

**Wicklow County Council**  
**Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

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### **This month:**

#### **WICKLOW STUDENTS SET FOR NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FINAL**

Teenage entrepreneurs from Greystones Community College and Colaiste Bhríde will represent Wicklow at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Final in May, the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has announced.

The students all took part in the County Wicklow final on 27<sup>th</sup> February, which was held at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew. An estimated 140 students from 13 schools took part in the annual Award ceremony locally, while 18 schools and 1300 students participated in the 6 month Enterprise programme.

The enterprise education initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country, saw over 30,000 students from just under 500 secondary schools take part in 2024/2025 event. The programme supports students to create, design and market their own business, all with the hope of reaching the National Final.

During the event the mini businesses are visited by a number of judges who assess their stand and their presentation, separately the business founders also deliver a business pitch in the Dragon's Den. There are over 7 prizes awarded in addition to the overall prizes, these range from Best Innovation, Best Intellectual Property, Best Sales and Marketing, Best Stand and Best Presentation.

#### **WICKLOW'S YOUTH BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

Blessington Community College is proud to host the county's inaugural Youth Biodiversity Conference, organised by the school's Student Environmental Council. Students from first to fifth year have been actively engaged with a range of environmental topics, and this conference aims to further these efforts by involving even more students. Wicklow County Council is supporting the event, which will take place on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, from 10:30am to 1:30pm.

Invitations have been extended to three additional secondary schools — Coláiste Bhríde from Carnew, Scoil Chonglais from Baltinglass and St. Kevin's Community College from Dunlavin — to encourage broader participation in biodiversity initiatives across the county. Various political representatives, community groups, and policymakers have also been invited to join the event.

The primary objective of the Youth Biodiversity Conference is to amplify the voices of young people, empowering them to speak out about the ongoing biodiversity crisis and inspire further action. The organising committee has carefully selected key topics to ignite passion and foster a lasting commitment to sustainability among attendees. As part of the process the students of Blessington Community College will have a number of Biodiversity workshops on various biodiversity topics, where students from the committee can present their own findings with conference participants.

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### Social Development (Housing & Community)

#### Housing

	February 2025	February 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	95	113
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1358	1420
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	22
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	21	25

#### Allocation of Social Housing

	February 2025	February 2024
Wicklow County Council	7	9
Approved Housing Bodies	4	23

#### Social Housing Stock

	February 2025	February 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5034	4905
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€340,081.97	€326,199.60
Arrears (Including Bray)	€3,066,687.00	€3,138,362.75

#### **Rent**

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019
- 2 Schemes in the County – one in Bray and one for the rest of the County (new tenants in Bray now go onto Wicklow Scheme)

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### Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/01/2025
Arklow	933
Ashford	387
Aughrim	40
Avoca	37
Ballinaclesh	7
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	117
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	254
Bray	1099
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	72
Conary	4
Coolboy	4
Delgany	226
Donard	15
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	48
Glenealy	11
Greystones	310
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	10
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	2
Knockananna	6
Laken	1
Laragh	13
Newcastle	12
Ntmk	60
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	61
Rathnew	118
Redcross	2
Roundwood	33
Shillelagh	25
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	28
Wicklow	257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4307</b>

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### Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

The Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) 2024 is the continuation of the ongoing process of annual assessments of national housing need. It provides vital data to inform the ongoing development of housing policy. The purpose of the process is to identify the current level of national housing need. At county level, it captures the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The social housing applications were reviewed from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The data on the housing needs for Wicklow was returned to the Department by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

- Forms issued to the social housing support applicant.
- Advertised in paper and on local media to remind applicants to complete and return these forms.
- Reminder letters issued to applicants.
- Follow up emails and phone calls to the applicant.
- Review of list by housing teams – Homeless, Traveller accommodation and Tenant Sustainment Officers.
- Reports on the Social Housing application list were generated from the Ihouse System.

### Re-Let's / Voids

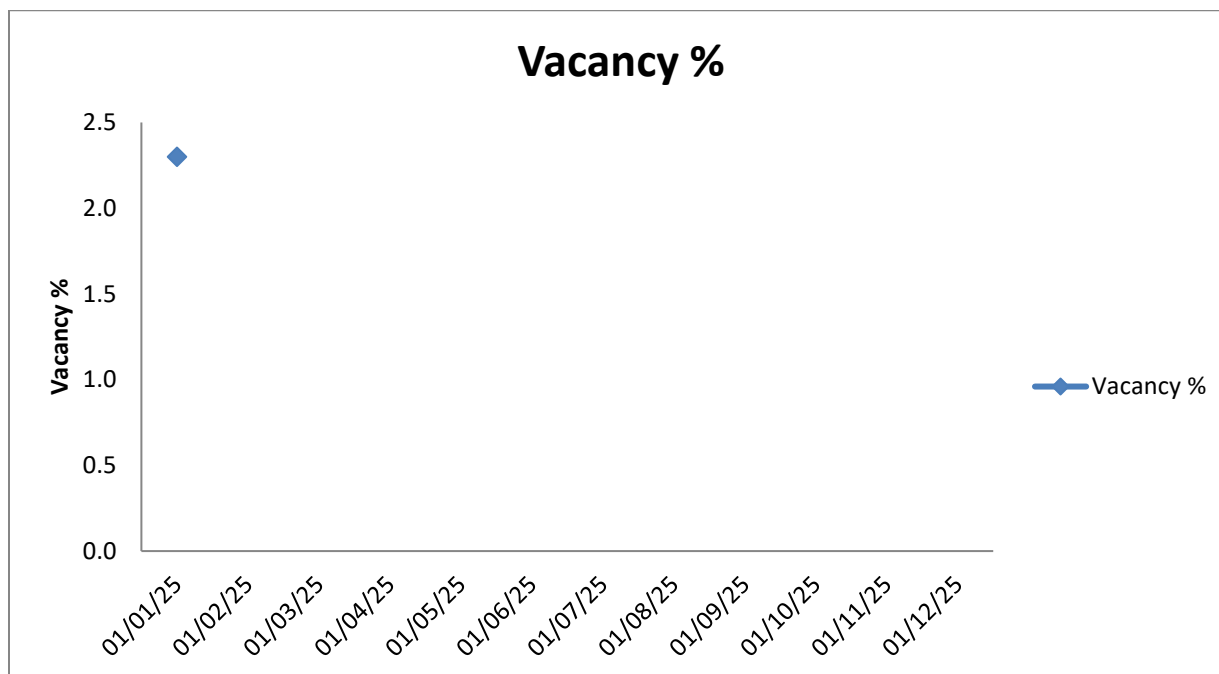
MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	5 (0)	6 (-1)	6 (+1)	11 (+4)	23(-4)
Baltinglass	11 (0)	7 (+3)	5 (-1)	11(0)	23 (+2)
Bray	0 (0)	5 (0)	11 (0)	7(-1)	23(+1)
Greystones	2 (0)	4 (0)	4 (+1)	6 (+2)	14(+7)
Wicklow	16 (0)	12(+5)	20 (-3)	10(-2)	42 (+3)
<b>2025 Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34 (+4)</b>	<b>46 (-3)</b>	<b>45(+3)</b>	<b>125 (+20)</b>
<b>2024 Totals</b>	<b>110</b>				
<b>Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Figures in brackets indicate change on last month</b>			

A new local area maintenance framework was setup in 2024. 17 contractors were appointed to cover all five Municipal District areas for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants.

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The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €31,000 per house in 2022 and €35,500 per house in 2024.



Note: No occupied tenancy data available in June/July/Oct/Nov 2024

According to CSO Census 2022 data:

Total No of rented properties in the state	513,704	100%
No of properties rented by Private landlords	330,632	64.4%
No of properties rented by Local Authorities	153,192	29.8%
No of properties rented by AHBs	29,880	5.8%
No of vacant houses (including Holiday Homes) in Co Wicklow	4,320	
Average no of WCC vacant units (using 2023 figure)	140 (3.2% of total vacant houses in the county)	

The overall vacancy rate for rental properties (private and social) on Census night was 7%, so our vacancy rate is less than half the overall rate for a rental sector where Local Authorities account for only 29.8% of the properties. Also, Wicklow County Council's vacant units only account for 3.2% of the total number of vacant units in our county.

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### Housing Maintenance

Planned Maintenance in the form of electrical remedial works has been completed at Parkmore in Baltinglass. Protech Electrical is currently carrying out remedial works at Palladius Park in Donard and will then move on to Mallinswood, Grangecon.

Gas and oil boiler servicing and repairs continue in all MDs. Checks for fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are part of the boiler service visit and any missing or time expired alarms are replaced. Heat Pump maintenance contract documents are currently being prepared, and tender competitions will be run on [www.supplygov.ie](http://www.supplygov.ie) shortly.

Housing crews are also currently replacing fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in our housing stock following a request sent out for replacements needed at the end of 2023.

### Core Capital Programme

#### (i) Traveller Accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date May 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 Expected Q2 2025.
Vale Road Arklow	Preliminary Design

#### (ii) Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Expected completion Q3 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Commenced on site

#### (iii) Energy Retrofit Program

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



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EERP	Numbers carried out as of February 2025
Houses retrofit	12



Retrofit Scheme at Monastery Grove. Completed nominated for ICE/LAMA Award

### **Mortgage To Rent**

A total of 52 households are tenants of Wicklow County Council through the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and as such pay a weekly rent to WCC. WCC leases these properties for a 25-year period from Home for Life, all 52 properties have been inspected, and our housing team administers the monthly lease payments to Home for Life.

MTR	Numbers of inspections and sign offs as of February 2025
Mortgage to Rent Properties	0

### **Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement**

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. **Housing For All** requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approximately 1500 properties in County Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out last month (February)
Targeted and complaint inspections	41

So far in 2025, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

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Notice Type	Served so far in 2025 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	31 (-6)
Prohibition Notice	9 (0)

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council's website and there are currently 6 such notices (the oldest dates back to 2020). Note that in the case of properties subject of HAP, service of a Prohibition Notice results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

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

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

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

### **Assessment criteria**

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

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

In 2024, Wicklow County Council delivered 7 acquisition units and 4 construction units, in partnership with Ark Housing Association (3), Sunbeam House Services (3), National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (NAHVI) (1) and St John of Gods (4 construction units).

### **Active projects 2025**

Wicklow County Council is currently actively working with Ark Housing, Sunbeam housing association, Newgrove Housing Association, Túath, Depaul Housing, Tiglin and Peter Mc Verry Trust to drive projects to completion.

