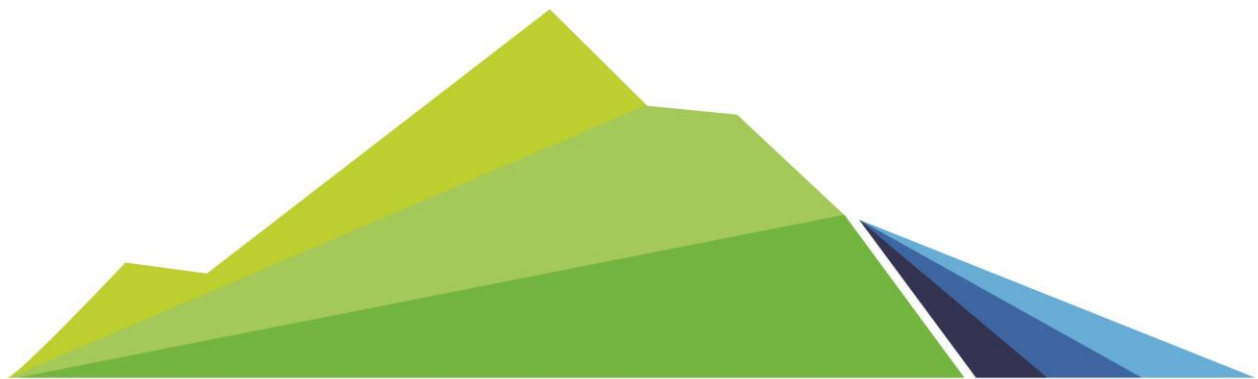


Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

ECOTRAIL WICKLOW 2023: STRONGER AND BETTER - Some 1,300 participants from 46 countries have booked to compete in the EcoTrail Wicklow which takes place from 28th to 30th September.

The participants from all over the world will start out in Bray before competing in the 19k, 30k, 46k or 80k races at this year's trail running event. A remarkable 46 different nationalities will be represented.

There are various events scheduled throughout the weekend starting with a gathering at the Harbour Bar on Thursday night where runners are invited for food, music, drinks and trail running chats. On Friday morning, a tour to Glendalough is organised to give visitors an opportunity to discover the beauty of the glacier valley.

Wicklow Naturally, County Wicklow's Food and Drink Network, is opening a 'Pincho Bar' on Bray Seafront for runners to experience the Wicklow flavours as they collect their bibs for Saturday races. Wicklow Sports Partnership will organise outdoor activities around the bandstand.

Saturday is race day, with the 80k race leaving at 7.30am, followed by the 46k race starting at 9am, the 30k at 10am and 20k at 11am. From 11am, people can follow the race live on YouTube and watch participants running down Bray Head through the finish line.

The full calendar of events is available at <https://visitwicklow.ie/ecotrail-wicklow-festival-calendar/>

This year EcoTrail Wicklow is welcoming some fantastic international elite runners from the US, France, Germany and Slovakia including Yoann Stuck who won EcoTrail Paris back in March of this year.

Following from stage 4 cancer survivor Luke Grenfell-Shaw who won the 80k race last year, EcoTrail Wicklow brings people with amazing life inspiring stories. This year, we welcome Fatima Painda who left Afghanistan at the age of 12 to escape the war or Hillary Allen who survived 150 feet fall and 14 broken bones to then come back win races all over the world.

NEW WEBSITE SHOWCASING EXCITING WICKLOW GREENWAYS PROJECTS - Wicklow County Council is delighted to announce the launch of a new website, www.WicklowGreenways.ie dedicated to providing comprehensive information on three upcoming Wicklow Greenway projects.

This user-friendly online platform aims to engage and inform residents, visitors, and cycling enthusiasts about the exciting developments in Wicklow's outdoor recreational infrastructure.

The new website will serve as a central hub for all things related to the three forthcoming Wicklow Greenway projects: the Blessington eGreenway, the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway and the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway.

While these transformative projects are at various stages of planning, they hold great potential to enhance the county's connectivity, promote sustainable tourism and encourage a healthy lifestyle. The website offers an ideal platform to keep the public informed and engaged as the projects progress.

Visitors to www.WicklowGreenways.ie will find a wealth of information about each greenway, including detailed maps, project timelines and key features that make them unique. The website will also feature updates on planning progress, upcoming events, and opportunities for public feedback and participation.

