic profile of the county (ii) consultation (iii) national and local strategies, policies and plans. From this five main themes emerged and have been agreed. The objectives and actions are being finalised under these integrated themes:

- Health, Resilience and Well-being
- Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity
- Climate Action
- A Connected County
- Equality, Diversity and Just Transition

The LECP Strategy Framework is completed and was signed off by the LCDC for sign off on 24th May, followed by the EDES SPC. The plan has been presented to the 5 MDs. It will now be presented to EMRA (to ensure it complies with the RSES) – then to full council meeting.

The Implementation Plan is being developed at present.

Following the last round of consultation with the LCDC a number of further indicators were requested. They are being added to the socio-economic profile at present.

It will now have an extensive new section on data regarding Environment and Agriculture and further detail on HAP, Incomes, Homelessness and Social Housing. The SCOT analysis has also been updated following feedback from the LCDC and PPN re environment, agriculture, just transition, migration.

This data will also benefit the Local Authority Climate Action Plan and the CWP LEADER Strategy.

Town Teams

There are four Town Teams in the County, with one under establishment in Bray. Meetings have been held with the town Team Chairs and the MD Administrators to gain background information on the Town Teams, their expectations, issues, composition and work at present. Meetings have been held with the Town Teams in Blessington, Wicklow and Greystones with one planned for Arklow at the end of July. The focus for the near future will be on governance and capacity building for the members.

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington is a pathfinder town. It is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. The tender process for consultants to develop the plan is underway. The Town Centre First Masterplan is expected to be a very thorough and comprehensive study of Blessington Town Centre which will identify potential projects for regeneration.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Pottery Website Project – The Town Team are delighted to have received additional funding for the Arklow Pottery Website. The funds from The Heritage Council will cover an audio series and we'll be working with The Treasure Vox. The Town Team are currently looking for participants who wish to have their stories recorded. The Town Team will also be getting more photography done to add to the patterns database and making improvements to the accessibility of the website for all users.

Medieval Abbey Lane Project – The Town Team in partnership with the 402 Art Collective were also delighted to receive support for funding through the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2023. Work is on-going to design a mural for the area.

Flower Basket Scheme – The Town Team appreciate the support from all the traders and sponsors of the scheme. The baskets bring some added colour to the Main Street.

Greystones Town Team

The weekly Harbour Market at the Plaza continues every Sunday for the Summer season. It is organised by Greystones Tidy Town Committee.

The inaugural Wicklow Pride Parade took place in Wicklow Town on 1st July and was supported by the attendance of Greystones Town Team Chair and members of the committee.

Preparations are underway for a “Picnic in the Park” event for toddlers and young children, supported by Greystones Town Team, to be held on 12th August in Burnaby Park.

Wicklow Town Team

The Greenway Feasibility Study is underway for completion in 2024. With environmental consideration to the fore and regard to the sensitivity nature of the area the Consultants are looking at possible route options in consultation with landowners, Irish Rail, Birdwatch Ireland and NPWS. There will be further public consultation as the detailed route is developed.

The call for artists for The Wicklow Murals – Connectivity Project has been put out and the shortlist will be provided to the working team for selection. It is planned that community engagement workshops will be held locally in the coming weeks to help develop the brief and engage the local community. There will also be ongoing engagement with the owners of the premises where the murals will be painted on.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council’s long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin “Our Rural Future” Ireland’s Rural Development policy.

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the revised works are due to begin Q3 2023. Works on the public park and playground are well underway.

Newtownmountkennedy RRDF project is a Category 2 project, which involves the design of plans to bring the project to ‘shovel ready’ status and submission to Category 1 RRDF. The project is under review at present due to revisions necessary to the public realm, due to contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions, it is hoped that agreement will be reached, the plans will be signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund – Call 3

Arklow and Wicklow URDF projects completed. Following a meeting with the URDF Team, Bray Public Transport Bridge is under review.

The Urban Regeneration Development Fund County announced recently that Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist end long term vacancy and dereliction in the towns of Wicklow and Arklow. The fund is available to local authorities for towns and cities eligible for the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and was established to support more compact and sustainable development of urban centres. It will complement several existing schemes that tackle vacancy and dereliction.

The aim of this particular fund is to address vacancy and dereliction, thus promoting vibrant communities. The fund will be administered through the Wicklow County Council Town Regeneration Office and covers the entire cost of acquiring suitable properties identified within Arklow and Wicklow towns which can then be purchased and developed.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The current strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the strategy.

The Key Priorities are:

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

Tender documents have been published seeking consultants to develop a new Tourism Strategy to replace the current strategy. The tender is expected to be awarded by the end of August.

Wicklow Tourism continues to promote County Wicklow as a place to visit and stay, utilising their visitwicklow.ie website and social media channels, including:

- EcoTrail Wicklow running festival has secured the support of Fáilte Ireland for the next edition of EcoTrail Wicklow set to take place from the 28th to the 30th of September. After three editions, EcoTrail Wicklow is growing

from strength to strength attracting participants from 40 different nationalities as far as Singapore, South Africa, or Mexico

- **EcoTrail Promotion in Snowdonia:**

With the support of Failte Ireland, Wicklow Tourism organised to have a stand at Snowdonia Trail Marathon in Wales over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of July. The popular race has proven a strong base to help promote Wicklow's event to the Welsh and UK trail running community.

- **Top Outdoor Activities**

Promoting County Wicklow as an unforgettable outdoor family adventure, from walks in nature to thrilling water sports, and beach fun to mountain biking opportunities.

- Wicklow Tourism has created a series of A4 posters with QR code to advise visitors of the many things to do and experience in Wicklow:

- Top Wicklow Attractions
- Wicklow Outdoor Activities
- Rainy Days in Wicklow
- Things to see and do in Arklow, Bray, Wicklow Town
- Wicklow Passport Itineraries

Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

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

The project team consists of MOLA Architects as project leader, supported by a team consisting of a Transport Engineer, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, and a Quantity Surveyor.

Stage 1 – Data Collection and Analysis has completed, and the project is now nearing the end of Stage 2, with options presented to the Economic Development and Enterprise Support team for consideration. The project is expected to be complete towards the end of Q3 of 2023.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Following site investigations some redesign of the development site was necessary. This is ongoing and is expected to go to tender in the coming weeks. Fáilte Ireland as a key stakeholder has been made aware of this and accordingly has agreed an extension of the funding.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

The revised Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is due for completion by end of June, with the Minister being notified under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011). The Department will now have a second period in which they can respond to the revised NIS. This process normally takes about 6 weeks.

In parallel with work on the NIS and Environmental report the masterplan team have also created some proposals concerning the implementation stage. A MOU has been drafted outlining how the masterplan partners could work together in the delivery of the masterplan.

Bray Harbour Improvements

A presentation was made to the department responsible for URDF funding for the project, which outlined the outcome of the feasibility study. Feedback was favourable and approval is awaited to confirm progress to tendering for consultants. In anticipation, it is intended to prepare tender documents over the next two months. It is planned to fence off an area identified in the feasibility report that could be used to facilitate the relocation of existing or accommodate additional marine uses in the harbour. A meeting took place on the 29th June with the Bray Users to provide an update on the status of the scheme.

Special Projects

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn. A call for funding from Enterprise Ireland to support this project is expected and an application is being prepared.

A tender has been awarded to Savills to take approx. 4.7 acres on the Mill Road, Greystones to market and seek proposals to include a hotel, some residential, and possibly some retail/office space. The project is on hold pending PRA confirmation of site registration.

Offshore Renewable Energy

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

Wicklow County Council is working with a business working in the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector, chamber representatives and representatives from the education sector SETU to establish an offshore renewable energy network aimed at addressing 3 key issues

- Ports
- Education and Skills
- Supply Chain

Representatives from some of the energy suppliers have been engaging with Wicklow County Council since the ORESS auction.

Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

The Skills Taskforce has members from Wicklow County Council, the Training and Development sectors, as well as members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors.

The contract for a Skills Audit and Strategy was awarded to KPMG Ireland, who presented to the Council in July, outlining the project plan and timelines.

This project is currently undertaking now in public consultation, via Wicklow County Council's portal and advertised on radio and social media, to seek employer, employee, and education provider's views on what skills and/or skills shortages exist in County Wicklow.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will build on the original Plan but will also focus on Climate Action and development of the Food Incubation Hub and on Food Poverty, to review progress on original goals and actions and to agree steps to final action plan. A draft review has been submitted and will be reviewed by Wicklow Naturally and put before the members of Wicklow County Council in Q3 of 2023.