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Due to be delivered Qtr. 1	CAS

Active new CAS projects at present include the acquisition of a property by Ark Housing to deliver to persons at risk of homelessness and Tiglin actively seeking to acquire a property to accommodate a care leaver category of housing need.

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

#### Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of February 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	TBC	N/A
Grant Funding for Social Housing	TBC	N/A

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	101

#### Local Authority Home Loans up to February 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
12	5

#### 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	<u>To Date</u>	<u>February 2025</u>
<u>Applications Received</u>	466	0
<u>Completed</u>	110	4
<u>Declined</u>	280	0
<u>Ongoing</u>	15	15

#### Housing Acquisitions

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage like previous years, have devolved arrangements through the Local Authorities to focus on acquiring properties where a tenant in receipt of social housing supports, including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and has received a Notice of Termination (NOT) due to the landlord's intention to sell the property.

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2024	6	6	5	17
2025 (to 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025)	0	0	6	6

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(Apt 19 Parkview Villas, Blessington – sale closed 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024)

### House Purchase Enquiries (To 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025)

Total Received to date	Early Enquiry EOI Received	Closed -did not Progress with Purchase	Sale Agreed	Due Diligence Ongoing
6	0	0	0	0

### Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

There are currently 98 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
53	48	8

### Homeless Services

#### Homeless Figures for February 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 28/02/2025	Year To Date	As at 29/02/2024
No of New Presentations	27	58	22
No. of Repeat Presentations	9	10	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	9	22	7
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	30	54	14
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	3	1
No. of Children	15	40	12
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	9	5

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Family Circumstances	5	23	9
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	3	3	2
Mental Health	1	2	1
Risk of Homelessness	22	36	9
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	1
Addiction Issues	0	1	3
DV/DA	1	5	1
Medical Issues	0	0	0
Overcrowding	4	6	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	2	3	3
ASB:	0	0	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	2	2
Sofa Surfing*	3	5	1
Staying with Family*	4	9	7
Staying with Friends*	2	9	2

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 28/02/25	
Families	17
Adults	32
Children	41
Single individual	4

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 29/02/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	25	24	11	4	3	1	4

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28/02/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	26	24	5	7	4	2	5

### Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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- 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, 611 households (427 families & 184 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. (241 homeless cases, 342 prevention cases to date and 28 direct provisions). 153 properties were sourced by WCC.

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

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

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

There are 9 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon. There is continuous transition by the clients to suitable alternative accommodation.

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

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

Dublin Simon are engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of three 1-bed units, two 2-bed units, and two 3-bed units. Eleven 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-months STA (Supported Temporary Accommodation) with key working support to enable families to transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP, or alternative longer-term accommodation.

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

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

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

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

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### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

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

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

### **Housing First**

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 18 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

### **Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026**

The plan was approved by the elected members of Wicklow County Council at the Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025**

- Three-year strategy published 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Focus on ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24 through:
  - Prevention of young people from entering homelessness
  - Improving the experience for young people accessing emergency accommodation
  - To assist young people exiting homelessness
- Multitude of stakeholders all with vital roles in addressing fundamental issues

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### Community

#### Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The launch of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was announced on the 7th of November 2024 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

This fund is being provided by the government to support community and voluntary groups, totalling €7 million to be allocated across the local authority network.

County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, details of which were shared by Ministers Humphreys and Joe O'Brien TD. The allocation is broken down as follows:

	<u>Capital Allocation</u>	<u>Current Allocation</u>	<u>Total Allocation</u>
<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>€170,609</b>	<b>€28,435</b>	<b>€199,044</b>

Under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, there will be €6 million in capital funding available nationally to assist community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. This funding can be used for minor capital works, improvements to facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use.

Additionally, this year's fund includes €1 million in current funding to support community and voluntary groups with non-pay running costs, such as energy bills (electricity, refuse charges, heating), and other operating expenses (rental or lease costs, insurance bills).

The Department of Rural and Community Development administers the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 through Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), with support from Local Authorities in each area.

It should be noted that groups applying under the €1 million current fund are not precluded from applying for the capital funding and vice versa.

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

**Applications for funding closed on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and the assessment process will be underway shortly.**

#### Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

In March 2024, Wicklow County Council welcomed the announcement from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, along with her colleague Minister Joe O'Brien TD, regarding the allocation of €1,584,550 to Wicklow under the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. This funding is part of a larger investment of €50 million in national funding for project delivery over 2025 and 2026.



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The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced last year to recognise the significant efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting newcomers to Ireland. The fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, acknowledging the contributions made by local communities in accommodating arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Eligibility for this scheme is limited to areas with high levels of new arrivals. Funded projects must be capital in nature, provide medium- to long-term benefits for their communities, and be capable of being completed in 2025 or 2026.

Earlier this year, Wicklow County Council sought expressions of interest for project proposals during the scheme's first phase, resulting in the approval of €694,300 for seven community projects\*.

The final application window closed on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Wicklow County Council are currently awaiting a decision from the Department of Rural & Community Development on the success of the proposed projects.

This final application window of the CRF scheme was advertised in the Wicklow People, Wicklow Times, WCC Instagram Facebook and X pages, WCC website, and PPN Facebook page.

A Community Recognition Fund online information session was held online on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. This was very well attended by a number of community groups and elected members. The session focussed on breaking down the scheme outline and the main criteria for this funding.

### \*CRF 2024 Phase 1 Approved Projects

Wicklow	Carnew	Old Coolattin County Club CLG and Wicklow County Council	Carnew Community Land Development	€150,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Dunlavin GAA Club	Development of multi-use games area	€144,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Imaal Hall Committee	Facilities Upgrade	€60,800
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy	Newtown GAA	Development of a Walkway	€100,000
Wicklow	Arklow	Arklow Town Team	Upgrade to St. Peter's Place Playground	€135,000
Wicklow	Bray	Bray Area Partnership	Purchase of new vehicle	€50,000
Wicklow	Rathdrum	Rathdrum Playground Committee	Park Placemaking Project	€54,500
<b>Wicklow Total</b>				<b>€694,300</b>

The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the full details of the scheme (including funding allocations).

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### Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

The projects below are nearing completion, with most having estimated completion dates of early 2025.

	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Bray Community Centre</b>	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting, flooring and heating system improvement works
	External works including windows and doors replacement, safe removal of asbestos, exterior painting,
	Other works will include accessible lift, protected stairway works, insulation upgrade, landscaping and signage
<b>Baltinglass Community Park</b>	Riverside Walking Path
	New Playground
	MUGA Refurbishment
<b>Bray Parish Centre (Completed)</b>	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings
<b>Wicklow Town Placemaking Project</b>	Refurbishment of Assembly Hall (total area 2,000 sq. ft) to include new heating system, Internal painting, insulation, install 3 phases, refurbish kitchen, toilets and meeting room areas. Make universally accessible
	Installation of universally accessible outdoor community gym facility along the Murrough, in order to extend upon and complement the existing community facilities present.
	Improvements to the seafront promenade linking Wicklow Harbour to the existing Murrough community facilities and beyond to the Murrough coastal walk.
<b>Arklow Playing Pitch</b>	Groundworks and surfacing works
	Multi use pitch and fencing
	Landscaping
<b>Rathdrum Community Park</b>	Groundworks, Fencing, Gates
	Landscaping, large planters and benches
<b>Greystones Community Park</b>	Boules/pétanque playing ground
	Landscaping and Community Placemaking



### County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

#### **Older People's Council, Executive Group - Meetings and Representation**

The Older Peoples Council met on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 to discuss upcoming events for 2025.

OPC Executive is planning for wider engagement with older people across the county and recruitment of more members of the OPC this year.

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Clinics for the Greystones area and Blessington area will be scheduled for 2025.

Wicklow Train Station report is to be finalised and works to begin shortly.

### **County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance**

Alliance meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. Each stakeholder gave an update on their Programmes.

“Care and Repair” for the Arklow Area – This is a programme aimed at helping the older person in the community avail of minor works being carried out around their home. Interviews will shortly be taking place. Initially this programme will be a pilot project following which a decision will be made regarding the viability of rolling out in other areas/towns within the county.

Citizens Information Centre (CIC) got Accreditation for Age Friendly Status. They are hoping to put their Arklow Office forward for the award this year.

### **Age Friendly Ireland Committee**

A Regional Programme Managers convention was held in Trim, Co. Meath in February 2025 where reports from each County were submitted. Talk shops were held on various programmes e.g. Age Friendly Town, Age Friendly Business, Training Course and the upcoming Convention in May.

### **Access Officer**

Training for Access Officer commenced in October 2024.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

The position of Co-ordinator has been filled. A meeting is to be scheduled shortly.

### **Healthy Age Friendly Homes**

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme in Wicklow continues to support older people over 65 years of age to live in their own home for as long as possible.

Since the commencement of programme in Wicklow in January 2024, the level of interest in the programme has been greater than anticipated. Consequently, a large number of referrals to the programme in Wicklow have been received, and the wait times to be seen by the Local Coordinator are longer than originally forecast.

Since her appointment to her role in January, Local Coordinator for Wicklow, Marion Van der Wel, has been conducting home assessments on a weekly basis to our programme participants. As part of her role, Marion offers a wide range of supports to our participants, including but not limited to, arranging fall detector personal alarms, helping with housing adaptation grants, organising Care and Repair services, linking-in with community services, signposting the older person to health services etc.

# Wicklow County Council

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The programme has gone from strength-to-strength in Wicklow since its inception. The 2024 projected targets for the programme in Wicklow have been exceeded, which demonstrates the success of the programme, and is a testament to the concerted collaborative efforts of the Local Coordinator and Local Authority Staff.

### Total Number Home Visits Conducted (up to February 2025):

Total Initial Visits	40
Total Additional Visits	26
Total Visits Overall	66
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	51



### Healthy Wicklow

#### **Active Communities**

Preparation is underway to include a FitStick track in Coolafancy Community Field and Shillelagh GAA. Appraisal has been completed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March for both areas by FitWalk Ireland. Healthy Wicklow has collaborated with Crosscare Youth project to reengage its members in Rathnew. Funding has also been allocated to facilitate a handball programme with the Traveller Men in CEART.

#### **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):**

Approval of SICAP Annual Plans 2025 and the Annual Performance Review of the 2024 programme is nearing completion. These will be presented to Wicklow LCDC by the programme implementers Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership at March meeting for final review and approval.

Implementation of the actions contained within each Annual Plan is currently underway with targeted supports and services being provided to the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities within the county.