Housing & Community

1. Housing

| | August 2023 | August 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)* | 4501 | 4565 |
| No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS) | 159 | 211 |
| No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment | 2815 | 2596 |
| No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation | 23 | 22 |
| No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation | 29 | 29 |

Allocation of Social Housing

| | August 2022 | August 2023 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Wicklow County Council | 11 | 19 |
| Approved Housing Bodies | 05 | 15 |

Social Housing Stock

| | August 2023 | August 2022 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Tenancies occupied | 4843 | 4788 |
| Total weekly rental accrual | 319,070.26 | 314,366.00 |
| Arrears | 3,112,553.74 | 3,044,850.25 |

| MD - | Added to list YTD 2023 | Completed YTD 2023 | Vacant April 2023* | WIP |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Arklow | 6 | 5 | 14 | 10 |
| Baltinglass | 9 | 11 | 24 | 13 |
| Bray | 10 | 23 | 59 | 16 |
| Greystones | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Wicklow* | 3 | 5 | 45 | 8 |
| Totals | 25 | 43 | 145 | 51 |
| *Excludes CPOs. Includes 23 Hillview properties | | | | |

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

| Schemes Recently Completed | UNITS | CURRENT STATUS |
|--|--------------|--|
| Ard na Greine, Bray | 31 | Completed and allocated |
| Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3) | 47 | Completed and allocated |
| Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build | 40 | Completed and allocated |
| Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build | 22 | Completed and allocated |
| Sheehan Court Arklow | 7 | Completed and allocated |
| Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build | 20 | Completed and allocated |
| Cedar Court Bray Design & Build | 14 | Completed |
| Schemes on Site | Units | CURRENT STATUS |
| | | |
| Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme) | 36 | Completion anticipated Q3 2023 |
| Cois Droichead, Greystones | 41 | Completion anticipated Q1 2024 |
| Ballard Shillelagh | 20 | Completion anticipated Q4 2023 |
| Pipeline Schemes | Units | Current Status |
| Lugduff Tinahely | 20 | Contractor has commenced on site |
| Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2 | 21 | Construction ongoing |
| Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 3 | 7 | About to commence Section 179a |
| Fassaroe, Bray | 15 | Preparing tender documents |
| Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin, Wicklow | 10 | On site completion anticipated Q3 2023 |
| Burgage More Blessington | 106 | Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage |
| Lott Lane, Kilcoole | 75 | Tenders being analysed |
| Rehills, Bray | 80 | PPP bundle 5 |
| Burnaby, Greystones | 75 | PPP Bundle 5 |
| Ballinahinch Ashford | 25 | About to commence Section 179a |
| Tinahask, Arklow | 75 | Design stage. |
| Sheephouse Arklow | 30 | Design Stage |

Part V

| Location | No. of Units | Due for Delivery | Method |
|-------------|--------------|---|--------|
| Bray | 2 | 18 Delivered, 2 Units delivered June 2023 | CALF |
| Rathnew | 3 | 3 Delivered Q1 2023 | WCC |
| Delgany | 3 | Delivered June 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 3 | Scheduled Q3 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 7 | Delivered May 2023 | WCC |
| Rathdrum | 6 | Scheduled Q3 2023 | CALF |
| Arklow | 16 | Delivered August 2023 | CALF |
| Blessington | 5 | Delivery Due Q3 2023 | CALF |
| Bray | 1 | Delivery due Q1 2024 | CALF |
| Delgany | 3 | Delivered May 2023 | WCC |
| Greystones | 1 | Delivered Q1 2023 | WCC |
| Rathnew | 1 | Scheduled Q4 2023 | WCC |
| Bray | 4 | Delivered 2 2023 | WCC |

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Greystones, Ashford, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2023-2025. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

Turnkey

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

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

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,352,438.16 - €1,238,688.87 spent to date

› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - € 389,650.65 spent to date

2023 - 80 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 150 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 –146 applications paid and closed

| Year | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of Grants Received/Processed | 249 | 216 | 266 | 327 | 281 | 316 |

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in

SEPTEMBER 2023



September 2023. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22nd June and workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by the housing agency regarding the implementation plan.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

| | |
|---|---|
| Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties | Completed and ready for allocation |
| Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties | Contactor on site - expected completion date October 2023 |
| Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units | Part 8 complete – design team is being procured at present |
| Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments | Contactor on site - expected completion date September 2024 |

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

| | |
|--|---|
| 8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy | House allocated and tenant in situ. |
| 5 Ashwood, Roundwood | House allocated and tenant in situ. |
| 33 Connolly Street, Arklow | House allocated and tenant in situ |
| 100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town | Refurbishment complete. |
| 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town | Refurbishment complete. |
| 18 Delgany Glen, Greystones | Refurbishment complete. |
| 30 South Green, Arklow | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 5 Priory Way, Delgany | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 6 Ashleigh, Ashford | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 114 Hillside, Greystones | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry | Refurbishment to start shortly. |
| 108 Charnwood, Bray | Notice to Enter served July 2023. |
| 10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow | Compensation now agreed. |
| 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town | Compensation now agreed. |
| 53 South Green, Arklow | Compensation now agreed. |
| 53A South Green, Arklow | Compensation now agreed. |
| 2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow | Compensation now agreed. |
| 36 Wheatfield Bray | CPO published March 2023. Currently engaging with owner with a view to purchase by agreement. |
| 27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray. | Negotiations under way |
| 1 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published. | |