Some of the activities Wicklow Naturally have been involved with:

- Participated at Taste of Dublin and made a presentation about Wicklow Naturally at the Food for Thought stage.
- Nevin Maguire is coming to Wicklow in October. Wicklow Naturally has liaised with the production team to ensure that local ingredients and experiences are promoted. Production will stay in County Wicklow overnight at a Wicklow Naturally member hotel.
- Wicklow Naturally promoted-at the following events; Bloom in the Park Festival, the Taste of Wicklow Festival, Beyond the Pale music festival and the Spirit of Wicklow Awards, for which Wicklow Naturally Hampers were given out as prizes.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Architectural Design Services & Project Design

JULY 2023



Preparation (including Part VIII) for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

This funding will allow for plans to be primed for the full implementation of the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre. It will enable the recruitment of a project manager to advance plans for the centre, retention of an architect led design and multi-disciplinary team to prepare plans, appointment of a financial team to complete a business model and a financial analysis review, and the launch of a promotional awareness campaign.

The Food Hub will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable, and profitable food businesses across the mid-east by providing the physical environment to choreograph opportunities for food entrepreneurs to interact with each other and will support Wicklow food and drink companies to adjust, pivot, or reposition themselves to respond to new market realities arising from Covid-19, Brexit, and other market changes, including climate change/sustainability, innovation, and digital transition.

Local Enterprise Office

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

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

| METRICS: Grants | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters | -28/ €748,180 -8/ €12,829.95 | - Meet Demand - Meet Demand | 15/ €365,602.5 2/ € 2,642.00 |
| 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 |
|---|-------------------|---------|--------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes. | 44 | 60 | 13 |
| Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes) | 84 / 7 programmes | 120 | 43 |
| Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes (all programmes except SYOB and MDP) | 653 | 1200 | 304 |
| Women in Business Network Number of Meetings | 8 | 20 | 15 |

| METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|--|------------|---------|--------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Number of new clients added to database *Criteria have been amended for this metric | 498 | 500 | 273 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor | 426 | 390 | 249 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|

| METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Academic Year | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 | Year to Date 22-23 |
| No. of Secondary Student Participants | 900 | 1100 | 1138 |

| METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Academic Year | 2022 | 2023 | Year to Date 2023 |
| Number of Applications | Programme review | Programme review | Programme review |

| Trading Online Voucher | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| No of Trading Online Vouchers approved | 2022 | 2023 | Year to Date 2023 |
| Trading Online Vouchers | 67 Total value: € 138,464 | 38 (meet demand) | 36 |

| Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|---|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert | 11 | 15 | 9 |
| No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert | 9 | 17 | 1 |
| No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert | - | 6 | 0 |

| Microfinance Ireland | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO | 15 | 11 | 5 |

June 2023 Activities

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- LEO Wicklow hosted a Roundtable meeting on the Gig Economy. In attendance were organising partners LEO Meath, Mid East Skills Forum, Screen Ireland, The Screen Guilds, Film and TV Crew Academy and the financial institutions. The objective for the event is to demonstrate the importance of the Gig Economy in an Irish and Global context and to articulate the value and vibrancy of the Irish Screen Sector and the importance of 'gig working' or free-lance working to the industry with the aim of starting a conversation with financial institutions and gain advice as to how those working in the sector can better represent themselves and demonstrate their ability to pay / repay loans and /or track savings.
- 1st June: National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House. WHC Labs are representing Co.Wicklow at this gala event.
- National Competition for the Student Enterprise Programme on 15th May at Croke Park.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer Business and IT Skills training programme has been concluded and was a great success.

The Autumn/Winter Programme has been finalised and training is now available for booking on the LEO website.

2. Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Healthy Placemaking, Climate Action and Economic Opportunity are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County. The plan also includes the **Town Plans** for the following settlements:- Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough. The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for '**Wicklow Town & Rathnew**', '**Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole**' and '**Blessington**'. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage and have prepared a consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultations. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation for Wicklow Town & Rathnew in July and the others in Q3/Q4 2023.

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

The current LAP's for these three settlements, as well as the Arklow LAP and Bray MD LAP are available to view here <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans>

RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, it was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021.

The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that have been prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. These maps were published on Wicklow County Councils website on 01 November 2022. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

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

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

The 'in scope' maps went on display from 01 November 2022 to 01 January 2023, with submissions invited. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the local radio station as well as Wicklow County Council social media. 75 submissions were received and all submissions have been published on the Wicklow County Council website. All 75 submissions have been assessed and responded to, before 01 April 2023, with a determination letter as to whether the lands in question are to remain in scope or be removed from the final map. Land owners had the option to appeal the determination decision to ABP, with 18 appeals made in relation to RZLT sites in Wicklow. All queries on appeals should be referred to ABP.

Supplemental RZLT maps were published on 01 June 2023, which include additional land identified as being in scope, over and above the lands which has already been included on the draft maps. Wicklow County Council has NOT published a supplemental map as no additional land met the criteria for inclusion in the supplemental maps. The Final maps will be published in December 2023.

More information can be found online at the following link <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

Heritage & Biodiversity Office

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funded projects

- Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project: €34,170 funding received. Project underway (conservation grazing and ecological monitoring) . New interpretive units due to be installed in coming weeks, community engagement programme planned for Aug- October, invasive species control scheduled Oct-Dec.
- County Wicklow Hedgerow survey €20,000 funding received. Deborah D'Arcy ecology engaged. Fieldwork scheduled 5th July- End August. Final report due Q4.
- Community Outreach Programme €18,830
- Woodland Monitoring project (bats) €7,000; Project underway with Bat Conservation Ireland and NPWS staff. Final report due Q4.
- Wicklow Pond Restoration project €20,000

County Heritage Plan (CHP): Funding allocation of €57,000 confirmed from The Heritage Council for the following actions in 2023:

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach: Community (Volunteer) excavation scheduled for 8th- 18th August to coincide with Heritage Week. Big Dig, talks and tours planned.
- Wicklow Barn Owl Project: Monitoring of 60 nesting boxes taking place from May-Sept.

- Seasonal nature workshops ; Programme of events at East Coast Nature Reserve commencing on 22nd July in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland.
- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews: Agreement from SMT to commence review.
- Our Wicklow Heritage communications: Hosted ICAN National launch on 31st May. Public event on the Our Wicklow Heritage Network of sites planned in Wicklow Library on 25th July.
- Community Archaeologist Part Time post. De Faoite Archaeology engaged for 2023. Ongoing liaison with community groups from March to Dec. GIS database created to document Early Medieval Church Sites and Historic graves and headstones. Family friendly event hosted in Arklow for European Archaeology Days on Sunday 18th June; ‘Big Dig’ for children and talks and displays on recent CMF funded research on Arklow

Archaeology: Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 is co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office. Applications received from private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage. Five projects were approved for a total budget of €108,174 as follows; Drumgoff Barracks €5,000; Kilpipe Church and Graveyard €30,523; Newcastle Castle €29,982; West Wicklow Historic Graveyards €30,000; Derralossary Church and graveyard interpretation €12,669. All projects underway.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): There are 19 Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) projects underway in county Wicklow (budget of €101) and 2 approved projects under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF)- Crusher House, Barravore (stream1) €35,000 and Cronroe Gardeners cottage (vernacular) €10,000.

Development Management

Planning Applications

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total valid applications received | To 30th June 2023 |
| Received (Valid) | 579 |

A total of 100 valid applications were received during June as follows:

| Type of Development | 30 th June 2023 Number Received |
|-------------------------|--|
| Individual Houses | 25 (23) refer to a rural house) |
| Housing Developments* | 06 |
| Agricultural Structures | 03 |
| Commercial | 00 |
| Other Developments** | 66 |
| Total | 100 |

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous

planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Decisions issued in respect of applications in June 2023

| Type of Development | Number of Decisions |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Housing Developments | 01 |
| Individual Houses | 11 (5 refer to a rural house) |
| Other Developments | 83 |
| Other Developments Requiring EIA | 01 |
| Total | 96 |

Decisions issued between January to June 2023, in comparison to the same period for 2022:

| | 30/06/2022 | 31/06/2023 |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Total Number of decisions issued | 531 | 513 |
| Total Number of decisions to grant | 450 | 421 |
| % Grant Rate | 85% | 82% |
| No of applications withdrawn | | 12 (6 refer to rural house) |

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to longterm grassland/scrub habitat: establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – ABP determined application without an oral hearing.