#### **Public Participation Network:**

PPN Review: As Wicklow PPN is now over 10 years old a timely review of the PPN is being undertaken in conjunction with Omra Support Agency. Following an initial meeting in February, a facilitated session of Wicklow PPN will take place on 12th April which will include Stakeholders, Secretariat members, PPN Staff, Coordinator of Wicklow PPN hosting company Wicklow Travellers Group (WTG) and members of WTG board. The aim of the review is to develop a clear understanding of how the PPN should work with all its stakeholders in a respectful, prudent and efficient manner and explore roles, responsibilities and procedures.

# **Wicklow County Council**

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New job-share Resource Worker recruited to work alongside existing Resource Worker.

Ongoing progress of work of subcommittees/groups/issue-based projects: DISC (Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee); SING (Social Inclusion Network Group); Food Poverty Strategy.

The 2025 Service Level Agreement between Wicklow County Council (WCC) and Wicklow Travellers Group (WTG) pertaining to Wicklow PPN, the Memorandum of Understanding between WCC and Wicklow PPN, and the Memorandum of Understanding between WTG and Wicklow PPN has now been completed and submitted to Department of Rural & Community Development. Once approved Wicklow PPN will receive first tranche of 2025 funding.

Funding streams: Circulated information on 24 different funding streams including facilitating an online information session on the Local Enhancement Programme funding.

Consultations: Information on 12 National and 5 Local Consultations including: Co. Wicklow

Outdoor Recreation Plan; N81 Improvement Scheme; Part 8 Murrough Masterplan; Road Safety and Traffic Calming Scheme; Safe Routes to Schools Black Lion Manor, Greystones.

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

# Wicklow County Council

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### Planning, Economic & Rural Development

#### WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028 (as varied)

**Healthy Place-making, 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-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

#### **Proposed Variation No 2 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP)**

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November with 11 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members on the 10 of January 2025 for their consideration. The elected members have considered the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report and voted to make material modifications to the Variation at a council meeting on the 10 of February 2025. These material modifications were published and placed on the online consultation portal on 03 March 2025 and will be accepting submissions up to 31 March 2025. Please see below for further detail on the process of the Draft Wicklow Town –Rathnew LAP. The Variation and the Chief Executives Report are available to view here:

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

#### **Proposed Variation No 3 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Blessington LAP)**

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December with 11 submissions

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received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report on the proposed variation which was issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 31 of January 2025. The elected members have considered the recommendations of the Chief Executive's Report and voted to make material modifications to the Variation at a council meeting on the 03 of March 2025. These material modifications will be published and placed on the online consultation portal on 24 March 2025 and will be accepting submissions up to 23 April 2025. Please see below for further detail on the process of the Draft Blessington LAP. The Variation and the Chief Executives Report are available to view here:

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

### **Proposed Variation No 4 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Greystones / Delgany & Kilcoole Local Planning Framework LPF)**

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 4 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to incorporate the draft and final Greystones /Delgany & Kilcoole Local Planning Framework. This will replace the Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole LAP 2013 - 2019. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation.

### **LOCAL AREA PLANS (LAP) / LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS (LPF)**

There are 5 Local Area Plans in Wicklow for the following settlements – 'Bray Municipal District', 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew', 'Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole', 'Arklow & Environs' and 'Blessington'. We are currently reviewing all five in the following order.

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

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024 with 166 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members on the 10 of January 2025 for their consideration. The recommendations in the Chief Executives Report were considered at the regular council meeting on the 10 of February 2025. From this meeting, a number of material amendments are proposed to the Draft LAP. These material modifications were published and placed on the online consultation portal on 03 March 2025 and will be accepting submissions up to 31 March 2025. The Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan process, including the Chief Executives Report is available to view here:

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

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### **Blessington Local Area Plan**

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024 with 253 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report on the draft LAP which was issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 31 of January 2025. The elected members have considered the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report and voted to make material amendments to the draft LAP at a council meeting on the 03 of March 2025. These material amendments will be published and placed on the online consultation portal on 24 March 2025 and will be accepting submissions up to 23 April 2025. The Blessington Local Area Plan process is available to view here:

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

### **LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS (LPF)**

The new Planning Act passed into law last year does not make provision for the preparation of 'Local Area Plans' as currently provided for under Section 20 of the 2000 Act. While the Act makes provision for new types of plans, called 'urban area plans', 'priority area plans' and 'coordinated area plans', these can only be prepared where it is an objective of the County Development Plan to prepare such a plan. In the new scheme, the idea is that CDPs will include more extensive 'settlement specific objectives' (which would include zoning) such that only in particular circumstances might one of these new 'local' plans be necessary for a settlement. Once the new section of the Act is commenced, there will not be a provision that allows LAPs that have been commenced, but that are not yet adopted, to complete the adoption process i.e. any stages of LAP making completed to that date will be 'void'. All indications are that the section of the new Act dealing with 'plans' will be commenced by the end of Q2 2025 so this change appears to be imminent and would directly impact on the local area plans due to be commenced.

We have the option of adding settlement specific objectives in relation to the towns needing new local plans into the County Development Plan by way of variation. Therefore, the new set of local plans will be adopted into the County Development Plan by way of variation. This process provides a very similar plan making process to the former LAP process in that it includes public consultation, CE reports, member's decisions, material amendments etc. The plans that will be prepared will address all of the same issues as LAPs – it will only be the adoption process that will be slightly different. It is intended that the Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole plan will be the first plan to utilise this alternative process.



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### **GREYSTONES – DELGANY & KILCOOLE LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (LPF) / VARIATION**

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered. The draft LPF / Variation is currently being prepared and it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft LPF/Variation will commence display in Q2 2025.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Plan pre-draft process and the consultation portal is available to view here:

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

### **ARKLOW LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (LPF) / VARIATION**

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. DBFL have also been appointed to complete an ABTA (Area Based Transport Assessment) and prepare an LTP (Local Transport Plan) for Arklow which will underpin the Draft LPF/Variation. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house. It is hoped that the draft LPF/Variation will commence display in Q3 2025.

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

### **BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (LPF) / VARIATION**

The pre-draft public consultation for the new Bray Municipal District plan ran from the 20 November 2024 until 18 December 2024. A well-attended public open day was held on the 05 December in Bray Civic offices. An online consultation portal was prepared and 117 submissions were received. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

Portal link - <https://bray-md-lap-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

The current LAP for Bray MD is available to view here

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

### RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

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

The RZLT process has two parts:

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

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

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

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQ's:

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

Cáin ar Thalamh Criosaithe Cónaithe — Do Cheisteanna Freagartha:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/IfY-aWrYDUyZr4qbiNS27Q/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20as%20Gaeilge.pdf>

### RZLT 2025

The **draft** RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to **01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received**. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land were invited up to **31 May 2024 and no submissions were received by WCC**. Determinations on the 9 submissions were issued by 01 July. Landowners had until 01 August to appeal the decision to ABP in the determination and 3 appeals were made.

The **final** RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 31 January 2025 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2025/Liable-Land-View-the-FINAL-RZLT-maps-for-2025>

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**Submissions to Final 2025 RZLT Maps.** The final map for 2025 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2025. Owners of such land may make a request to Wicklow County Council **to change the zoning** of this land until **1 April 2025**. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2025 liability on foot of such a request. Click [HERE](#) to see more detail.

### **RZLT 2026**

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were also published on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Liable-Land-View-the-DRAFT-RZLT-maps-for-2026>

**Submissions to Draft 2026 RZLT Maps.** The **draft map for 2026** identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land – and interested third parties - may make submissions regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map – these submissions must be made by **1 April 2025**.

Click [HERE](#) to see more detail.

### **VACANT SITE LEVY**

This is the last year the Vacant Site Levy will apply. All sites currently on the register are in the process of being inspected and demands for payment will issue shortly where applicable. More information can be found online at the following link

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

### **HERITAGE OFFICE**

**County Heritage Plan Review:** The County Heritage Plan 2025-2030 was adopted by members of Wicklow County Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March meeting.

**Wicklow Heritage Forum:** Meeting held in Clermont house on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**County Heritage Plan (CHP):** Funding applications to the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan fund were submitted by the 14<sup>th</sup> February deadline. We are awaiting the outcome.

**Community Monuments Fund- CMF.** Applications under The Community Monuments Fund 2025 were prepared by Heritage Officer. Five projects were submitted to National Monuments Service before their 14<sup>th</sup> February deadline.

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### Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025- an allocation of €175,635 was confirmed for county Wicklow for 17 projects
- Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025: six project applications were prepared and submitted from County Wicklow to the National Built Heritage Service before their application deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### Development Management

#### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	To 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Received (Valid)	155	148

A total of 84 valid applications were received during February as follows:

Type of Development	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 Number Received
Individual Houses	08 (07 Rural)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	06
Other Developments**	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>

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

Housing Developments – PRR25/29 – Cedarbrick Retail Developments Ltd, 47 dwellings, Mariner's Point, Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town

PRR25/60074, Clonmel Enterprises Ltd., 71 dwellings & a retail/commercial space, Newtown Centre/Newtown Square, Blessington Demesne, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

PRR25/60087, Kelland Homes Ltd., 60 residential dwellings, Santryhill, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

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Decisions issued in respect of 63 applications in February 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	00
Other Developments	63
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	63

Decisions issued between January to February, in comparison to the same period for 2024:

	28/02/2024	28/02/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	149	128
Total Number of decisions to grant	130	108
% Grant Rate	87%	87%
No of applications withdrawn		7(4 refer to rural house)

### Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanála

#### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at **Coolagad**, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022 – Application withdrawn 22/1/2025

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at **Fassaroe and Monastery**, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE forwarded 07/06/2022 – 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 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022

ABP-314686-22 Lands at **former Bray Golf Club Lands**, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022 – Granted 19/08/2024

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### 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, Templerrainey, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow** – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

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 long-term 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** – Decision, refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 27/09/2023.

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 approved proposed development subject to 15 conditions 30/11/2023.

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

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

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### 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. Granted by ABP 16/8/2024 subject to 16 conditions.