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

Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

| Property | Progress |
|-------------|--|
| Croneyhorn | Sale approved by the members at the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress |
| Killacloran | Valuation done, application being progressed |
| Rednagh Rd | Sale approved by the members at the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress |
| Borkhill | No interested parties |

Affordable Housing

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

| No. of units | Beds | Type | Story | House Price | Minimum House Purchase Price |
|--------------|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 6 | 2 bed | Terrace | 2 Storey | €280,000 | €222,716 |
| 6 | 2 bed | End Terrace | 2 Storey | €290,000 | €236,702 |
| 16 | 3 bed | Terrace | 2 Storey | €315,000 | €252,295 |
| 8 | 3 bed | End Terrace | 2 Storey | €330,000 | €275,618 |

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

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

- have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant.
- live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent.

- have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Applications | 58 |
| Applications in progress/information requested | 13 |
| Applications finalised | 38 |
| Applications withdrawn | 4 |
| Applications approved | 3 |

Infill Sites

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

Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

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

Local Authority Home loans up to August 2023

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Received | Approved in principle |
| 39 | 14 |

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

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

Homeless figures for August 2023

| Addressing Homelessness | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | As at 31/08/2023 | Year To Date | As at 31/08/2022 |
| No of New Presentations | 18 | 236 | 50 |
| No. of Repeat Presentations | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child) | 9 | 106 | 26 |
| No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children) | 20 | 267 | 59 |
| No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children) | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| No. of Children | 20 | 194 | 50 |
| NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling | 4 | 77 | 1 |
| Family Circumstances | 4 | 66 | 13 |
| Leaving Prison/Hospital Care | 0 | 13 | 1 |
| Mental Health | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Risk of Homelessness | 3 | 33 | 2 |
| Arrears/Loss of Income | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Addiction Issues | 2 | 22 | 0 |
| DV/DA | 1 | 18 | 1 |
| Medical Issues | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Overcrowding | 3 | 24 | 2 |
| Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left | 0 | 17 | 3 |
| ASB: | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Rough Sleeping* | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Sofa Surfing* | 2 | 33 | 4 |
| Staying with Family* | 4 | 54 | 10 |
| Staying with Friends* | 2 | 10 | 0 |

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

| Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/07/23 | |
|--|----|
| Families | 16 |
| Adults | 27 |
| Children | 50 |
| Single individual | 0 |

| Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2023 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| | 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 | 30 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/22 | | | | | | | | |
| | No. of Households | No. of Adults | No. of Children | < 3 mths | 3-6 mths | 6-9 mths | 9-12 mths | >12mths |
| Household breakdown | 18 | 23 | 15 | 5 | 24 | 18 | 6 | 10 |

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 471 households (335 families & 131 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 30th September 2023. (195 homeless cases, 264 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 131 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 8 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation at the moment.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. Six of these persons living in shared accommodation have now successfully moved into their forever homes and this in turn create 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 and it is hoped that at least three further allocations will take place before the end of 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation

of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

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

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

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

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

Ukrainian Response

- As of 21st September, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,603 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 241 No.
- Baltinglass MD 368 No.
- Bray MD 706 No.
- Greystones MD 142 No.
- Wicklow MD 146 No.
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
- WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 21st September we will have housed 236 number displaced Ukrainian people into pledged stand-alone Offer a Home properties
Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
- The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a monthly basis.

2. Community

County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance

The multi-agency Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, met on the 6th of September, to review progress on implementation of the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027.

Older People's Council

The next meeting of the new Older People's Council (OPC) Executive Group is due to take place on 27th September.

Walkability Audit – Avondale House

Members of the new Older People's Council (OPC) Executive Group participated in a guided tour of Avondale House, on 12th September 2023, to audit the accessibility of the venue and experience for older people. The walkability audit was co-ordinated by the Age Friendly Ireland's Regional Manager South-East and Age Friendly Programme Manager for County Wicklow. Overall feedback on the venue and the experience was very positive. Detailed feedback will be sent to Coillte Operations Team by the Age Friendly Ireland Regional Manager.



Photo: Members of County Wicklow Older People's Council at Avondale House for Age Friendly Ireland Walkability Audit 12th Sept 2023

National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards

Beyond the Trees Avondale has been shortlisted for the **National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards**, in the Business Innovation Category. Judges began visiting all shortlisted projects over three weeks from 25th September. The decision of the judging panel will be announced at the annual Awards Ceremony, which will be held on 30th November 2023, at Clayton Whites Hotel Wexford.

Beyond the Trees Avondale, located in Avondale Forest Park, County Wicklow, was acknowledged as the first age friendly tourist destination in the country. It received its official Age Friendly Charter, from Age Friendly Ireland, at a launch event in November 2022, and Beyond the Trees Avondale is now also recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an international model of good practice for age friendly development.