Substitute Consent

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

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

E-Planning Project

The ePlanning system went live on 17th April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately. Since going live 42% of applications have been received online (314 received in total, 133 through eplanning & 181 hard copy) .

There has been a mix of application types including One off houses, extensions, 26 apartments in Bray, 68 dwellings in Rathnew, 7 new houses in Greystones, coastal defence works and commercial units, 12 residential apartments in Bra and installation of an aircraft noise monitoring terminal at Roundwood,

Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| New Files | 22 |
| Advisory Letters | 24 |
| Warning Letters | 11 |
| Enforcement Notices | 0 |
| Legal Files | 0 |
| Closed | 15 |

Short-Term Letting

| | |
|---|----|
| Applications received for Registration in June 2023 | 2 |
| Complaints received in June 2023 | 0 |
| Warning Letters issued in June 2023 | 0 |
| Enforcement Notices issued in April 2023 | 0 |
| Legal proceedings in June 2023 | 0 |
| Files under investigation as of 31/06/2023 | 57 |

Derelict Sites

| Municipal District | No sites on Register |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Wicklow | 1 |
| Baltinglass | 1 |

Vacant Site Levy

This programme is still ongoing as it will not be replaced by the RZLT until January 2024. All sites currently on the register will be inspected in 2023, and if they remain vacant, will be issued with a 'demand for payment' for the calendar year 2022.

Vacant Sites

| Municipal District | No. of Sites on Register |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Arklow | 7 |
| Baltinglass | 1 |
| Bray | 3 |
| Greystones | 4 |
| Wicklow | 6 |

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

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

3. Environment

Litter/Waste Management

| | |
|--|-----------|
| No. of Complaints Created | 120 |
| No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed | 211 |
| No of Litter Fines Issued | 14 |
| No. of Waste Management Files Opened | 5 |
| No. of Warning Letters Issued | 5 |
| No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued | 1 |
| No. of Burning Applications Granted | 0 |
| No. of Temporary Signs Granted | 1 |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act | 7 |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act | 0 |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act | 0 |
| No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued | 0 |
| No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists | 19 |
| No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act | 2 |
| No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act | 6 |
| Income - Litter | €475.00 |
| Income- Waste Management | €5,100.00 |

Whitestown Remediation

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court. A contractor has been appointed to carry out advance works on the site. This entails the excavation and disposal of waste material, which lies in the vicinity of a pylon on the site, and the work is being carried out while ESB Networks has the line de-energised.

Climate Action

EBike - An ebike rental scheme with Bolt was launched in Bray on 23rd June, where a contract was signed for a 12 month pilot. 1100 KM were cycled in the first week in operation.

Stakeholder Engagement - During June stakeholder engagement was undertaken for the development of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. Internal stakeholder engagement was done with each directorate and with the municipal district offices. External stakeholder engagement was undertaken with PPN social inclusion partners, the agricultural community, the PPN environmental and communities' pillars, the business community and youth. Connect the Dots worked with the Climate Action Team facilitating the workshops. An online survey on the Wicklow consultation hub was also use as part of the stakeholder engagement.

A series of sectoral workshops were organised by the CARO offices to facilitate sharing on experience on development of sectoral actions for the Climate Action Plan.

Update on posts for the Climate Action Team

- Community Climate Action Officer – commencing 31st July
- Climate Action Coordinator – commenced
- Climate Action Officer - commenced
- Regional Energy Manager - commenced
- Energy Officer – commenced

Mid-East Energy Unit

- **MEEU** - Kick off meeting with Kildare County Council's Energy Performance Officer, Energy Officer and Climate Action Co-ordinator
- Progress meeting took place with Meath County Council on their energy review.
- **SEAI ISO 50001** - Wicklow County Council has signed up to the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme which will allow the Council to apply for ISO 50001 accreditation and hosted the last meeting of the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme. The energy office attended masterclass training in June (days 5 & 6.)

- The Council is currently working with its energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach our 2030 targets and is also collaborating with OPW and ZEVI on delivering projects in Wicklow
- **Wicklow EV Chargers** – The public electric vehicle chargers in Blessington and Bogmeadow Enniskerry are now operational.
- **SEAI EV Trial**- The SEAI EV trial has concluded. The trial was very successful with over 3,000km driven reducing transport carbon emissions in Wicklow by 0.3tCO₂ in 3 months.
- **SEAI Energy Awards** – WCC submitted two applications into the SEAI Energy Awards (Mid-East Energy Unit & Solar Car Park)
- **Arklow Flood Relief Scheme**
The Request for Tender for a Consultant was published in June.

Environmental Awareness

Wicklow County Council **Tidy Towns and Sustainable Development Awards** were launched in June, with a significant number of entries to date. The closing date has been extended until Sunday July 16th.

- EAO is preparing a series of articles for the website relating to trees, in line with the promotion of WCC Tree Management policy. The articles will include species profiles with links to local sites, a summary of tree and the law, some information on ash dieback, and some recommendations for urban planting.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 6 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 5 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 5 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 7 Noise pollution complaints closed.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out.
- 0 Domestic waste water treatment systems found complaint.
- 0 Advisory notices were issued in respect of Domestic waste water treatment systems found non-complaint.
- 0 Verification inspections to confirm compliance with Advisory notices were carried out.
- 0 Public engagement activities were undertaken to promote awareness and improve compliance.

Licensed discharges to Waters

- 2 licensed discharges to water/ground were monitored and deemed satisfactory
- 6 licensed wastewater discharges to water/ground non-compliant and were required to take corrective action.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 8 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Private Water Supplies

- 42 Private water supplies monitored deemed compliant with drinking water limits
- 10 Private water supplies deemed non-compliant and requested in writing to address microbiological/chemical non-compliances.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 45 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 1 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

Bathing Waters

- 20 Bathing Water samples taken – All Good or excellent.
- EPA recently published the Bathing Water in Ireland 2022 Report.
- The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2024 season.

Well Grants

- 13 New Water Grant applications received
- 3 New Well granted
- 10 New Pumps granted
- 20 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 27 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

- 0 Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery pump installation issued with certificate of testing.
- 9 Stage I Petrol Vapour Recovery underground tank applications assessed

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with certificates of compliance.
- 0 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with reminder letters.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Planning & Development

- 23 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 2 compliance checks on conditions relating to existing permissions

Control of Dogs - Dog Licenses - 255 reminders were sent out during this month, for licences which are due to expire within a four week window. 306 licences were purchased in June, with 139 (or 45%) purchased on-line at Licences.ie.

Identification of Bathing Waters 2023

Wicklow County Council is asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment.

If you are a regular swimmer and want to help your Council decide which bathing areas should be classified as such, it might be helpful to consider the following:

- How your swimming area has been used up to now;
- How many people use the site;
- What facilities exist at the site and how accessible it is;
- Any safety issues.

Advertisements were placed in the national newspapers, and on Wicklow County Council social media, requesting any interested parties to apply. Closing date is 28th September 2023.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is at the final stages of agreeing an SLA with the DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project and is preparing tender documents for consultants, based on the draft SLA.

| Arklow Harbour | Grant Available | Project Update |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon | €200,000 | Contractor appointed for supply and installation of pontoon. |
| South Quay Arklow Storage facilities | €325,000 | Tender advertised |
| Arklow Harbour welfare facilities | €100,000.00 | Location has been selected at Memorial garden. Contractor has been appointed |

| | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids | €50,000 | Project underway, main structure refurbished. New light and glass to be fitted. |
| South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon | €52,000 | Pontoon has been purchased. Awaiting finalisation of Foreshore licence before installation can take place. |
| North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space | €120,000.00 | Tender award on hold until lease agreed with Conways |
| Wicklow Harbour - concrete works | €150,000 | Concrete replacement works completed on Packet pier. Repairs to take place to North Pier after summer season. |
| Wicklow - welfare facilities | €100,000 | Location has been selected beside steps to the beach at harbour office. Contractor has been appointed |

Wicklow Harbour – Cargo Movements

| Month / Year | Ships | Single (Import or Export) | Double (Import & Export) | Transactions | Imports | Exports |
|--------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Jan-23 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| Feb-23 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| Mar-23 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| Apr-23 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| May 23 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| June 23 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2a |