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, bonded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. **Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.**

### E-Planning

EPlanning has now been in place since 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

For the **month of February**, a total of 84 valid planning applications were received of which 19.77% were hard copy applications **and 80.23% were received online.**

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

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Several extensions and conversions of dwellings throughout Wicklow
- Proposed development comprising 71 No. residential units and a retail/commercial space of approx. in Blessington Demesne
- Construction of 47 residential units Ballyguile More
- Alterations of previous applications
- Construction of 11 no. dwelling units consisting 4 bed and 2 bed units ranging from 2 to 3 stories in height, with 20 car parking spaces in Delgany
- Development of grid connection infrastructure comprising the laying of ca. 3.3 kilometres (3,300 metres) of medium voltage underground electricity cables and associated infrastructure substantially under public roads and private lands in Ballinaclogh
- Change of design to replace 12 number of houses in Arklow
- Construction of 69 residential dwellings in Santryhill, Blessington

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### Planning Enforcement

New Files	3
Advisory Letters	38
Warning Letters	7
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	2
Closed	16

### Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	2
Greystones	4
Wicklow	6

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

### Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

## 1.0 Town Regeneration

### 1.1 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 1.1.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, is leading the way in the development of a Town Centre First Masterplan. This masterplan offers a clear and strategic framework for the positive and sustainable development of the town, both in the short term and in the future. Currently, the implementation of the Town Centre First (TCF) plan is in the planning stage, focusing on revitalizing key areas in the town.



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Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding has been allocated specifically to redesign Main Street and Market Square, two central areas that will play a significant role in the town's regeneration. The goal is to bring these projects to a shovel-ready stage, which means they will be fully prepared for the next phase, where they can be submitted for Category 1 RRDF funding to secure further financial support for construction and development. This initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the town's infrastructure, economic vitality, and overall community appeal.

### **1.1.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan**

Newtownmountkennedy is one of 26 towns selected nationally under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town will receive €30,000 in funding to support the development of its own Town Centre First Plan, aimed at guiding the revitalization and sustainable development of the town centre, transforming it into a vibrant and thriving hub for the community. The funding is provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports. The plan must be completed, and all associated claims submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, has drafted and issued the tender document for the creation of the Town Centre First Plan. The deadline for submitting tenders was 7th March 2025. The received tenders have since been reviewed, and the selected tenderer is expected to be appointed by the end of March.

## **1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports**

### **1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1**

Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole have been approved for €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding is aimed at establishing or further developing town teams in areas where they are either not yet established or in the early stages of development. These teams will play a crucial role in driving the revitalization and sustainable development of the town centres. Originally, the deadline for drawing down the funding was set for 15th November 2024. However, an application was submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development for an extension, which was granted. The revised deadline for drawing down the funding is now 8th May 2025, giving these towns additional time to finalise their plans and ensure the successful formation of their town teams. This extension provides a valuable opportunity for further planning and preparation within these communities.

Queen's University of Belfast has won the competition to produce the Health Checks and will begin work in April 2025.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### 1.2.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

Two applications have been approved for funding under *Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Supports*;

- a) Blessington – Project will create plans to develop a high quality public space in the Market Square. Project will commission professional services to carry out a predevelopment exploration of the Market Square as a de-risking exercise for the construction phase if the project was successful in a later funding application.
- b) Wicklow Town – Project will engage a supplier/contractor to complete a comprehensive design plan aimed at improving of public lands surrounding the Black Castle in Wicklow Town and assessing the structure and condition of the Castle.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The *Town Centre First Measure 3* projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) has been actively working with the respective town teams to prepare tenders for the associated works, with tenders set to be issued to the market in March 2025.

### 1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were;

- a) Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and walls.
- b) Lacken to renovate the old schoolhouse to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section.
- c) Wicklow Towns, Murrough BMX pump track to develop into best- in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities. The Acceptance Agreements have been signed and the commencement of the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team /Community Groups in early September.

Meetings are ongoing with the respective Community Groups to review their tender documents prior to issuing to the market. A conservation architect has been appointed for the project in Lacken, as the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022-2028).

These three projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

### **1.4 Town Teams**

The process of forming a new Town Team in Newtownmountkennedy was completed in November 2024. Following this, the newly established team held its first meeting in December 2024. This marks an important milestone in the town's efforts to revitalise and develop its town centre as part of the Town Centre First initiative. The formation of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to five, joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow.

The Town Regeneration Team will now plan to form Town Teams in Bray, Rathdrum, Kilcoole, and Baltinglass in 2025.

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

#### **1.5.1 Blessington RRDF**

Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes Greenway. Meetings are being planned with the Town Team in March 2025 to progress these works.

#### **1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF**

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are almost completed. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. However, the submission was not successful. The Town Regeneration Team have met with the consultants regarding the public realm works and a finalised a first phase of the works, which will hopefully go out to tender early in Q2 2025.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

### **1.5.3 Newtownmountkennedy RRDF**

The project is at a standstill over contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions, it is hoped that agreement will be reached with the plans signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding. A revised design will also form part of the Town Centre First Plan referenced previously.

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

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

An additional property has been identified in Arklow and approval has been received from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

### **1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004**

A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. A WCC project team are meeting monthly to track progress of the project.

## **TOURISM**

### **1. SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR**

Good As Gold Company has commenced work on the VisitWicklow social media accounts. A Communication plan is being put in place for the next 10 months with the objective to maximise the reach and engagement of the various VisitWicklow social media platforms which includes Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

### **2. 'SAUVONS LES KEVINS' FRENCH DOCUMENTARY**

Wicklow County Council and Tourism Ireland France are supporting the launch of the French documentary 'Sauvons Les Kevins'. The documentary explores the origins of the name 'Kevin' and explains how in the mid 90's the name Kevin became very popular in France. The documentary includes an extensive section on Wicklow and Glendalough. French TV station Paris Premiere is airing the documentary in March with a media launch on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. The event and destination will be extensively promoted through both Tourism Ireland and Paris Premiere's social media accounts.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

### **3. FAST PACKING THE WICKLOW WAY YOUTUBE VIDEO**

As part of the EcoTrail promotion, Videographer and Influencer Jeff Pelletier was invited to 'Fast Pack' the Wicklow Way a couple of weeks before the race. Jeff created a 25 minute video showcasing the adventures that he and his partner went through over the three days on the Wicklow Way. The video was posted to his 130,000 YouTube followers, recording more than 50,000 views in just ten days. The story was relayed in Ireland by local and national media.

### **4. GLENDALOUGH AND WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND MANAGEMENT MASTERPLAN (VEMMP)**

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. Updates shared at the recent Local Advisory Group meeting include:

- Fáilte Ireland has appointed DESIGN ID as consultants to design an All Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. They will carry out full consultation with all stakeholders, local community and landowners, in conjunction with the Local Advisory Group.
- Fáilte Ireland has also appointed KSN Project Management to provide key Project Management Services to assist in the delivery of Phase 1 of the VEMMP over the next two years. These consultants will work closely with the Glendalough Partnership partners and the Local Advisory Group, to provide additional support, and consistency across actions being delivered.
- The National Monuments Service and the OPW have collaborated in preparing a brief for a Conservation Management Plan to advise on the delivery of the VEMMP. A consultant is due to be appointed imminently.
- All consultants will meet to co-ordinate aspects of their work which impact on others and will provide an update to the Glendalough Partnership.
- Wicklow County Council have arranged for traffic management, additional temporary parking and VMS signage for Summer 2025 in order to maintain a flow of traffic through Laragh and to the various car parks. This will be supplemented by a social media campaign encouraging drivers to park responsibly and respectfully.
- NPWS, working with Coillte, have secured funding for phase 3 of the Spinc upgrade. This will build on the improvements made in 2024 in removing boardwalk and replacing with aggregate trails.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

The Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds continues as planned, with expected completion later this year.

#### **Special Projects**

**GRID:** The GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District) continues to operate, with several companies occupying current office space. Fit out work continues on the remaining unlicensed offices.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** The Mill Road sites' progress is on hold pending PRA confirmation of site registration.

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** Notice of intention to seek Part 8 planning approval was advertised on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Consultation is now open and accepting submissions until 12 noon on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025.

**Marketing Plan:** The planned posts as Gaeilge scheduled for Seachtain na Gaeilge have now concluded. The #ChooseWicklow campaign will continue until April 2025, with regular social media posts each week.

#### **Offshore Renewable Energy**

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network will convene on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, to support engagement with offshore renewable energy companies and networking and plan activities for the year ahead.

#### **Skills Strategy**

The skills taskforce continues to drive implementation of the actions contained within the Wicklow Skills Strategy. Their next meeting is planned for May 2025.

#### **Food and Beverage Strategy**

Wicklow Naturally was nominated for the Irish Restaurant Awards 2025 under Local Food Hero for Wicklow. The nomination celebrated Santina Kennedy who has been working as Wicklow Naturally's coordinator since the start of the network.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

Wicklow Naturally is applying to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for funding under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) for a new food related event to be run later this year

### Local Enterprise Office (LEO):

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 TAME Is discontinued. New support: Market Explorer Grant	3 €67,887
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
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 - AOMDP
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	30
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	142
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	4

# Wicklow County Council

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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	Year to Date 2024-25
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1135

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	80
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	78

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Number of transfers	6	5	2

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Trading Online Vouchers	124	Nil TOV are discontinued	Nil

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	15	0
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	4
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	11
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	0
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	1
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	7
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	0



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### February 2025 Activities:

- **Student Enterprise Awards**

The Student Enterprise Awards took place on Thursday, 27th February at Wicklow County Campus. This event marked the culmination of a six-month enterprise training programme delivered to TY students in secondary schools across Wicklow.

- **Local Enterprise Week**

Planning is underway for Local Enterprise Week, running from 3rd to 7th March, celebrating entrepreneurship and business growth through a series of events. A key highlight includes the **LEAN Breakfast: Eliminate Waste & Increase Profit** on Wednesday, 5th March 2025.

- **Start Your Own Business Bootcamp**

February saw the launch of the **Start Your Own Business Bootcamp**, designed to support aspiring entrepreneurs.

- **Employment & Pricing Events**

Additional events focused on employment legalities and pricing strategies (**Price It Right**) took place, providing valuable guidance for local businesses.

- **Female Entrepreneurship**

LEO Wicklow continues its 2025 partnership with **Network Ireland Wicklow Branch** to promote female entrepreneurship. Over 20 networking and training events are planned throughout the year to support and connect female entrepreneurs.

- **Advanced Owner-Manager Development Programme**

The **Advanced Owner-Manager Development Programme** commenced on 27th February. This high-level management course, designed for experienced SME owners in Co. Wicklow, spans 10 weeks and includes individual mentoring. Delivered by Blaise Brosnan, the programme remains highly successful and in demand, with 19 participants in this intake.

### March 2025 Activities:

As part of Local Enterprise Week 2025, several key events will take place in Wicklow:

- **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Focus on Export: Prepare Your Business for Customs – A full-day workshop designed to help businesses navigate the complexities of importing and exporting. One-to-One Business Advice for Start-Ups – Evening consultations offering expert guidance for entrepreneurs.