Photo: Age Friendly Ireland Walkability Audit, at Beyond The Trees Avondale, July 2022



Photo: Minister Mary Butler presents Age Friendly Ireland Charter to Coillte, at Beyond The Trees Avondale, November 2022.

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Places Baltinglass

Launch of Year Two of Creative Places Baltinglass Programme

Wicklow Arts Office recently launched the programme for Year Two of Creative Places Baltinglass. Officially launched in Rathcoran Estate, the event provided local organisations, community members and creative practitioners with the opportunity to share their Creative Places journey so far and to meet with key Wicklow County Council representatives.

<https://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie/events/launch-of-year-two-of-creative-places-baltinglass-programme>

Mobile Music Machine Artist in Residence

The Mobile Music Machine Artist in Residence, created specifically for the residents of Baltinglass Community Hospital was launched as part of Creative Places Baltinglass. Between July and September 2023, Mobile Music Machine will deliver six concerts to the residents of Baltinglass Community Hospital.

<https://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie/events/mobile-music-machine-artist-in-residence>

Suzie Cahn Artist in Residence

Suzie Cahn will be working for one year with residents of the Rathcoran estate as part of Creative Places Baltinglass. The project will help to build a shared understanding of the green spaces near and within the Rathcoran estate, educate participants about local flora and fauna, promote practices that encourage a sense of connection and stewardship towards the environment, and foster a relationship with the non-human residents in the area. Suzie's vision for the Rathcoran community is "reconnecting adults, young people, families and children to the learning, healing and creativity found in both nature and art is her passion."

<https://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie/events/suzie-cahn-artist-in-residence-in-the-respond-rathcoran-estate-in-baltinglass>

Seed Fund Award

Wicklow Arts Office announced the results of the Seed Fund Award with six Baltinglass artists selected to receive Seed Funding for the development and delivery of their creative projects.

The awardees are; Eoin O'Malley (Visual Art); John Hughes (Film); Mairéad Kelly (Storytelling & Sound Art); Mark Caplice (Music); Siobhan Madden (Visual Art); Gerald Gormley (Film).

This scheme was established to support the delivery and aims of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme.

<https://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie/events/seed-funding-scheme-2023-awardees-announced>

Baltinglass Sings

Due to popular demand, Baltinglass Sings returned on Wednesday 13th September. This free weekly singing session will meet over 12 weeks on Wednesdays from 7 –8pm in The Lalor Centre and participants should be 18 years plus.

<https://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie/events/baltinglass-sings-returns>

'Sing in Wicklow' - Website & Award Launch

Wicklow Arts Office launched the 'Sing in Wicklow' website and funding Award.

The website aims to provide a base for all Wicklow choirs to help the choirs promote their work, events, achievements, and recruitment drives for new members and to support a countywide choral network.

The Award aims to support choirs across the County to participate in workshops and choir competitions, facilitate inter-choir collaborations (such as performances, peer-learning and networking), and recruit new members and purchase essential equipment and instruments. The scheme opened for applications on 1st September 2023. The deadline for submission of applications was Friday 29th September 2023.

<https://www.singinwicklow.ie/>

Rhyme Island Showcase

Following six weeks of workshops with Music Generation Wicklow, the young residents at Kippure Village, MC'd by Rebel Phoenix, showcased their rap, poetry and song creations in Blessington Library.

Inspired by a highly successful GMCBeats 'Song-in-a-Day' workshop with Rhyme Island they created a soundtrack and a music video.

<https://youtu.be/HlfQOJRL92Y?si=WdQgFWi2R0CuPd6u>

Artist Connect Blog Series

The twelfth Artist Connect blog entry is by Anna Newell. Anna has been creating theatre adventures for all ages since 1989. Her work for Early Years audiences has been shared worldwide.

Artists Connect seeks to support artists across all art forms who reside in, or are from County Wicklow, to connect, share and learn from each other.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Artist-Connect-Supports/Artists-Connect-Blog-Series/Feeling-the-Fear-and-Doing-It-Anyway-by-Anna-Newell>

Culture Night 2023

Culture Night (Oíche Chultúir) returned to Wicklow on Friday, 22nd September 2023.

Culture Night is an all-island annual event that celebrates creativity and the arts. Featuring more than 17 free events in over 10 locations across County Wicklow, this year's programme promotes the rich and diverse culture of Wicklow and beyond through a dynamic range of experiences and live performances for people of all ages.

<https://culturenight.ie/location/wicklow>

The Harp Concert Series

This October, in every library across County Wicklow, harpist Aisling Ennis will perform a very special harp concert inspired by fairies and their frolics.

Funded by the Arts Council and Wicklow Arts Office through the Strategic Projects Award Scheme and supported by Wicklow Library Services, the concert series will feature music from the Irish tradition as well as captivating works by 19th and 20th Century harp mavericks.