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

1. Transportation

Public lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **240 – 1.57%** of total stock of 15,243. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

| Status | ARKLOW MD | BALTINGLASS MD | BRAY MD | GREYSTONES MD | WICKLOW MD | Grand Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Access Issues (Attended) | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Cable Fault (Attended) | 1 | 1 | 7 | | 4 | 13 |
| ESB Interface Required | 1 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 30 |
| ESB Required (Attended) | 8 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 43 |
| Knock Down (Attended) | | | | | | 0 |
| Materials Required | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 5 |
| No Supply | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| On Hold | 2 | | 10 | | 3 | 15 |
| Submitted | 10 | 32 | 36 | 9 | 12 | 99 |
| TMR | 6 | 2 | 3 | | 3 | 14 |
| Tree Cutting Required | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 5 |
| Grand Total | 33 | 54 | 89 | 29 | 35 | 240 |
| Percentage Not Working | 1.10% | 2.23% | 2.66% | 1.03% | 0.95% | 1.57% |

| Date | 19/06/2023 | 26/06/2023 | 03/07/2023 | 10/07/2023 | 17/07/2023 |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Access Issues (Attended) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Cable Fault (Attended) | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| ESB Interface Required | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| ESB Required (Attended) | 44 | 45 | 42 | 43 | 43 |
| Knock Down (Attended) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Materials Required | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| No Supply | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| On Hold | 11 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 15 |
| Submitted | 46 | 56 | 49 | 84 | 99 |
| Traffic Management Required | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Tree Cutting Required | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 185 | 196 | 186 | 222 | 240 |
| PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING | 1.21% | 1.29% | 1.22% | 1.46% | 1.57% |

Transportation Statistics

| | Total 2021 | Total 2022 | Total 2023 | May 2023 | June 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Solicitors Queries | 923 | 838 | 495 | 101 | 101 |
| Road closure applications | 53 | 78 | 23 | 3 | 5 |
| Road Opening licences | 1575 | 1414 | 996 | 135 | 142 |
| Abnormal Load applications | 54 | 60 | 22 | 1 | 2 |

Transportation

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding was provided to continue during 2022 or 2023. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred option took place in November 2022.

The Option Assessment and appraisal process has identified that bus priority measures are preferred within the following sections of the corridor:

- Sub-Scheme A northbound and southbound – Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 6 (Bray / Fassaroe)
- Sub-Scheme C northbound only – Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) to Junction 8 (Glenview)

The viability of delivering bus priority within Sub-Scheme B needs further examination to identify the optimum solution to meet the project objectives. This work is expected to build upon the analysis undertaken to date on the N11/M11 BPIS and J4 to J14 Schemes.

The Options Selection Report is being finalised following the completion of the public consultation and consideration of the submissions received. The final Options Selection Report is expected to be published in 2023. The TII funding allocation advised in Feb 2023 covered the progression of SS-A and SS-C only. In July 2023 TII gave approval for SS-B to proceed at the same time and integral to A and C (One Scheme).

The public consultation information is available to view on the BPIS project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works will commence at some of the locations over the coming weeks which will inform the final design option selection.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

Tenders for a Per-Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Office. The preferred feature has been selected pending the completion of the final assessment stage.

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

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

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

Technical Consultants have been appointed to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guidelines Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive). The topographical survey works are currently ongoing along the project extents.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

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

N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood

Option selection and design work is currently ongoing. TII have provided funding for this study.

A feasibility report, funded by the Baltinglass Municipal District, was prepared and submitted to TII in Oct 2021. This report considered an option for parking accessed from the N81. TII subsequently provided funding to further examine the feasibility and options. This process is still ongoing with numerous options tabled without agreement. The scheme now comprises a rural traffic calming scheme with bus stops.

The option for a parking facility has been discounted from the current scheme as TII opposed access from the N81.

TII have suggested that any the suitable parking locations should be accessed from the regional/local road network. As more significant land acquisition would be required for parking, TII suggested and agreed that a study should be carried out separately so as not to delay the delivery of the rural traffic calming and bus stop scheme.

N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works

N11 surfacing works between junctions 7 and 16 will be carried out by the N11 maintenance contractor over the period from May to September 2023. Further surfacing works are planned between Junction 5 and junction 7 on the M11 southbound and northbound from mid- September to mid-October 2023. A traffic management plan arrangement will be in place and works will be carried out at night to minimise traffic disruption.

N11/M11 Park & Ride Facilities

The NTA are currently progressing with proposals for bus based Park & Ride facilities adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6, 11 and 16. It is anticipated that some proposals will progress to statutory approvals during 2023. A project briefing by the NTA Park & Ride Team and WCC Officials for the Fassaroe Junction 6 Park and Ride location was provided to Bray MD at the June Municipal District Meeting. A further briefing to all Wicklow Co. Co. Councillors is scheduled for August 2023 in advance of the commencement of the Part 8 process.

Arklow Public Realm

The Parade Ground Public Realm works have reached a significant milestone, with substantial completion and successful snagging. Currently, the project is in the 12-month defects period, during which any necessary remedial works are addressed. The contractor has approached the conciliator to discuss the appointment and agree on a mutually acceptable timeline for the resolution of any remaining issues.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

We are currently in the process of reviewing route options for specific sections of the proposed greenway route. As part of this review, updated ecological surveys have been conducted for those sections. Our team is diligently working on preparing the necessary documents and reports to identify the emerging preferred route for the Greenway.

In line with our commitment to stakeholder engagement and transparency, we are planning a public consultation on the emerging preferred routes. This consultation is scheduled to be held in the third quarter of 2023.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope. Simultaneously, they are conducting a value engineering exercise specifically targeted at this aspect of the project. The objective is to bring the scheme within the budget limits currently in place.

Reduced scope town centre works presented at Baltinglass Municipal District meeting. Draft tender drawings issued to WCC with tender package to be received shortly for final review.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

The current focus of the project is on the detailed design phase, including the preparation of associated documents such as the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation. These efforts are crucial in order to advance the scheme towards obtaining statutory approval. Given the potential impact of the project on the Poulaphuca Special Protection Area (SPA), it is necessary to prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to assess and document any potential effects on the SPA. Once the detailed design and associated documents, including the NIS, are completed, the project will proceed to seek statutory approval from An Bord Pleanála.

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

The consultants are making steady progress in the detailed design phase and are currently focused on preparing the tender documents for the construction phase which are anticipated to be issued in Q3 of 2023.

Redford Junction

The project is currently underway and we have commenced the preparation of the detailed design and tender documents. This essential work will pave the way for the project to move forward into the construction phase.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow County Council has recently engaged consultants for the project, and their work is already in progress, focusing on data gathering. Additionally, the consultants are actively organizing detailed environmental surveys, which will play a vital role in shaping the route options and conducting constraint studies.

In April, a productive meeting took place with Irish Rail concerning the East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project. During this meeting, an agreement was reached to facilitate the sharing of environmental data, fostering collaboration between the involved parties.

Meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took place in June. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage with the NPWS and discuss important aspects related to the project.

Blessington eGreenway

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, planning documents were officially lodged with An Bord Pleanála, with a deadline of 4th March 2022. Subsequently, on 16th March 2023, An Bord Pleanála issued a request for further information, and the response was initially due by 8th June 2023. In order to accommodate the extensive additional surveys and the substantial volume of material to be produced, an extension was granted by An Bord Pleanála. The revised submission deadline has been set for January 2024. Work continues in preparing the response for An Bord Pleanála.

Bridge Rehab works;

The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 5 bridges and another has been prepared for full investigation anticipating structural repairs. The five bridges are Donard, Ballinclea, Kippure, Old Court x2.

The seasonal window for in water works has begun and the crew expect to complete the first of four bridges requiring such works, on the Sally Gap, next week.

An ecological assessment has been done on these bridges and method statements for the works agreed with Inland Fisheries Ireland and communicated to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Machinery Yard;

The HVO tank has been installed and a Fire Safety Review request will be sought from the Fire Authorities before commencement of the trial.

Surface Dressing;

Works in the Wicklow and Arklow MDs are largely complete with one significant road in the Arklow MD due to begin shortly. Works in the Baltinglass MD will complete on 21st July.

Active Travel Updates – July

Projects Completed

Glenart pedestrian link (Arklow MD)

Pedestrian accessibility link improvements at the rear of the Woodlands housing development located between Lamberton and Glenart. The works involved the construction of a pedestrian access ramp, handrails and the installation of public lighting along the scheme.

Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)

Improved pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting.

Projects Under Construction

Arklow North Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

The design of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. Works are progressing well on site, with ongoing construction works on southbound footpath and cycle track and completion of kerbing installation on the southbound carriageway. Works should be substantially completed by mid-August.