- **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

One-to-One Business Advice for Start-Ups – Personalized morning sessions offering tailored support for new business ventures.

- **Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Eliminate Waste & Increase Profits: A LEAN Breakfast – A workshop focusing on implementing LEAN principles to improve efficiency and profitability.

- **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

- One-to-One Business Advice for Start-Ups – Strategic morning advisory sessions for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Start Your Own Business Course – A comprehensive evening program covering the essentials of starting and managing a successful business.

- **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Digital Marketing Advice – One-on-one consultations with marketing expert Aisling Hurley, helping businesses refine their online presence.
- Network Ireland Wicklow International Women's Day Celebration – A themed event focusing on Wealth, Wisdom, and Wellness, featuring prominent speakers sharing insights on female entrepreneurship.

### **Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme**

The training programme for Spring/Summer 2025 is open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).

### **Training which took place in February:**

- Bookkeeping for Small Business (04/02 & 11/02)
- Start Your Own Business Course (08/02)
- Legalities of Staff Employment (18/02)
- Costing & Pricing for SME's (25/02)

### **Upcoming March Events:**

- Focus on Export, 3 March, in partnership with LEO Kildare. 13 participants.
- LEAN Breakfast: Eliminate Waste & Increase Profit on Wednesday, 5th March 2025.
- Start Up Business Advice Clinics running throughout Local Enterprise Week
- 6<sup>th</sup> March: Chat GPT Training
- 6<sup>th</sup> March: Start Your Own Business
- 7<sup>th</sup> March: Digital Marketing Advice Clinics
- 12<sup>th</sup> March: Bookkeeping Using Excel (1)

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

- 18<sup>th</sup> March: Start Your Own Business
- 26<sup>th</sup> March: Bookkeeping Using Excel (2

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

### **Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity**

#### **Climate Action**

##### **Climate Actions Focus:**

- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme.**  
Moby have mobilised in Bray MD for 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Parking locations agreed for Bray, Blessington (Baltinglass MD) and Wicklow.  
Parking locations for Greystones MD under review  
Arklow under review

##### **Coastal Erosion**

- RPS Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study and have submitted an Inception report.  
OPW funding drawn down for 80% of funding  
RPS to hold meetings after Interim Report produced with interested parties
- Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)  
Communication with OPW ongoing here, WCC to prepare a scope for Jacobs to price and then possibly enter a MOU with Irish Rail

##### **Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems**

- Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete Approved by SPC to progress to full council.

##### **EV Mower**

- EV mower demonstration day held.

##### **Climate Action Officer Update:**

- Litter Management Plan – Presented to SPC on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Minor amendment recommended, Draft to proceed to internal and public consultation.

#### **Harbours and Ports**

##### **CCTV and Access Control**

Civil works are largely completed and electrical works commenced end Feb, to put in place improved CCTV and access control systems in Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

##### **Arklow Harbour**

Water has been connected to the Fishers pontoon in Arklow Harbour, and electrical works are due to be completed in March.

### **Litter/Waste Management**

No. of Complaints Created	115
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	203
No of Litter Fines Issued	3
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	6
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	3
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	23
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	8
Income - Litter	€750.00
Income- Waste Management	€1,300.00

### **Pollution Control**

#### **Pollution Response & Investigation**

- 5 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 4 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 4 Air pollution complaints closed.

#### **Private Water Supplies**

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 118 Regulated Private Water Supplies in preparation.
- 4 Private Water Supplies were monitored and available results were compliant

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

- 7 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 34 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

#### **Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations**

- 2 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- 3 Investigative samples taken in Three Trouts Stream.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

### **Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026**

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared.
- 16 Engagement activities undertaken.
- 28 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out.
- 18 domestic waste water treatment systems were found compliant.
- 10 domestic waste water treatment systems were found non-compliant and were issued advisory notices.
- 1 inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems and was found compliant with advisory notice.

### **Good Agricultural Practice Inspections**

- 0 Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
- 0 Inspection of a farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.
- 5 Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.

### **Well Grants**

- 14 New Water Grant application received
- 2 New Well granted
- 9 New Pumps granted
- 8 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 27 inspections in advance/completion of works

### **Petrol Vapour Recovery**

- 17 Installation inspected
- 1 Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
- 1 Stage Ib applications assessed
- 17 Stage Ib Installations Inspections.

### **Deco Paint Solvent Regulations**

- 1 Dry cleaner Installations issued with Certificates of Compliance.
- 5 inspections of vehicle refinishers carried out.
- 13 Paint retailers inspection for compliant products.

### **Smokeless Coal Regulations**

- 18 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
- 13 found non-compliant and requested to take corrective action.

### **Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer**

- 4 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

- 3 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
- 4 licence application to discharge wastewater to water refused.

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

- 38 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- 4 Lake samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

### **Planning & Development**

- 0 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 4 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 3 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 0 environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

### **Control of Dogs**

#### **Dog Licences**

For the month of February 2025, a total of 562 dog licences were purchased. Of this amount 255 were purchased online, which represents 45% of all licences purchased.

#### **XL Bully Regulations**

From 1 February 2025, it is illegal to own an XL Bully dog unless you have a Certificate of Exemption. The certificate means you can keep your XL Bully at your address until the end of their natural life. All XL Bully owners had to have made an application for a Certificate of Exemption no later than 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. As at that date 55 applications had been received by Wicklow County Council. A dog must be neutered for the Certificate of Exemption to issue. All dogs have until the end of June 2026 to be neutered, but the application must have been received by Wicklow County Council by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. 8 applications were received after the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

#### **Lambing Season**

The official launch of this campaign by the IFA was carried out on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at a farm in Newcastle, Co Wicklow. A number of reports of dogs worrying sheep have been reported since then, and the dog wardens have been carrying out inspections. A social media campaign is being run, by Wicklow County Council, until the end of April reminding dog owners to ensure they dogs are not allow run freely in the countryside.

# Wicklow County Council

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### Projects Office

#### **Whitestown Remediation Project**

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Tender Documents for the Outlets for Material excavated from the site and also for the main contractor are presently being prepared.

#### **Avoca Mines Remediation Project**

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.

#### **Arklow Flood Relief Scheme**

Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Site Investigation and Archaeological Investigations will be carried out in 2024.

### Wicklow Arts Office

#### **Creative Ireland Programme**

The **Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme** was assessed as part of Wicklow County Council's Creative Ireland Programme in March. Just under €38,000.00 was awarded to imaginative and community led activities throughout the county. The fund was open to application from not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups, venues and societies.

Through this fund Wicklow County Council seeks to support projects that communicate and celebrate aspects of Wicklow People and Place in creative and innovative ways. The Council makes the awards for projects that effectively capture and showcase the richness of county Wicklow's arts, culture, creativity, heritage, nature, biodiversity, and history. Wicklow County Council encourages applicants to consider presenting the work as part of key calendar events such as Culture Night, Heritage Week, and Biodiversity Week for example.

The **Sing in Wicklow Grant Scheme** was opened and will fund the professional development of choirs, singing groups, and professional choir leaders to extend valuable opportunities for community participation in choral singing. Applications close on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

#### **Arts Programme**

The **Artist Coaching and Mentorship** development Scheme was opened to applications and will close on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm. The programme is designed to cater for a range of artists at different career stages, successful applicants will work individually with four experienced coaches from the arts and cultural sector. The goals of the sessions are agreed between client and coach.

Payments were made to the successful applicants under the Individual Artist, Artist in the Community Collaboration and Arts Festival Award Scheme's. Just under 100,000 in total was invested through these awards.



# Wicklow County Council

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### Creative Places Baltinglas

Creative Places Baltinglass initial €335,000.00 investment from the Arts Council over three years completes in June 2025. An application was developed by the Arts Office in partnership with the West Wicklow Interagency Group, community and local creative consultation. The application was submitted on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. If successful the Creative Places Baltinglass Programme will continue for a further two years with a further Arts Council investment of 180,000.00.

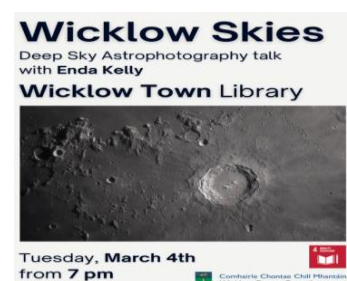
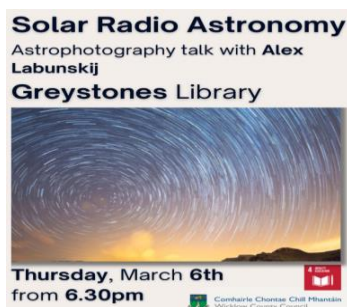
### Wicklow County Library Service

Current membership: 34,157

Number of books borrowed by end of March: 80,587

### Library Programme Highlights

- **Engineers Week:** STEPS Engineers Week aims to promote engineering and the importance of the profession to children in Ireland. For Engineers Week, Arklow, Ballywaltrim, Blessington, and Wicklow Town hosted exciting STEM workshops for children of all ages. The workshops explored various topics, including robotics, coding, AI, and mechanical computing, with the latter featuring the hands-on Turing Tumble, where children built a computer without the use of screens.
- **Astronomy Week:** Irish Astronomy Week promotes astronomy and space science across Ireland. To celebrate and contribute to Astronomy Week, our libraries (Bray, Greystones, Arklow, Wicklow Town, and Rathdrum) hosted workshops led by local astrophotographers. They brought along equipment, exhibits, and slide shows, highlighting their exceptional skills in the field. Our patrons thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and had the opportunity to see and use equipment they had never experienced before.



- **Seachtain na Gaeilge:**
- Seachtain na Gaeilge week ran in Wicklow Libraries from March 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. This celebration featured stories, songs, and music for young children, along with many other activities. Anyone4science hosted two bilingual workshops on 'How to Make a Kite,' and the Mobile Music School offered a 'Let's Explore' music workshop for young children. Additionally, we ran an Irish language poetry competition and an art competition under the theme 'Island' in Wicklow primary schools.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

- **Digital Literacy:** Blessington Library is running a four-week digital literacy course for adults across March and April. The course is supported by Transition Year students from Blessington Community College.
- **St Patrick's Day:** Professor Wadden delivered a talk exploring the life of St. Patrick examining the stories, historical evidence, and sources that shape our understanding of St. Patrick's life and legacy.
- **Health Ireland at Wicklow Town Library:** Chair yoga sessions took place across four dates in Wicklow Library.
- **Funky Fungi at Ballywaltrim Library:** A Funky Fungi Needlefelting Workshop for kids with needle Felter, Miriam Brady took place at Ballywaltrim Library on Saturday, March 1.
- **Bray Library New Junior Film Club:** Bray Library Junior Film Club has its first meeting on March 20th. They will meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6.30pm to discuss a featured film.
- **Blessington Library – World Book Day:** Pupils from the Ash Room at Blessington educate Together School visited Blessington Library to take part in a writing workshop facilitated by Fighting Words in celebration of World Book Day. Fighting Words was founded by Roddy Doyle and Seán Love and offers free workshops that encourage children to become authors of their own stories, fostering a love of literature and creative expression.
- **Arklow Library Celebrate World Book Day:** To celebrate World Book Day, Arklow Library had welcomed residents from the Asgard nursing home to the library for a special visit.