<https://www.aislingennis.com/fairy-harp-2023.html>

Wicklow Artist Salon

The Wicklow Artist Salon will continue until the end of 2023. With two final events of the year, the September Salon will focus on the theme of Routines, rituals, talismans and tools and will return to Mermaid Arts Centre. Meanwhile the November Salon's theme will be Innovation and will be purposefully

designed to attract and gather emerging artists from across the county. Full programme will be announced soon.

'Way with Words' Returns to Blessington Library

Wicklow Arts Office and Wicklow Library Services announced the return of the Way with Words Literature Festival on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th October 2023 in Blessington Library.

Now in its 5th year, the Way with Words Festival is a highly anticipated event curated with writers and readers in mind. All events are free and this year the programme features a range of events that include readings, workshops, in conversations, and activities for all ages with a variety of genres and approaches to writing represented.

'Our Wicklow Women' as part of Decade of Centenaries

'Our Wicklow Women' returns in November as part of the final strand of programmes for the Decade of Centenaries.

Exploring the changing role of women in society at turn of the Century and drawing on contemporary changes in ensuing Century, Jennie Wyse Power will be the focus of a series interventions taking place in Baltinglass. These will include the commission of handcrafted tapestry which will be prominently displayed in Baltinglass Library as well as workshops and events supporting the historic narrative alongside arts and creativity.

County Library Service

Capital programme Update

The Part 8 process has been completed for the proposed new Ballywaltrim Library, at Boghall Road, Bray, and a positive report from WCC Planning has been received. The Chief Executive's Report will be presented to Bray MD at its October meeting. The project is Wicklow County Council's sole submission to DRCD under the national capital funding scheme for public libraries. A national announcement of successful submissions is due in the coming weeks.



Artist's impression of interior of proposed new library

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week at Wicklow County Council Libraries



Arklow Library

Arklow Library held a range of engaging activities to promote sustainability and community engagement during SDG Week which began on Saturday 23rd September.

During this week, there were series of collective events which kicked off with a sustainable-themed Storytime, followed by arts and crafts for young creatives to enjoy.

Throughout the week, information sessions for jobseekers and carers also took place. On 26th September, jobseekers were able to attend an information session in collaboration with INTREO. For young carers, there was an informative session on 27th September in partnership with All Kinds of Amazing and Young Carers.

The Children's Book Festival was an opportunity for children to participate in an illustration workshop with author Alan Nolan on 27th September.

SEPTEMBER 2023

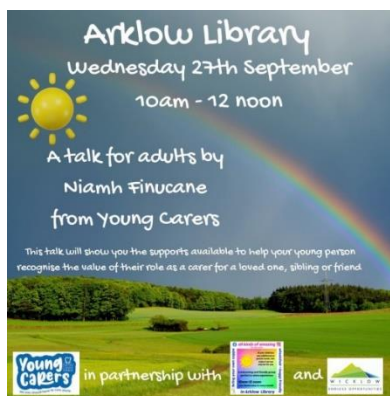


On 28th September, we invited the community to participate in a public consultation regarding the proposed Arklow Greenway project, seeking valuable input.

The library hosted an English Practice Group on 28th September to support language learners in enhancing their skills.

On 29th September, the library held a Fighting Words workshop for local schools, encouraging young minds to explore the world of storytelling.

To conclude, on 30th September, it was back to the sustainable theme with a Climate Action Storytime session, followed by more arts and crafts.



Greystones Library – Sustainable Gardening

On 23rd September, Greystones Library held a presentation that aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During this Gardening for Sustainability workshop/talk, attendees learned more about sustainable gardening and how to:

- Learn to make your garden climate resilient.
- Read your garden, support local wildlife, and naturally control pests and weeds.
- Master the art of composting.



Culture Night 22nd September

Wicklow County Council Library Services arranged an exciting line-up of events at Carnew, Dunlavin, and Rathdrum Libraries for Culture Night:

Noel Boland, a rising star in the Irish country music scene, serenaded with his country tunes. Noel has a wealth of musical experience garnered over a decade of performing at venues across the country.

Joining him were three gifted writers from the Dunlavin Writers' Group: Florence Grace, who has penned captivating children's books; Maria Kelly, who provides insightful perspectives on family dynamics through her writing; and Ursula O'Toole, a local nurse with a newfound passion for storytelling.

Suzanne Toomey, a talented singer and musician, sang, played guitar, tin whistle and accordion.

Cormac Doyle, a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist hailing from Baltinglass, shared his music. Cormac's musical journey has taken him on extensive tours with various folk bands, and he was accompanied by the talented uilleann piper and guitarist, Aidan O'Brien.