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Progressing well, with kerbing installation on southbound carriageway to be completed, with footpath construction ongoing on the southbound carriageway.

Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany (Greystones MD)

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public transport facilities, undergrounding services, and upgrading public lighting. Construction works to be completed.

Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works are being progressed by the NTA deliverables team will be completed in three sections/phases. Works have been completed in phase one. Works are progressing in Phase 2 with the construction of the boundary wall to be completed and ongoing construction of footpath and cycle track.

Non-Statutory Consultations

Safe Routes to Schools: SS Michael and Peter Junior School and St. John's SNS (Arklow MD)

Due to the level of interest in the SRTS Schemes for SS Michael and Peter and St. John's SNS in Arklow, a non-statutory public consultation is currently ongoing and will run for two weeks until Wednesday 26th July. The consultation outlines the proposals to improve road safety and make the areas adjacent to the schools safer, so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to the schools safely.

Upcoming Consultations

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

Provision of improved pedestrian facilities and public realm improvements. Part 8 to be presented to members at the next district meeting and re-advertised in the coming weeks. Minor design changes to be included.

Project Updates

Bray Dart Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Tender assessments to be completed with the successful tenderer notified. Licence agreements to be finalised with CIE as well as agreements with landowners.

Safe Routes to Schools: St. Kevin's National School, Greystones (Greystones MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in August.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along Marlton Road, Rocky Road, R-750 and Station Road to provide strategic routes to Wicklow Train Station. Baseline Assessment and Rapid Build Options Report to be prepared by DBFL and issued to NTA.

Greystones Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Charlesland Dual Carriageway pedestrian improvement works to be presented to Greystones MD Members at the next district meeting. Rapid Build Options Report has been drafted and issued to the NTA for approval.

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics June 2023

| | Total stations | Bray | Greystones | Wicklow | Rathdrum | Arklow | Blessington | Dunlavin | Baltinglass | Carnew | Tinahely |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------------|---------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|
| Call sign | | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| Two Stations Mobilised | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fire Domestic Persons Reported | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Domestic | 19 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Fire Caravan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Road Traffic Collision (RTC) | 37 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway) | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hazardous Materials Incident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Industrial / Commercial | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| One Station Mobilised | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation | 17 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Outdoor Rural: Gorse / bushes | 22 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Chimney | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Small Urban / bin / skip / bonfire | 30 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Fire Vehicle | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Flooding | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trees Down, Make Scene Safe | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Garda Assist | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Electrical Incident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gas Leak | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| River / Water Rescue | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Oil / Petrol | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Explosion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Entrapment / Rescue / Lift | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oil Spill / Road Hazard | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Animal Rescue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lock In / Lock Out | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| False Alarm – Good Intent | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Malicious False Alarm | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mobilised into other County | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Times Stations mobilised | 173 | 37 | 30 | 31 | 15 | 20 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 7 |

There were **140 incidents** attended during the month of June 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **173 occasions** including **18** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of June 2023 **increased by 60% (65 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (May 2023: 108 mobilisations). This can be accounted for by an increase in mobilisations to RTCs (+22), gorse fires (+14), maliciously set fires in urban areas (+17) and incidents in neighbouring counties (+14).

Operational activity for the month of June 2023 **was up 32% (42 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2022** (May 2022: 131 mobilisations). The increase is accounted for by increases in RTCs (+16), gorse fires (+16), maliciously set fires in urban areas (+15) and incidents in other counties (+12).

The month of June 2023 was the hottest June on record. It was the first June with 16+°C average temperatures, exceeding the previous June record which held for 83 years. June 2023 was more than half a degree higher than June 1940. This weather contributed to the unexpected increase in incidents during the month. The hot weather was conducive to gorse fires and created conditions that meant malicious outdoor fires in urban areas could be easily set. In addition recreational travel by the public increased due to the fine weather.

Sample Incidents (June 2023)

- 01/06/2023 Dunlavin and Blessington crews attended a house fire at Hollywood. The fire was contained and extinguished. Medical assistance was provided for smoke inhalation.

- 02/06/2023 Wicklow and Arklow crews extricated a casualty trapped under an overturned tractor.
- 03/06/2023 Wicklow and Rathdrum crews fought a forest fire near Ashford for over 6 hours with the assistance of Coillte and a firefighting helicopter.
- 05/06/2023 Greystones crew fought a gorse fire near the Sally Gap for 5 hours.
- 07/06/2023 Crews from Rathdrum, Carnew and Tinahely attended a 2 vehicle RTC near Aughrim with multiple casualties.
- 11/06/2023 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a single car RTC which had left the road and rolled trapping 2 occupants.
- 22/06/2023 Greystones and Bray crews attended an overturned vehicle on fire with one occupant trapped. The quick action of firefighters saved the casualty and extinguished the fire.
- 25/06/2023 Arklow crew pumped water from a boat in harbour which was in danger of sinking.

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

- 07/06/2023 Dunlavin crew attended a derelict building fire at Killashee, with a crew from Naas.
- 08/06/2023 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended a 2 car RTC at Perrystreet Cross with 4 casualties and one car in a field.
- 16/06/2023 Dunlavin were mobilised with DFB Tallaght to an RTC involving a truck and a car at Deerpark forest.
- 30/06/2023 Dunlavin were mobilised to a 2-car RTC at Sunnyhill, Kilcullen.
- 30/06/2023 Blessington were mobilised to a single car roll-over at Eadestown.

Sample Incidents in County Wexford (7-incidents total):

- 04/06/2023 Arklow crew were mobilised Gorey crew to large sheds / kennels on fire at Ballylarkin, Inch.
- 11/06/2023 Arklow crew were mobilised with Gorey crew to a domestic house with stove on fire in Gorey.
- 13/06/2023 Arklow and Carnew crews were mobilised to an incident in Gorey where a person had been found in the river.
- 17/06/2023 Carnew crew supported Gorey crew at a 2-car RTC with 7 occupants and one person trapped at Craanford.
- 25/06/2023 Carnew crew supported Gorey crew at a 1-car RTC in Camolin.
- 27/06/2023 Arklow crew supported Gorey crew at a 2 car RTC in Inch.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incident total):

- 13/06/2023 Tinahely crew attended a 1-car roll-over RTC with a crew from Tullow close to Coolkenna.

Fire Prevention Statistics

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

| Application type | Received | Deemed Invalid or withdrawn | Requested additional information | Inspections | Recommended for Grant |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| FSCs | 2 | | 6 | | 12 |
| Revised FSCs | 2 | 1 | | | 0 |
| FSC 7-Day Notice | 6 | | | | 5 |
| Regularisation FSCs | 0 | | | 1 | 1 |
| DACs | 6 | | 4 | | 7 |
| Revised DACs | 0 | | | | 0 |
| Dispensations / Relaxations | 0 | | | | 0 |

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 26 planning files during the month of May 2023. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 21 of these files.

| Licensing | Received | Inspected | Request further info | Letter / Licence Issued | No objection entered on Courts on-line Service |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| District | 8 | 1 | | 3 | |
| Circuit | 1 | | | | |
| Dangerous Substances Act | | | | 2 | |
| Explosive Act | | | | | |

Building Control Statistics

Commencement Notices for June 2023:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 54

- 10 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 26 Opt Out Declarations
- 9 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 9 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

Of Commencement Notices received in June;

- 48 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 60 % of Commencement Notices required Revised Information requests = 32 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 6 are Compliance Documentation (18%)
 - 17 are Opt Out (53%)
 - 4 Without Compliance Documentation (13%)
 - 5 Seven Day Notice (16%)
- 261 new build residential Units including 70 Apartments
- 15 Residential Extensions
- 10 Non-Res. new builds
- 26 Valid Commencement Notices
- 3 Invalid Commencement Notices

C.N. Submissions of period prior to June, RI received & processed in June;

- 15 C. Notices re-assessed
- 9 Further Revised Information requests issued
- 14 C. Notices Validated, of which;
 - o 134 new build residential Units, including 0 Apartments
 - o 6 Non-residential Units
- 1 C. Notice Invalidated

• **Certificates of Completion processed in June 2023**

- 22 New No. of CCC submitted
- 19 Required Revised Information
- 31 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 179 new residential units plus 3 Non Res. Build

Submission Statistics

31 No. Validated CCCs related to;

21 No CCCs submitted in June 2023
10 No CCCs submitted in May 2023

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity.

191 new residential houses, 70 apartments and 15 residential extensions were notified in new submissions to LA for Commencement.

179 newly completed residential units plus 3 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in June.