### Archives & Genealogy Service

- **Digitisation programme:** The Wicklow and Arklow Harbour Commissioners minute books are being prepared for digitisation and will be available on Wicklow.ie shortly.
- **Outreach activities:** The Archives provided a tour of its collections to the Kildare and Wicklow Adult Literacy for Life group. The John Tate's Charity exhibition was displayed in County Buildings. The Our Wicklow Women community archives exhibition was displayed in Wicklow Hospice for International Women's Day.
- **Collections management:** Arranging and cataloguing of the County Archives business archives continues - collections include records relating to milling, merchants, blacksmiths and dairy suppliers. Cataloguing of local authority collections continues with early Old Age Pension records, commencing 1908.
- **Conservation:** The next volume in our Wicklow Corporation collection is currently out for repair and conservation, covering dates 1710-1762.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Outdoor Recreation

**Roundwood:** The Roundwood Upper Loop was reopened in March following the repair of damage caused by Storm Darragh. In addition, the Roundwood Play Trail was opened for the first time and had 4812 children access the amenity in its first weekend.



**Sugarloaf:** The Sugarloaf Restoration Project was completed in March. The first three months of 2025 saw over 200,000 visitors and so it is expected that the new trail will see a huge increase in visitors to the site.

**Wicklow Trails App:** The Wicklow Trails App was launched in March, promoting the extensive trails across Wicklow to both locals and visiting tourists alike.

### Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

- **Disability Club Grants 2025:** Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership is offering a Disability Sports Club Grant to support clubs in making their activities more inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities. Clubs can apply for funding of up to €1,000 to help remove barriers and create a more inclusive environment for all participants. The closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and funding can be used towards:
  - Disability support for education and training: providing training for coaches and volunteers to enhance their understanding of inclusive practices
  - Programme activation and delivery: supporting the development and delivery of inclusive sports and physical activity programmes within their club
  - Small-scale equipment for inclusive programmes: purchasing equipment that helps adapt activities to include participants with disabilities.

- **Arklow Sports Hub Programmes**

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Activator Poles	Arus Lorcaín	13 <sup>th</sup> March	6	21	Arklow Hub

- **Chronic Condition Programmes**

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Phase 4 Cardiac Rehabilitation	Shoreline Leisure, Greystones	19 <sup>th</sup> March	8	8	HSE Seed Funding

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	Funding	No. of Participants
Women's Try Padel	Shoreline Greystones	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	6	WIS	16
Women's Resistance Training	Mel Rawl Fitness	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	6	WIS	15
Teen Roller Skate	St Kevins Dunlavin	4 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Absolute Beginner Crossfit	Blessington	4 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Women's Try Tennis	Blessington Park	5 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Inclusive Tennis for Sunbeam	Arklow Tennis Club	5 <sup>th</sup> March	1	Arklow Hub	7
Absolute Beginner Circuit Class	Shoreline Bray	5 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Absolute Beginner Spin	Shoreline Bray	5 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Inclusive Dance 10+years	Coral Leisure Arklow	5 <sup>th</sup> March	1	Arklow Hub	5
Inclusive Dance Adults	Coral Leisure Arklow	5 <sup>th</sup> March	1	Arklow Hub	5
Walking Women Tinahely Loop	Tinahely	6 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	10
Teen Girl Roller Skate	Shoreline Greystones	6 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Absolute Beginner Hyrox	Blessington	6 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Intro to Pilates	Imaal Hall Dunlavin	7 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	
Social 5km	Wicklow Town	9 <sup>th</sup> March	1	WIS	

- HSE Programmes**

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Stretch & Mobility	Roundwood Men's Sheds	11 <sup>th</sup> March	8	10	HSE Grant Aid Funding

- Training and Education**

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 3	Online	11th March 2025
Safeguarding 1	Online	25th March 2025

- Women in Sport week:** Took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

#### Transportation

##### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (18/03/2025) outstanding stands at **470 – 2.98%** of total stock of 15,792.

Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. A large number of faults also require civil works to undertake the repair, these faults require considerable planning.

317 lighting faults were attended in February, while 244 faults were logged during the same period.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
No Supply		1	6	1		8
Access Issues (Attend)	3	1	7	4	3	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		3			4
Civils	15					15
Council Approval	3				1	4
ESB Interface required	1		8			9
ESB Required	14	40	16	16	27	113
Knock Down (Attended)			3	1		4
Materials required		2	1		2	5
On Hold	4	2	7	3	5	21
Submitted	31	41	89	42	33	236
TMR	4		16		5	25
Tree Cutting Required			6	1	1	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	<b>2.39%</b>	<b>3.59%</b>	<b>4.77%</b>	<b>2.31%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.98%</b>
No. of Lamps	3178	2425	3393	2938	3858	15792
Percentage of Total Lamps	20.12%	15.36%	21.49%	18.60%	24.43%	100%
Faults Reported (February)	57	55	60	28	44	244
Faults Attended (February)	114	71	54	15	63	317

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The initial survey element of the above project has been completed. This is the initial phase of the project; the design is currently ongoing. The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in Arklow, Baltinglass & Bray MDs with c. 650 lanterns replaced.

### Speed Limits

The change to the rural local road default limits came into effect on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Signs have been erected by the MDs. Review/revision of the urban speed limits are due to commence in the coming months.

### Road Schedule

The road schedule is currently under review, with an aim to have a completed schedule available online by the end of 2025.

### Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	January 2025	February 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	179	92	87
Road closure applications	42	50	18	9	9
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	256	135	121
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	9	3	6

### M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding is provided. 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 options for sections A and C took place in November 2022.

A further non-statutory public display event was held in the Glenview Hotel in September 2023 that presented the overall emerging preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview).

The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). The Post Consultation Report which summarises the issues raised has been prepared and is available on the Project Website since the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Since December 2023, work has been progressing to develop the emerging preferred option in greater detail and to undertake a thorough environmental evaluation of the scheme.

Specifically, the reassessment of options currently being undertaken is focussed on Sub-Scheme B, between Junction 6 (Bray/Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue). Further details on the options being assessed are presented in the Post Consultation Report. This work is currently progressing, and following completion of this revisit of Phase 2, details of any revision to the final preferred option will be published. This is expected in late Q1 2025.

### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment 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

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

works were completed in November 2023. This information has been reviewed by the Design Team and the final design option has been prepared. Direct consultation has taken place with the affected residents/landowners. The procurement of a contractor for the construction works is currently being progressed by the project team in conjunction with TII.

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie). The period for submissions ended on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred options commenced on the 30th January 2025 with a display event in Germaines in Baltinglass. Submissions and observations were accepted up until 12:00 noon on 27th February 2025

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) are being prepared in advance of tendering for a contractor for construction.

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

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.

TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the traffic calming scheme. Suitable parking locations that can be accessed from the regional/local road network are being investigated.

### **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was finalised and approved by TII in October 2023. TII have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council are progressing this project to the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4).

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

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

The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023. Land acquisition and tendering was carried out during 2024 and construction work is expected to commence during Q1 of 2025

The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The Phase 2 Route Options Report has been submitted by Wicklow County Council to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for review. Following completion and approval of Phase 2 works we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation. Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners.



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### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

As of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) have granted permission for the northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road as a partial approval for a planning development. The residential development (330 units) has been refused permission by ABP. A preplanning LRD application was submitted in November 2024 based on the current Draft Blessington LAP.

### **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

The Phase 2 Route Options Selection Report is currently under way through the project design consultants. Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project.

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

The Letter of Acceptance has been issued to the contractor with a pre-construction meeting and contract signing planned for 14/02/2025. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023 and Notice of Entry issued in November 2024 with the CPO fully confirmed in January 2025. Discussions between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners are ongoing. A Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

### **Blessington eGreenway**

In January 2025 Wicklow County Council was notified by An Bord Pleanála that the planning application for the Blessington Greenway submitted Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act had been refused. Wicklow County Council with their project consultants and legal counsel are currently reviewing the decision before deciding on how to proceed.

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

TII have instructed Wicklow County Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme.

## **Active Travel Updates**

### **Projects under Construction**

#### **Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is complete, along with the drainage and public lighting works. Road edge reinstatement works have also been completed and the planting of new native hedgerow and native trees along roadside boundary are also complete. Remaining accommodation works have begun and a contractor has been appointed and is scheduled to commence the final phase of works at the end of March.



**Ballyguilemore**



**Arklow South**



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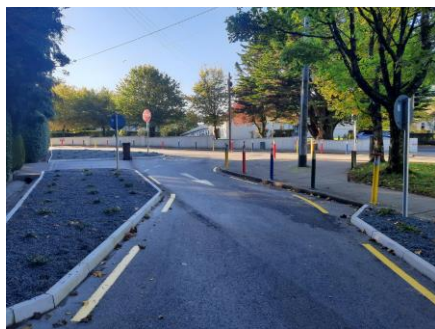
### **Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)**

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. Construction works have been completed on this project. Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit to be completed.

### **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. Front of school implementation works are completed.

New pedestrian crossing and footpath civil upgrade works are completed on Church Lane. Demobilisation and handover to school has been completed and the SRTS flyer has been issued to the school for circulation.



**Scoil Nioclais Naofa**

### **Safe Route to Schools: Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin (Blessington MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. The fronts of schoolworks, for the school zone, have been completed and works on permeability link are also complete. Public lighting is scheduled to be installed, date to be agreed with contractor. Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit to be completed and a launch will be arranged with An Taisce and the school.

### **Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)**

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Construction works are ongoing on the new boundary wall at Barna Cottage.