From the Rathdangan Writers' Group, we have three more creative minds to introduce: Alpha Connelly, whose evocative short stories have left a mark in the group's book "Our Store of Stories"; Henrike Lehmeier (Rike), originally from Germany and now a Kiltegan resident, adds her unique international perspective; and Nicky Butler, born in South Africa, brings a deep passion for history, mythology, fantasy, and fairy tales to the literary table.

Fairy Harp Music series with Aisling Ennis for every Library in the County

County Wicklow Libraries were delighted to host the "The Harp Concert Series", held in County Wicklow libraries from 22nd September to 20th October.

Between September and October in every library across County Wicklow, harpist Aisling Ennis will perform a very special harp concert inspired by the fairies and their frolics.

Created and performed by Aisling Ennis, each concert explores the fairy hysteria that swept the world and how the harp, especially the Irish harp, played an important role in this enchanting genre.

Funded by the Arts Council and Wicklow County Arts Office through the Strategic Projects Award Scheme and supported by Wicklow Library Services, the concert series will feature music from the Irish tradition as well as captivating works by 19th and 20th Century harp virtuosos.



Fabulous Pharmacist Laura Dowling Menopause Talk at Arklow Library

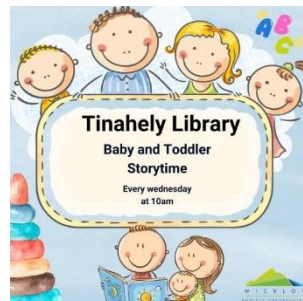
The Fabulous Pharmacist, Laura Dowling was in Arklow Library on Tuesday the 19th of September at 7pm. Laura spoke about general women's health which covered gut and skin health, hormonal changes, perimenopause, and menopause.

Guests learned about Laura's FabU nutritional supplements, which merge the power of nature with the precision of science. They are the result of Laura's fascination with the wonderful power of plants, herbs, and mushrooms from across the world – and how nature and science can be tailored to work together in harmony.



Tinahely Library Storytime

Our librarian in Tinahely is now busy preparing for a Storytime every Wednesday at 10.00 am. This promises to be a heart-warming session for babies and toddlers, so all are invited to come along and celebrate the joy of reading with you and your little ones.



Arklow Library introduces new Baby Sing- along Session

Exciting news for parents and caregivers in Arklow! Arklow Library is thrilled to introduce a brand-new and delightful Baby Sing-Along session, tailor-made for the tiniest members of our community, aged 0 to 2 years, which began on 21st September.

A perfect opportunity to engage your little ones in a fun and interactive experience that's not only entertaining but also incredibly beneficial for their early development.



Breastfeeding Talk with La Leche League in Wicklow Library

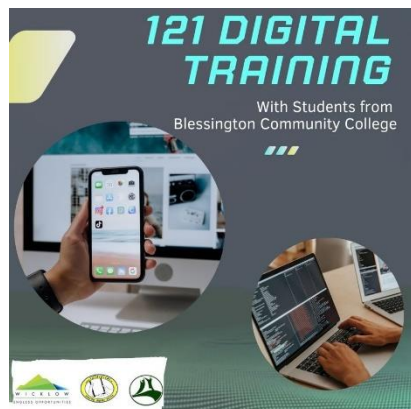
The La Leche League of Ireland hosted a coffee morning in #WicklowTown Library on 20th September where they chatted about all things breastfeeding.



Get used to using your Smart Device – Support for Adults in Blessington and Wicklow Libraries

Adults were invited to **Blessington Library** where TY students from Blessington Community College share their IT knowledge and helping in to enhance digital skills and get more use out of laptops, tablets and smartphones. Lessons began on **26th September at 11 am** and are due to run for six weeks. Learners learn at their own pace and choose their own topics.

Adults in Wicklow Town area had the same opportunity. Adults were invited to Wicklow Town Library, where East Glendalough School students shared their IT knowledge.



Tea and Tales with Storyteller Philip Byrne, Dunlavin and Baltinglass Libraries

Our past is a treasure trove of experiences, woven together by ordinary people living their lives in extraordinary times. These memories are rich with social history.

That's where Philip comes in. He's on a mission to breathe life into these fading memories, to unravel the tales of how our towns and communities have transformed over the years. It's not just about reminiscing; it's about connecting with the past, understanding the work that fuelled our communities, the schools that shaped our minds, the sports that brought us together, and the entertainment that lit up our nights.

Tuesday 19th September at Baltinglass Library

Tuesday, 26th September at Dunlavin Library

Watch out for Tea and Tales in Arklow Library on Tuesday 3rd October, 6-8 pm and Carnew Library on Friday 13th October 6-8 pm.

Healthy Wicklow



Active Community Action

Tinahely/Shillelagh/Carnew & Rathnew

Activator Walking Pole training leader workshop took place in Shillelagh Courthouse on 2nd September which was tutor led by Frank Fahy. 11 new tutors were trained up on the day and now have the necessary skills to run a 4-6 week programme within their communities. A taster session took place in Rathnew on the 18th September.