Building Control continued with site inspections in June to monitor compliance with Building Regs onsite. Building Control continued to work to resolve previously issued Section 11 Compliance Requests through correspondence, discussion and persuasion with Owners, Assigned Certifiers and Developers to achieve compliance.

Revised Information requests were high in June for both Commencement Notices (submitted June and earlier) and Certificates of Compliance on Completion; 79% of Commencement Notice submissions (processed in June) & 60% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt-Out Submissions are requiring repeated Revised Information requests which results in submissions being assessed multiple times prior to validation for commencement.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022

has requested LA's to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regulations.

Civil Defence

Callout & Assists

Civil Defence provided first aid cover for Cumann na mBunscol Cill Mhantáin for their annual sports day and field events at the Shoreline sports park Greystones. Over 500 children from local schools around Wicklow attended.

Our volunteers provided first aid cover for round 2 of the gravity enduros held on Djouce mountain in Wicklow, this event was spread over two days and saw riders tackling some challenging stages.

Beyond the pale festival held on the grounds of Glendalough House in Wicklow saw our volunteers going above and beyond, assisting Efast Ireland with medical cover over 3 days. The popular festival attracted over 5000 patrons who enjoyed a happy and safe event.

As part of a national radiation monitoring exercise with Civil Defence Ireland and the EPA Environmental Protection Agency, our volunteers collected soil and grass samples across Wicklow. These samples are sent on to the EPA for testing.

Training

- 8 volunteers attended First Aid Responder training delivered by our own First Aid Instructors.
- 8 volunteers attended Cardiac First Response training delivered by our own First Aid Instructors.
- 10 volunteers complete training in Swiftwater Flood Response on the River Vartry in Wicklow town.

Parking Income

| Parking Income by Municipal District | EURO |
|---|------------------|
| Bray Municipal District | 518,697 |
| Greystones Municipal District | 145,543 |
| Wicklow Municipal District | 197,117 |
| Arklow Municipal District | 112,496 |
| Parking Permits | 46,335 |
| Parking Fines | 245,784 |
| Wicklow County Council | 1,265,973 |

Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

The following interviews were held in June 2023:

- Clerical Officer
- Executive Technician
- I.S. Analyst Developer
- Temporary Administrative Officer Bray MD (Housing)

Employee Numbers

| Employee Numbers | Q3 2022 | Q4 2022 | Q1 2023 | Q2 2023 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Managerial/Administrative | 298 | 301 | 304 | 316 |
| Professional/Technical | 116 | 126 | 131 | 134 |
| Outdoor | 264 | 262 | 260 | 260 |
| Temporary/Seasonal | 69 (Increase due to lifeguards) | 37 | 35 | 68 (Increase due to lifeguards) |
| Non DoHPLG | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 753 | 731 | 735 | 783 |

Access to Information

Freedom of Information Requests

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| June 2023: 9 | June 2022: 3 |
| Jan – June 2023: 59 | Jan – June 2022: 38 |

Ombudsman Requests

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| June 2023: 2 | June 2022: 3 |
| January – June 2023: 12 | January – June 2022: 17 |

Press Releases

June 2023 - 25

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily.

The Department of Heritage, Planning and Local Government launched a multi-media platform along with 'out of home' advertising campaign in mid June 19th. The radio, streaming and TV campaigns have come to an end but their social media campaign will continue for a number of weeks. This campaign was focused more on gathering PPSN, DOB, Eircodes as well encouraging 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register. In conjunction with this national media campaign we have also increased our presence in social and print media platforms, along with running an advertisement on East Coast Radio for a period of 4 weeks. We also forwarded static images to TD's, Councillors and Senator to share on their social media platforms. We have had a significant spike in online applications as part of both the national and local campaigns. We will have a presence at the Tinahely Agricultural Show in the Wicklow County Council stand.

We have been in contact with Nursing Home facilities with a view to visiting them to update their lists and add any additional residents. We also will be writing to the with Disabled Postal Voters & Postal Vote by Occupation voters to advise them on the position regarding their votes following the Electoral Act 2022. In September we will be engaging with Secondary Schools to register 18 year olds, as per the Department's Guidelines on the new Publicity Campaign and to provide information on adding 16 and 17 year olds to the Pending Voters List.

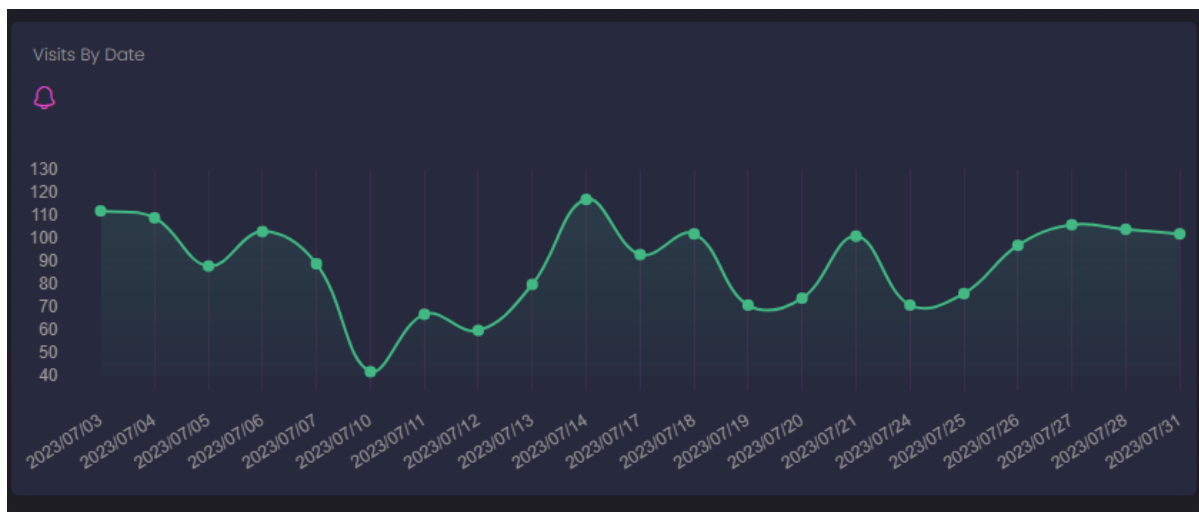
We are constantly in contact with our colleagues in other Local Authorities in the exchange of ideas and information on ensuring that all aspects of information regarding registering to vote are practiced. We are also in the process of providing assistance to the LGMA in regards to testing of the next upgrade to the iReg database system.

The Boundary Commission Report is due to be published at the end of August and we anticipate a significant amount of work to be carried out as a result of this report.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

| Customer Service Innovation Hub | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|--|---------------|
| 2023 - July | | | |
| Communication | No. | Public Counters | Transactions |
| No. of Phone Calls | 9,632 | Motor Taxation | 1,304 |
| No. of Emails | 1,184 | Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments) | 1,456 |
| No. of Elected Members Emails | 80 | Housing Counter visits | 1,152 |
| CRM Cases | 53 | Social Housing Applications • To be processed: • To be checked and validated: • Awaiting further info: | 22 1 38 |

Total in person visits for July 2023 – 1,864



Communications

Wicklow County Council #YourCouncilDay 2023 Twitter Campaign Headlines

- The @WicklowCoCo Twitter account currently has 7,958 followers.
- We shared 42 posts compared to 73 posts last year – with 159 likes and 27 retweets.
- Total impressions on the day were 13.3k compared to 24.7k last year.
- The overall #YourCouncilDay hashtag had a potential reach of 2.4m compared to 3.7m in 2022.
- #YourCouncilDay has received 2,349 tweets from 652 users generating 17,171,462 potential impressions.
- Bray MD and Wicklow County Council appears as top contributors using the #YourCouncilDay hashtag with Bray Municipal District ranked at No. 2 and Wicklow County Council No.5.

2. I.C.T.

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.
- A new Helpdesk Management Portal is currently being configured which should improve the workflow process of tickets.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.
- Deployment of devices is continuing, upgrading of hardware stock and new starts.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **County Development Plan (2022-2028)** - Proposed Variation No 1 maps have been published and are live on wicklow.ie.
- **Local Area Plans** – Continue supporting the Forward Planning section with the preparation of LAPs, in particular environmental assessments for various plans.
- **Planning Consultation Hub** – Consultation Hub has gone live for the Wicklow-Rathnew LAP. Work has commenced on further hubs for Blessington and Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole.
- **Labworks Upgrade** – The Labworks application used by the Environment Section has been upgraded to version 7.75.