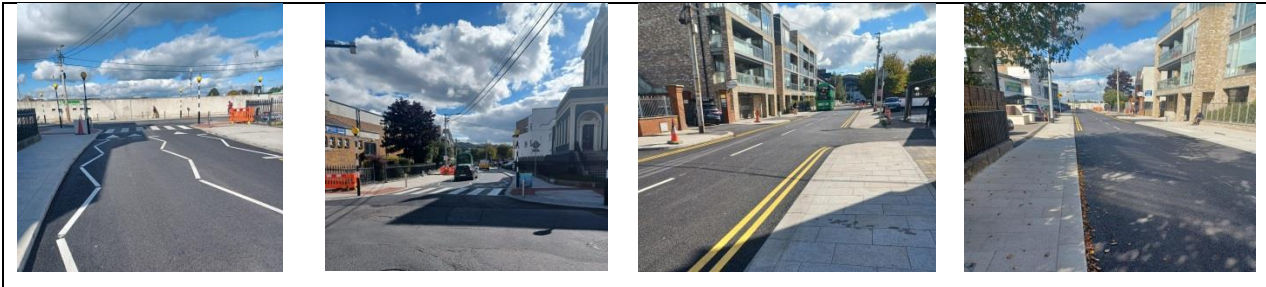
### **Project Updates**

#### **Bray Transport 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. David Walsh Civil Engineering commenced ground works in Mid-February. Main drainage works have been completed. Paving has been installed on Quinsborough Road and Adelaide Road. Works are progressing on schedule. Buses are relocated to temporary stops. Florence Road, drainage, paving and road surfacing substantially complete. Accommodation works are ongoing.

# Wicklow County Council

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### Bray Transport Interchange

#### Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. NTA approval has been granted for the commencement of Phase 5-Detail design and Procurement.

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

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The project scope has been revised. Design to focus on pedestrian and cycle improvements between the town centre and Train Station. Preliminary Design issued to NTA and comments received. Traffic modelling of the 3 junctions completed. Consultant contract only extends to end of Phase 3. Tender advertised for consultants to manage the project through Phase 4 -7. Gateway 3 report issued to NTA for approval.

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Tender documents have been prepared for the appointment of a new Consultant to progress the scheme from Phase 3 to Phase 7. Consultants Brief has been issued to the NTA for approval.

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

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. The tender period has concluded for the appointment of a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 2 to 4. A total of 5 tender submissions were received. Tender Assessment is ongoing. A post tender clarification has been issued to one of the tenderers.

#### Greystones Pathfinder (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

- **Phase 1 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works –**

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. NTA approval received to proceed to construction stage. Construction works commenced and are ongoing.

- **Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works -**

This phase of the project will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists along Church Road through the narrowing of the carriageway, junction realignment, new and improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing. Works completed and road markings installed.

- **Phase 3 - Greystones Marina to Charlesland Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements –**

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. The Gateway 3 Approval Request has been submitted. Tender issued for Consultants to manage Phase 4-7.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together & Temple Carrig School (Greystones MD)**

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Section 38 consultation process has closed with 5 submissions received.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Designs are being updated by the designer. Site meeting held with District Engineer and Consultant to review park 'n' stride area and the crossing required on R755. A draft of the one way system for the church car park and grounds where drops off are currently taking place has been provided. Meeting held with the designer to review progress and expedite project.

### **2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects**

From the NTA Budget Allocation for 2025 the following project proposals will be initiated this year -

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

Project will be managed by the NTA.

- SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird

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

- Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry.

- Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely

New Zebra / Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to Residential Areas.

- Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass

New Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential area

- Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow

Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club.

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

Work commenced on 2 new bridges (Shankill and Georges) in February.

Work completed at Spinans Bridge.

### **Winter Maintenance**

Salting continues under WM Plan.

Replenishing of salt stocks with 1200 tonnes was undertaken in January-February.

Oct 14 to 31 - 0 treatments

Nov 1 to 21 - 1 single and 2 double treatments

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Nov 22 to Dec 11 - 7 single and 4 double treatments

Dec 12 to Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – 8 single and 9 double runs

Jan 27<sup>th</sup> to Feb 13<sup>th</sup> – 9 singles and 1 double

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup> – 5 single treatments

### Machinery Yard

Large truck (HCV) tender for 4 vehicles currently being processed with delivery during the Summer.

Procurement of 20 pick-up trucks has commenced via SupplyGov framework. 4 EV included.

1 new truck tractor unit delivered in February. Emergency replacement of damaged truck.

Fuel card framework procurement has commenced.

### Parking Income

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	159,618.53
Greystones Municipal District	44,255.02
Wicklow Municipal District	77,510.72
Arklow Municipal District	40,172.13
Parking Permits	25,150.00
Parking Fines	108,058.25
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>454,764.65</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Infrastructure Delivery

**Affordable Housing information as at the 28th February 2025**

#### **Greenhill Road – 36 Houses**

- 35 sold
- 1 remaining under offer. Sale to close in Quarter 2 of 2025.

#### **Aldborough Manor Baltinglass – 11 Houses**

- 11 accepted

8 Affordable contribution subsidies paid to Developer's Solicitor to enable sales to close, final 3 to close Quarter 1 2025.

Rathnew – 44 dwellings

All offers accepted, Sales expected to close Quarter 1 2025.

Wicklow County Council also has plans for further developments throughout the county.

### **Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery**

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
1A Mill Road	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road	1	Completion expected March 2025
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Tender assessment underway, contractor expected to be appointed March 2025
Fassaroe, Bray	13	Contractor commenced on site.
Burgage More Blessington PPP	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Site clearance commenced
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor commenced on site.
Rehills, Bray	193	PPP dropped the scheme due to high projected costs, WCC reconsidering the viability of this scheme
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 1 funding application received
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	14	Design Stage
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing

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Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway

### Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

Ballintestock – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date April 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 to be advertised Q2 2025.
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Preliminary Design Stage/Pre- Part 8

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

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

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

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

### Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed complies with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area.

Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year.

Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

### Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivery due Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	Delivery due Q1 & Q2 2025	WCC

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Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q1 & Q2 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q1 to Q4 2025	WCC
Delgany	10	Delivery due Q1 & Q2 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC

### Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Newcastle and Arklow with delivery ranging from 2025-2027. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

### Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivery due Q1 2025	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	56	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Baltinglass	12	Delivery due Q3 & Q4 2025	CALF
Rathnew	1	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivered Q1 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC
Rathnew	5	Delivery due Q1 & Q3 2025	WCC

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Closing date is 25<sup>th</sup> July.

### Infill Sites/ Age Friendly/ Disability Units

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Expected completion Q3 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Planning permission granted expected on Site Q1 2025

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Vacant Homes Scheme

Current Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2025.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1	5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Works completed.
2	30 South Green, Arklow.	Works completed.
3.	53 South Green, Arklow.	Works completed.
4.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Works completed.
5,	6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Works commenced.
6.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow.	Works commenced.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones.	Works commenced.
8.	108 Charnwood, Bray.	To appoint contractor.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow.	Works commenced.
10.	36 Wheatfield, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
11.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.

N.B. 12 CPO files completed (7 Houses now in WCC Stock - 5 houses sold by owners)

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

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

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

A grant of up to €70,000.00 is available, if the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000.00; a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000.00 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	199
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	20
Applications Approved.	93
Number of Applications paid.	31
Value of 25 Grants paid out.	€1,704,592,69
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment.	15
Applications withdrawn/Rejected.	44

### **Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely**

Number of Sites	5
Letters of Offer Issued	7
Number of applications	7



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Emergency Response

#### Fire Service

##### Operational Fire Statistics February 2025

There were **80 incidents** attended during the month of February 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **100 occasions** including **6** 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 February 2025 **decreased by 30% (- 43 mobilisations) on the preceding month January 2025 (143 mobilisations)** which is normal for the month of February. Domestic house fires decreased (-14 mobilisations), RTCs reduced (-12 mobilisations) small malicious urban fires reduced (-13 mobilisations) while alarm activations increased by 8 to 23 or 23% of all activity in the month, or 40% of all activity in Bray.

Operational activity for the month of February 2025 **increased by 5% (plus 5 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (February 2024, 95 mobilisations). There was an increase in mobilisations to domestic house fires (+8), an increase in alarm activations (+11) but a decrease in small malicious urban fires (-8) and a decrease good intentioned false alarm (-11).

##### Incidents in County Kildare (4-incidents total):

- 01/02/2025 Crews from Baltinglass and Dunlavin supported crews from Carlow Town and Athy at a fire in car showrooms at Main Street, Castledermot.
- 02/02/2025 Crews from Baltinglass and Dunlavin supported crews from Athy a 3-car RTC, one car rolled over with persons trapped, at Crookstown, Ballitore.
- 07/02/2025 The Blessington crew supported crews from DFB at a domestic fire, at Monread, Naas.
- 10/02/2025 The Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at a 2-car RTC with one person trapped, at Punchestown.

##### Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents total):

- 08/02/2025 Arklow crew attended a small outdoor fire at Inch.
- 11/02/2025 Carnew crew supported a crew from Enniscorthy at a vehicle fire in Ferns.

##### Fire Prevention Statistics Feb 2024

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

Application type	Received	Requested additional information	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	7	8	11
Revised FSCs	0	1	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	2	3
Regularisation FSCs	0	1	1
DACs	9	0	8
Revised DACs	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

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

### **Building Control Statistics February 2025**

#### **Commencement Notices for February 2025:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 33

- 5 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 19 Opt Out Declarations
- 5 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 4 Seven Day Notice

#### **Submission Statistics**

- 57 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 63 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 21 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

5 with Compliance Documentation (24%)

13 are Opt Out (62%)

0 Without Compliance Documentation (0%)

3 Seven Day Notice (14%)

- 21 Valid Commencement Notices
- 59 new build residential Units and additional 12 Extensions
- 1 Non Res new builds
- 7 Invalidated CNs from February

#### **Certificates of Completion processed in February 2025**

- 21 New No. of CCC submitted
- 12 Required Revised Information
- 23 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 69 new Residential units and 46 additional apartments
- 3 Non Res. Builds

#### **Submission Statistics**

23 No. Validated CCCs related to;

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

- 19 no. CCCs submitted in February 2025
- 4 no. CCCs submitted in January 2025

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

59 new residential houses and 12 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 69 newly completed residential units with an additional 46 apartment units and 3 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in February. In February 7 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

Building Control continued with site inspections in February to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in February for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 63% of Commencement Notice submissions & 57% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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.

It has been observed by Building Control during CN Assessments that there has been an increase in the proposed use of non-traditional, uncertified products and systems. Additional resources have had to be used to assess both these new products/systems and associated alleged certification. These resources are being used for Market Surveillance, which is one of the key roles of Building Control.

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

In February Building Control staff also attended & assisted the Dept of HLGH subgroup committee on revising existing Codes of Practice & Guidelines.



### Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1499
Of which are children	457

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	9
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	83
Total number of sessions with single adults	33
Total number of sessions with couples	0
Total number of sessions with families	29

### LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for February

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	5
No. of Individuals	17
No. of Couples	0
No. of Families	4
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	8
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	0
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	0
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	11
No. of International Protection Applicants	9
No. with Refugee Status	6
No. with Subsidiary Protection	0
No. with Permission to Remain	0
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	5

### Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	7
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	2
Education/Training	6
Employment	7
Events	0
Finance	0
Health	8
Language Support	6
Legal/Justice/Civic	3
Transportation	0
Other	9

# Wicklow County Council

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Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	6
Employment	2
Events	2
Finance	3
Health	5
Language Support	4
Legal/Justice/Civic	3
Transportation	0
Other	9

Overall Support February	
Emails sent for Clinic work	67
Emails Received	242
Emails Sent	180
Contacts with stakeholders	22
Referrals	5

### Other Activity

- Safe Pass Training in Arabic was delivered in February to 20 participants from four IPAS centres in west Wicklow.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Civil Defence

- Civil Defence volunteers providing Medical Cover for the Biking Blitz mountain bike event over 1 day in the Ballinastoe Wood, Wicklow
- Our drone team were tasked to assist Kilkenny Civil Defence with drone support on a missing person search on the Kilkenny / Carlow boarder
- The Wicklow Hospice Run, Half Marathon & 10km in Avondale house is always an enjoyable event for our volunteers, we provide medical and safety cover throughout course.



- 
- An Garda Síochána requested assistance with a missing person in Wicklow Town where our search responders, drone team and K9 unit from Dublin searched for over 2 days



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

#### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in February 2025:

- Shortlisting Executive Librarian
- Shortlisting Library Staff Officer
- Shortlisting Administrative Officer
- Interviews Part Time Retained Firefighter
- Interviews Part Time Retained Driver/Mechanic
- Interviews Clerical Officer
- Interviews Assistant Arts Officer

#### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Managerial/Administrative	323	337	334	333
Professional/Technical	150	146	146	146
Outdoor	261	259	255	252
Temporary/Seasonal	44	87	91	68
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>804</b>

**\* Decrease in Temp/Seasonal category due to end dating of Lifeguards (delay in employee submitting leaver documentation)**

#### Freedom of Information

February 2025: 7	February 2024:19
January – February 2025: 10	January – February 2024: 42

#### Ombudsman Requests

February 2025: 4	February 2024: 3
January – February 2025: 9	January – February 2024: 3

#### Press Releases

February 2025 – 6

#### Register of Electors

Online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) continue to be received and processed daily. The franchise team continue to process applications which were minor in nature such as updating contact details etc. and any applications received after the closing date. A large amount of returned polling cards were received after the General Election and



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

work is commencing in establishing to contact these electors to ascertain if they are still resident or if they wish to register at a new address.

Work has commenced on the Electoral Registration Project and the first phase of works has commenced on the migration to a national database of Register of Electors.

### **Customer Service Innovation Hub**

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2025 – February			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,007	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,879
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,383	Revenue Transactions	1,275
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	59	Housing Counter Visits	Not Available

### **Energy**

Projects Completed in 2024:

- Bray Fire Station – Air Source Heat Pumps, Window and Appliance bay door replacement
- Bray MD Civic Office – Air Source Heat Pump
- Arklow MD - Solar Photovoltaic System
- Civil Defence HQ Greystones – Air Source Heat Pump & Solar PV
- Blessington Fire Station – Air Source Heat Pump, Fabric Upgrades & Solar PV

The Energy office collaborates with all sections of the council and supports the development of other energy efficiency works such as:

- Bray Courthouse – Energy Efficiency Works
- Wicklow Fire Station – Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Arklow Depot – Solar PV System
- Arklow Recycling Centre – Solar PV System

The Energy Office is currently scoping a number of energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects for 2025 with support for Mid-East Energy Unit, Codema and SEAI

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

- Arklow MD / Library (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Blessington MD office (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Greystones MD (TBC following survey and budget review)
- Shoreline Leisure Centre Energy Performance Contract

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025**

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

### **Mid-East Energy Unit**

- First EPC project for Kildare CoCo gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Installing sub heat meters in leisure centres to inform EPC process

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Finance, Water & Information Systems

#### Finance

##### Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2024 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide February 2025 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period following the completion of the 2024 AFS. The below table outlines the 2025 adopted budget by service division.

REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2025			
	Expenditure	Income	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	56,316,634	(59,446,038)	(3,129,404)
Road Transport & Safety	26,329,169	(18,925,016)	7,404,153
Water Services	4,633,084	(5,554,021)	(920,937)
Development Management	16,414,646	(9,859,576)	6,555,070
Environmental Services	17,038,883	(5,011,509)	12,027,374
Recreation and Amenity	10,003,906	(1,151,712)	8,852,194
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,393,346	(1,103,228)	1,290,118
Miscellaneous Services	9,487,115	(16,490,485)	(7,003,370)
Central Management Charges	25,473,897	(1,050,000)	24,423,897
Local Government Fund		(17,200,469)	(17,200,469)
Commercial Rates		(32,448,626)	(32,448,626)
	<b>168,090,680</b>	<b>(168,240,680)</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>

##### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

##### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28th FEBRUARY 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 28/02/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,981,319	13,050,629	(2,713,173)	0	24,318,775
Road Transport & Safety	(37,506,626)	1,090,694	(179,059)	0	(36,594,992)
Water Services	(7,422,725)	53,671	(9,336)	0	(7,378,391)
Development Management	(57,344,012)	6,298,877	(2,168,806)	0	(53,213,940)
Environmental Services	5,082,648	898,618	(218,703)	0	5,762,562
Recreation and Amenity	1,601,868	832,381	(671,356)	0	1,762,893
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	16,246	0	0	(2,053,524)
Miscellaneous Services	(11,409,308)	13,386	240	2,390,043	(9,005,638)
	<b>(95,086,606)</b>	<b>22,254,501</b>	<b>(5,960,194)</b>	<b>2,390,043</b>	<b>(76,402,255)</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 28th FEBRUARY 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 28/02/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
<b>Rates</b>	3,064,245	32,582,398	0	0	0	35,646,643	(3,520,445)	32,126,198	944,490	10%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	3,310,655	3,200,534	0	0	0	6,511,189	(3,197,015)	3,314,175	0	49%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	513,181	403,450	0	0	0	916,631	(404,568)	512,063	0	44%

**NB:** The 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.

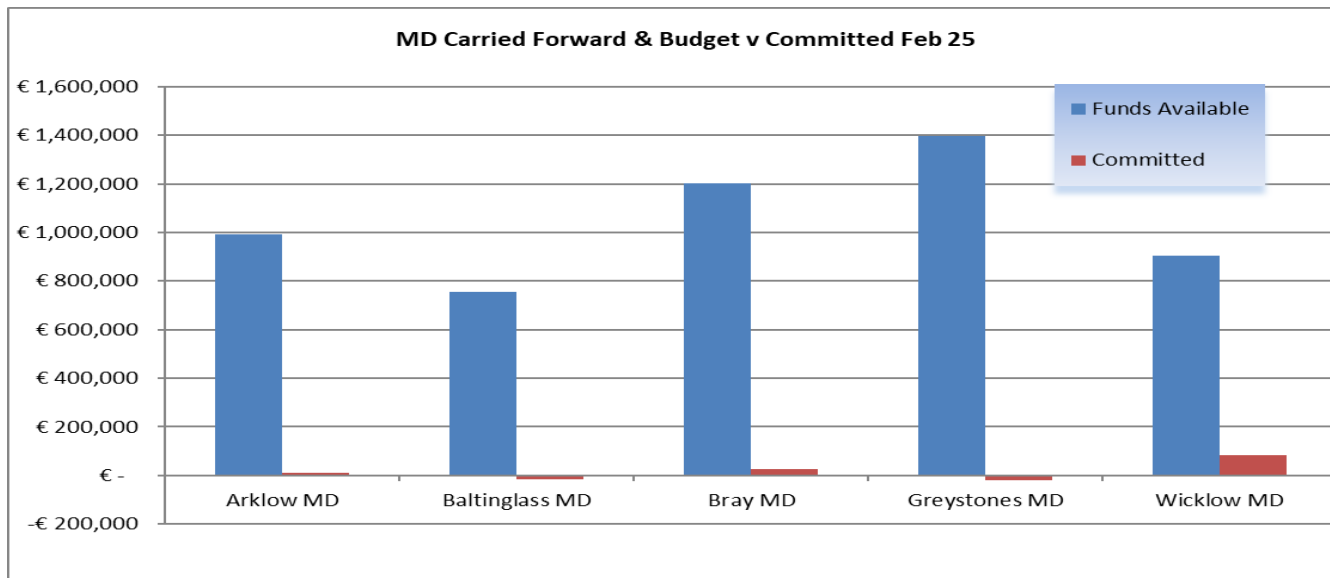
### General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 14th 2024 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.3m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2025 is set out below:

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	9,913	981,436
Baltinglass MD	228,949	527,124	756,073	- 16,140	772,214
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	24,902	1,178,887
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	- 21,234	1,416,578
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	84,789	819,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,390,043</b>	<b>2,860,877</b>	<b>5,250,921</b>	<b>82,230</b>	<b>5,168,691</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	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
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>186,932,497</b>	<b>206,299,779</b>	<b>230,657,634</b>	<b>623,889,910</b>	<b>45,239,174</b>	<b>37,000,000</b>	<b>504,381,636</b>	<b>37,269,100</b>	<b>623,889,910</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### Capital Funded Projects

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

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

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

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2025

### 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.

#### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **PETaL Upgrade**  
Successfully upgraded the PETaL application so specific planning data can migrate to the National Planning Application Database (NPAD) for public consumption.
- **Nutrient Management Plans**  
Processed a number of NMPs and uploaded them to the Environment GIS for onsite inspections.
- **LIPIS**  
Received and processed new LIPIS data from the Environment Section to assist with Farm Inspections.
- **Data Request**  
Worked with RPS on the CFREM project and assisted with data analysis.
- **Consultation Portal Submission Form**  
A new submission form and Hub was designed for public consultation on the Wicklow/Rathnew Plan (Amendments & Alterations to LAP and Variation No.2).
- **National Transport Authority (NTA) & KPMG Future Analytics**  
Updated development areas for Wicklow-Rathnew, Greystones-Delgany, and Bray. Provided amendments to employment infill and school sites on the NTA Data Hub viewer.

#### Infrastructure

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