Punch & Strike is a new programme in Shillelagh Courthouse that began on the 18th September, catering for beginners. The sessions will be led by Laura's Health & Dance Fitness.

National Walking Day took place on Sunday 24th September. Healthy Wicklow & Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership are facilitating walks in the following areas:

- Tomnafinnogue Wood/Railway Walk Tinahely
- Jubilee Loop Rathdrum
- Rathnew/Wicklow Loop

Sláintecare Healthy Communities



- 1) Installation of climbing boulders in Ballywaltrim was completed on 1st September. The project was funded under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Enhancement Fund. The installation was very positively received by the local community, with suggestions for additional structures and installations to be considered for the same site as well as other locations in Bray.
- 2) Installation of goals in the Ballywaltrim playing fields also complete as part of SHC Enhancement Fund.
- 3) Futsal courts in Giltspur are almost complete – see interim photos below.
- 4) Grant funds to be provided to community services for the following:
 - €5,000 for the installation of new floodlight bulbs in Little Bray to facilitate continued use of the training facilities in the public park.
 - €4,000 for the provision of play therapy resources to allow onsite sessions to take place in the Little Bray Family Resource and Development Centre. The aim of this grant is to facilitate play therapy session arranged by the FRC, the Bray Traveller Community Development Project, and the Marian Centre.
 - €2,000 top up grant to SPECs, Bray Area Partnership, to complete works on the kitchen installation in Prince of Wales Terrace.
- 5) Next meeting of the Under 12's Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee taking place on 28th September. This is a new committee, with membership from the Marian Centre, Bray Family Resource and Development CLG, Tusla, and WCC, specifically looking at innovative solutions to the presentation of mental health concerns for young children. The committee is currently working on a

proposal for a family liaison worker and play therapist to be installed in the Little Bray Family Resource and Development Centre. These roles would work specifically with the community creche's and the Bray Traveller Community Development Project, focusing on the most vulnerable children and their families bin the Little Bray/Fassaroe area. They would provide direct therapeutic interventions to children and their families, in addition to proactively building relationships with those families and linking them in with additional support services. There is considerable interest in this pilot from both the HSE and Sláintecare Healthy Communities National Office. It is expected that the pilot will be jointly funded by SHC, Tusla and the HSE.



Goals: Before pictures



Goals: After Pictures



Futsal courts in Giltspur, Ballywaltrim: Before Photos



Futsal courts in Giltspur: mid-installation photos



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

HER Outdoors Week

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership welcomed Ireland AM to Greystones Harbour to kick off HER Outdoors Week in Wicklow. There were over 35 events hosted in Wicklow to showcase outdoor recreation in Wicklow and encourage women to take part. Activities included, Kayaking, Gliding, Canoeing, Hiking, Archery and biking to name a few.



Adult Badminton Coaching

10 people are attending the 6 week adult badminton programme in Coral Leisure Arklow with coach Georgina Ward. The Wednesday evening coaching sessions are designed specifically for adults who want to enhance their badminton skills.

Junior Pickleball Session

Junior Pickleball sessions are ongoing at Coral Leisure Arklow on Wednesday afternoons with coach Sinead Nolan. The sessions are divided up into two age group 7 to 11 years and 12 to 15 years.

Club's promotion evening

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership hosted a club's promotion evening for clubs and activities that use the main indoor sports hall at Coral Leisure Arklow. Members of the community were invited to try out Pickleball, dance, badminton, baton twirling, pilates and spinning. The new special Olympics club were in attendance recruiting for new volunteers.



Disability Inclusion Summer Camps for 2023

Over the summer months from June to August, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership ran 9 camps and a Sports Day for children, teenagers and young adults with a disability.

A total of 93 young people took part in a range of activities throughout the county.

- Bray Sailing Club Taster Sessions x 2
- Sports Day with Bray Sports Promotion Unit with clients from Sunbeam House Services, Rehabcare and Autism Initiatives.
- A Three day Multi Sport Camp in Powerscourt NS for 2 different age groups
- Blessington Outdoor camp including kayaking, wall climb, ziplining & archery. Two camps were delivered over two days to children and also teenagers.
- Surf Camp in Magheramore beach over 3 days with 3 camps delivered to teenagers with a disability.

Funding source for all of the above camps came from a combination of CYPSC with Healthy Ireland and Sport Ireland.

Direct Provision Centre Summer Camps

110 children took part in summer camps funded through CYPSC. The four direct provision centres involved were:

- The Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town
- Rathmore Holiday Village, Ashford
- Esplanade Hotel, Bray
- Slaney Court, Baltinglass
- Kippure Direct Provision Camp

The children took part in several camps such as: Dance Camps in Spotlight Studios in Wicklow Town, Swim Camp in Shoreline Bray, Basketball Camps in Baltinglass, CP Adventures in Russborough for Kippure residents, and Soccer Camps in Ashford Rovers. Total Funding was €10,000.