Infrastructure

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

3. Finance

Revenue Account

| DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2023 | | | | | | | |
| | 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 | 23,873,208 | 42,194,421 | 57% | (25,863,869) | (46,575,078) | 56% | (1,990,661) |
| Road Transport & Safety | 8,556,810 | 24,371,150 | 35% | (4,654,309) | (16,722,878) | 28% | 3,902,501 |
| Water Services | 2,575,320 | 5,649,853 | 46% | (2,961,018) | (6,606,528) | 45% | (385,697) |
| Development Management | 7,871,092 | 14,288,049 | 55% | (5,352,163) | (8,574,520) | 62% | 2,518,929 |
| Environmental Services | 6,406,867 | 13,559,916 | 47% | (639,169) | (2,628,049) | 24% | 5,767,698 |
| Recreation and Amenity | 4,271,518 | 8,984,450 | 48% | (398,214) | (1,085,428) | 37% | 3,873,305 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 1,122,729 | 2,106,287 | 53% | (349,673) | (1,049,228) | 33% | 773,056 |
| Miscellaneous Services | 3,611,810 | 9,728,355 | 37% | (5,835,414) | (13,260,436) | 44% | (2,223,604) |
| Central Management Charges | 10,749,238 | 21,746,281 | 49% | (526,521) | (1,050,000) | 50% | 10,222,718 |
| Local Government Fund | | | | (6,910,786) | (13,821,571) | 50% | (6,910,786) |
| Commercial Rates | | | | (15,611,114) | (31,405,046) | 50% | (15,611,114) |
| | 69,038,592 | 142,628,762 | 48% | (69,102,247) | (142,778,762) | 48% | (63,656) |

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st June 2023 to 30th June 2023.

Capital Account

| CAPITAL ACCOUNT | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2023 | | | | | |
| | Opening Balance at 01/01/2023 | Actual Expenditure | Actual Income | Transfers to/from Reserves | Closing Balance at 30/06/2023 |
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Housing and Building | 17,814,239 | 40,381,150 | (35,575,356) | (356,920) | 22,263,112 |
| Road Transport & Safety | (37,383,838) | 9,213,243 | (1,595,749) | (303,860) | (30,070,205) |
| Water Services | (13,023,496) | 71,890 | 1,524,886 | (87,640) | (11,514,360) |
| Development Management | (26,681,391) | 277,640 | (7,029,407) | (193,826) | (33,626,984) |
| Environmental Services | 276,031 | 2,176,700 | (1,122,004) | (367,500) | 963,227 |
| Recreation and Amenity | (2,034,378) | 1,320,299 | (136,430) | (275,587) | (1,126,096) |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | (2,040,366) | 291,314 | (251) | (335,674) | (2,084,976) |
| Miscellaneous Services | (10,515,300) | (3,437,630) | (533,920) | 1,368,797 | (13,118,053) |
| | (73,588,498) | 50,294,605 | (44,468,232) | (552,210) | (68,314,335) |

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

| SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH JUNE 2023 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Income Collection Area | Opening Balance 01/01/2023 | Accrued | Vacancy Property Adjustments | Write Offs | Waivers | Total for Collection | Collected | Closing Arrears 30/06/2023 | Specific Doubtful Arrears | % Collection |
| Rates | 4,598,635 | 31,329,428 | (32,184) | (522,742) | (41,897) | 35,331,240 | (18,487,856) | 16,843,383 | 428,206 | 53% |
| Rents & Annuities | 3,281,584 | 8,739,921 | 0 | (70,846) | 0 | 11,950,659 | (8,635,253) | 3,315,406 | 0 | 72% |
| Housing Loans | 440,112 | 1,192,806 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,632,919 | (1,229,545) | 403,374 | 0 | 75% |

NB Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date. The rates collection, rent collection and housing loan 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.

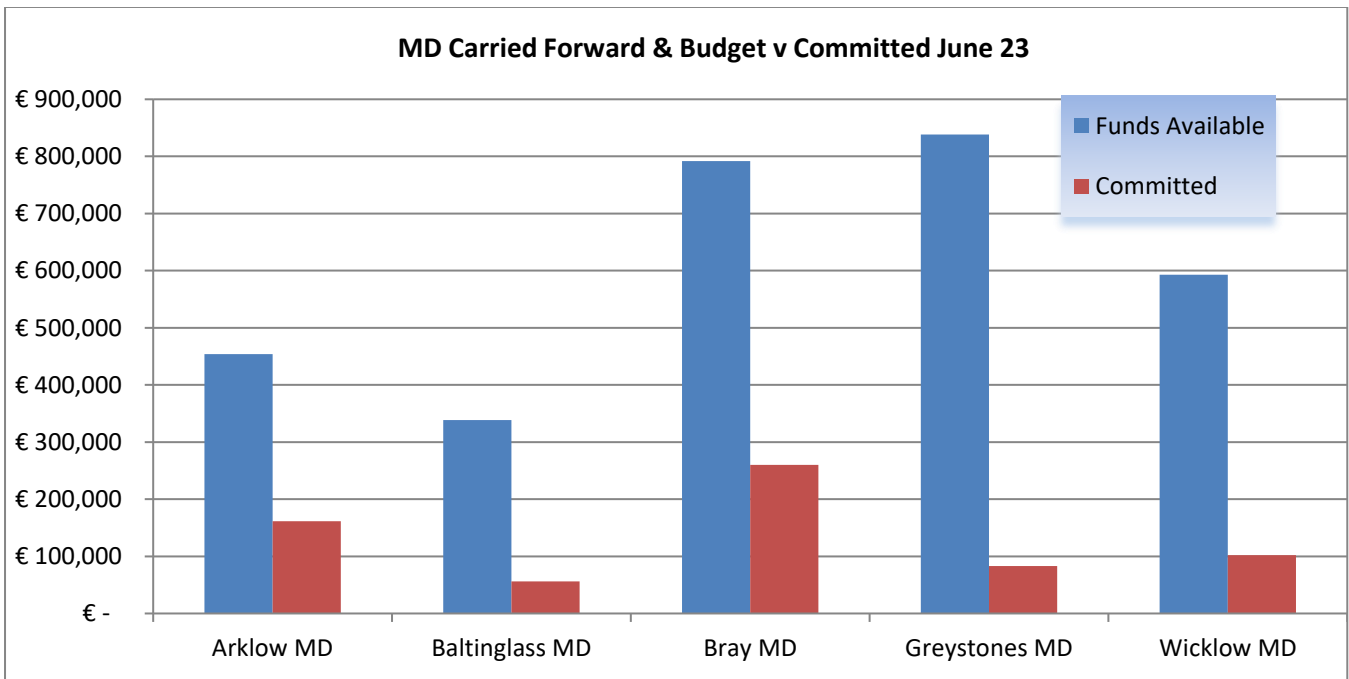
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10th 2022 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% resulted in an additional €1,110,384 in the Revenue Budget for 2023. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District’s General Municipal Allocation funding for 2023 is set out below:

| Description | Arklow | Baltinglass | Bray | Greystones | Wicklow | Total |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Town Twinning | 6,000 | 6,000 | 10,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 34,000 |
| Economic Development and Promotion | 28,000 | 10,000 | 9,500 | 10,000 | 9,000 | 66,500 |
| Christmas Festival | 20,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 80,000 |
| Festivals / Other | 5,000 | 10,000 | 32,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 62,000 |
| Civic Receptions | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 10,000 |
| Discretionary Funding | 208,197 | 208,197 | 353,278 | 208,197 | 208,197 | 1,186,066 |
| Total | 269,197 | 246,197 | 426,778 | 246,197 | 250,197 | 1,438,566 |

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '23 and expenditure for 2023 is as follows:

| Municipal District | C/F from 2022 | Adopted Budget 2023 | Funds available to MD | Committed | Balance to Expend |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Arklow MD | 184,779 | 269,197 | 453,976 | 161,330 | 292,647 |
| Baltinglass MD | 92,215 | 246,197 | 338,412 | 56,033 | 282,379 |
| Bray MD | 365,206 | 426,778 | 791,984 | 259,898 | 532,086 |
| Greystones MD | 592,012 | 246,197 | 838,209 | 83,088 | 755,121 |
| Wicklow MD | 342,471 | 250,197 | 592,668 | 102,122 | 490,546 |
| Total | 1,576,683 | 1,438,566 | 3,015,249 | 662,470 | 2,352,779 |



Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

The Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 3rd 2023. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

| PROGRAMME GROUP | Expected Outlay | | | | Proposed Funding | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | TOTAL | Dev Charges ¹ | Loan | Grant Aid ² | Other ³ | TOTAL |
| | € | € | € | € | € | € | € | € | € |
| HOUSING AND BUILDING | 131,973,000 | 111,600,000 | 110,500,000 | 354,073,000 | - | 30,000,000 | 317,055,000 | 7,018,000 | 354,073,000 |
| ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY | 22,234,170 | 50,280,424 | 55,097,634 | 127,612,228 | 28,687,388 | 7,000,000 | 83,774,840 | 8,150,000 | 127,612,228 |
| WATER SERVICES | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 300,000 | - | - | 300,000 | - | 300,000 |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT | 13,400,000 | 2,650,000 | 2,935,000 | 18,985,000 | 1,400,000 | - | 11,870,000 | 5,715,000 | 18,985,000 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | 5,630,000 | 18,200,000 | 29,350,000 | 53,180,000 | - | - | 42,630,000 | 10,550,000 | 53,180,000 |
| RECREATION AND AMENITY | 9,420,327 | 10,297,355 | 13,975,000 | 33,692,682 | 13,370,536 | - | 19,522,146 | 800,000 | 33,692,682 |
| AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE | 3,375,000 | 12,772,000 | 18,300,000 | 34,447,000 | 1,781,250 | - | 29,229,650 | 3,436,100 | 34,447,000 |
| MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES | 800,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 1,600,000 | - | - | - | 1,600,000 | 1,600,000 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 186,932,497 | 206,299,779 | 230,657,634 | 623,889,910 | 45,239,174 | 37,000,000 | 504,381,636 | 37,269,100 | 623,889,910 |

Capital Funded Projects

| Project Scheme | Project Name | Project Cost | Match Funding |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| NRGF | Blessington Greenway | €15,000,000 | €0 |
| URDF | Arklow Historic Town Core | €3,134,684 | €783,671 |
| URDF | Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square | 7,034,879 | €2,407,470 |
| URDF | Bray Public Transport Bridge | €8,600,000 | €1,000,000 |
| URDF | Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration | €9,520,000 | €2,380,000 |
| RRDF 2019 | Blueprint for Baltinglass | €3,566,968 | €891,742 |
| RRDF 2020 | Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy | €477,000 | €119,250 |
| REDF | Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub | €3,500,000 | €2,000,000 |
| Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns | Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town | €1,000,000 | €500,000 |
| Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme | Market Square Wicklow Town | €119,000 | €19,000 |
| Community CCTV Scheme | Greystones CCTV | €115,000 | €75,000 |
| Community CCTV Scheme | Blessington CCTV | €115,000 | €75,000 |
| WCC | Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan | €50,000 | €50,000 |
| ORIS 2018 | Avonmore Way Link Bridge | €460,000 | €91,000 |
| ORIS 2018 | Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park | €165,157 | €33,031 |
| ORIS 2018 | St. Kevin's Way | €200,000 | €40,000 |
| ORIS 2018 | The Spinc | €160,000 | €30,000 |
| ORIS 2019 | Wicklow Way Infrastructure Enhancement | €25,000 | €5,000 |
| ORIS 2019 | Baltinglass Road Cycle Trails | €11,000 | €2,200 |
| ORIS 2019 | North Wicklow Trails Network Development | €190,700 | €38,140 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Avondale Avonmore | €20,330 | €2,033 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Trail Digitising | €19,600 | €1,960 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Tinahely | €20,000 | €2,000 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Stratford | €20,000 | €2,000 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Long Distance Video | €21,400 | €2,140 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Brockagh Mountain Access | €11,100 | €1,110 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | People Counters | €22,000 | €2,200 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Sean Lenihan | €21,200 | €2,120 |
| ORIS Measure 1 2020 | Glenmalure Bridge | €12,500 | €1,250 |
| ORIS Measure 3 2020 | Bright light Blueway | €554,820 | €55,482 |
| Sports Capital Programme | Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment - | €52,500 | €2,750 |
| Sports Capital Programme | Coral Wicklow | €68,759 | €20,628 |
| Sports Capital Programme | Coral Arklow | €28,999 | €8,700 |
| Sports Capital Programme | Arklow Running Track | €62,434 | €18,730 |
| Sports Capital Programme | Dr. Ryan Park | €45,320 | €13,596 |
| LSSIS | Wicklow Swimming Pool | €1,646,052 | €493,816 |
| LSSIS | Charlesland Running Track | €411,674 | €123,502 |
| CLAR 2019 | Rathcoyle NS | €55,556 | €2,778 |
| CLAR 2019 | Knockananna | €46,000 | €3,000 |
| CLAR 2021 | Knockananna community allotment | €10,830 | €1,083 |
| CLAR 2021 | Askanagap | €55,557 | €5,557 |
| CLAR 2021 | Knockananna | €27,514 | €2,501 |
| Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022 | Wicklow Libraries | €26,500 | €2,650 |
| REISS (REDF) | Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre | €249,500 | €49,900 |
| | Sub-Total | €56,954,532 | €11,361,989 |

| Project Scheme | Project Name | Project Cost | Match Funding |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| T&V 2018 | Blessington | €100,000 | €20,000 |
| T&V 2018 | Wicklow | €150,000 | €30,000 |
| T&V 2019 | Dunlavin | €26,216 | €2,623 |
| T&V 2019 | Coolkenno | €30,000 | €3,000 |
| T&V 2019 | Aughrim | €119,500 | €17,925 |
| T&V 2019 | Redcross | €100,000 | €20,000 |
| T&V 2019 | Delgany | €37,000 | €3,700 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Bundled | €28,000 | €2,800 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Dunlavin | €4,950 | €495 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Roundwood | €40,000 | €4,000 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Ballinaclash | €44,000 | €4,400 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Enniskerry | €44,000 | €4,400 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Laragh | €27,000 | €2,700 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Tinahely | €5,500 | €550 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Baltinglass | €10,000 | €1,000 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Arklow | €39,500 | €3,950 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Wicklow | €44,444 | €4,444 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Greystones | €44,444 | €4,444 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Rathdrum | €27,000 | €2,700 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Broadband Connection Points | €44,444 | €4,444 |
| T&V 2020 (Accelerated) | Kilcoole | 20,000 | 2,000 |
| T&V 2020 Main | Stratford | €200,000 | €22,222 |
| T&V 2020 Main | Avoca | €100,000 | €11,111 |
| T&V 2020 Main | Enniskerry | €100,000 | €11,111 |
| T&V 2020 Main | Annamoe | €100,000 | €11,111 |
| T&V 2021 | Ballinaclash | €70,000 | €7,000 |
| T&V 2021 | Donard | €29,000 | €2,900 |
| T&V 2021 | Wicklow | €245,931 | €24,593 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 1 | Kilmacanogue Nature Trail | €20,000 | €2,000 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 1 | Lacken Mass Path | €18,000 | €1,800 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 1 | Kilcoole Mass Path | €13,000 | €1,300 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 1 | Avonmore Kayak Project | €16,500 | €1,650 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 1 | Age Friendly Triobikes for older people | €23,160 | €3,160 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 1 | Keadeen Access | €13,500 | €1,350 |
| ORIS 2021 Project Development | Three Trout Route | €50,000 | €5,000 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 3 | The Sugarloaf Repair | €500,000 | €50,000 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 2 | Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link | €180,000 | €18,000 |
| ORIS 2021 Measure 2 | Cliff Walk Protection Scheme | €220,000 | €22,000 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | Avonmore Way | €33,000 | €3,300 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | Ballyboy Equestrian Trail | €33,000 | €3,300 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | Glen Turn Cliff Walk | €33,300 | €3,600 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | Miners Way | €28,000 | €2,800 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | Red Kite Loop | €33,000 | €3,300 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | West Wicklow Access Points | €33,000 | €3,300 |
| ORIS 2022 M1 | Wicklow Uplands | €33,000 | €3,300 |
| ORIS 2022 M2 | Blessington Greenway Link to Russborough 2022 | €198,200.00 | €19,820.00 |
| ORIS 2022 M2 | Glenmalure Riverside Walk & Recreation Area 2022 | €133,100.00 | €13,310.00 |
| ORIS 2022 M2 | Coolkenno Equestrian Trail 2022 | €220,000.00 | €22,000.00 |
| ORIS 2022 M3 | Roundwood Recreation Area 2022 | €550,000.00 | €55,000.00 |
| | Total to date | €61,167,221 | €11,830,902 |