Play packs were also delivered to all centres with CYPSC funding of €5,000.

Sanctuary Runners & Swimmers

An eight-week trial running programme in partnership with Sanctuary Runners and delivered by founder of She Summits, Alicia. This programme was aimed to get people in the direct provision centres in the Bray area running. Twelve people took part in the programme and have joined the Sanctuary Runners Club in Bray.

In partnership with Swim Ireland this was a pilot programme for Sanctuary Swimmers, a spin-off of Sanctuary Runners began in Bray in July. There was a great turn out and it is hoped this will grow from strength to strength. This programme is also being piloted in Cork and Mayo. The Wetsuits are provided by Swim Ireland and Swimsuits by the LSP and extra funding through both bodies.

Men on the Move

The Men on the Move programme started the end of July for eight weeks. The programme targets inactive men. We have extended the programme for another eight weeks and currently there are seven men taking part in the programme with three men joining the local Shoreline Leisure Centre.

Teenage Girls Roller Skating Programme

This three-week programme was part of the Her Moves Campaign, aimed at teenage girls 13 – 17 years of age. The programme was delivered by Grainne Binns which took place for two weeks in Shoreline Leisure Greystones sports hall and on the final week as part of the Her Outdoors Week we brought the programme outdoors at the Marina in Greystones where we had a roller-skating disco for girls and women.

Fit Farmer Programme

Healthy Ireland and WSRP in collaboration with Carnew Mart facilitated a fit farmer programme for local farmers. Health and wellbeing workshops on cancer awareness, skin cancer, smoking and nutrition were arranged. The Irish Heart Foundation mobile bus attended the mart to provide a full health check on blood pressure, pulse check, cholesterol, glucose check, weight management and carbon monoxide check. 28 people got a health check-up. 8 people attended an activator poles taster session on site and there was walk n talk session at Coolafancy walking track with the Healthy club officer.

Activator Poles Taster Session and Tutor training at Shillelagh Courthouse

Frank Fahey ran an activator poles taster session at Shillelagh courthouse with 7 people attending in September. In addition to this ,12 people got trained up as activator poles tutors on 2nd September.

iCoach Girls

Pilot programme by Sport Ireland Coaching in Arklow, Wicklow and Limerick, Tipperary, Roscommon and Sport Ireland Campus.

There will be 2 head coaches and 10 assistant coaches, TYs from Glenart College in Wicklow, trained up by Sports Ireland Coaching and they will deliver a 10 week programme to girls aged 5 to 12 years with a focus on preventing drop out to physical activity. The target group is those that are not active or involved with Sport.

Irish Sports Monitor

- 2% increase in children meeting daily recommended physical activity guidelines since 2018.
- Fewer post-primary students walking to school than 2018.
- Sport dropout rates among post-primary girls have worsened in school-based sport.
- Adult participation rates increase by 3% since 2021 with 43% taking part.
- The gender gap in adult sports participation remains at 5%
- Adult sports volunteering and club membership rates remain lower than pre-pandemic levels.
- Attendance at sporting events almost back to pre-pandemic levels

Full details: <https://www.sportireland.ie/news/CSPPA/ISM>

Sports Capital Applications 2023

- Cycling Pump Track at Coral Arklow
- Ballywaltrim Playing Pitches X 2
- Little Bray Family Resource Centre – Solar Panels, Toilets Refurbishment, walking / cycling track on green space
- Coral Wicklow Equipment
- Coral Arklow Gym and changing area refurbishment.

Civic Reception

A Civic Reception was held to celebrate Christina Fitzpatrick's achievements in the 2023 Worl Special Olympic Games.

Training & Education

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Venue</u> | <u>When</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Safeguarding 1 | 3 Hours Online | 8 th August @ 6.30pm | 11 Attendees |
| Safeguarding 1 | Tennis Ireland | 4 th July @ 6.30pm | 12 Attendees |
| Safeguarding 1 | 3 Hours Online | 18 th July @ 6.30pm | 11 Attendees |

Pride of Place 2023

The Judge's panel for the Co-Operation Ireland, Pride of Place Competition 2023 visited Co. Wicklow on 5th-6th of September 2023. The four entries had an opportunity to make a presentation to the judges and showcase the wonderful work being undertaken by volunteers in their communities.

| 2023 Nominations - Entries | Category |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Greystones Tidy Towns | Creative Place Initiative |
| ReWild Wicklow | Climate Action and Biodiversity |
| Hollywood Village | Population - 0-500 |
| Avoca Village | Population - 500-1500 |

Blessington Greenway

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

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

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

Community Recognition Fund

Wicklow County Council receive €1.6 million to develop seven community projects across the county under the Government's Community Recognition fund.

The Community Recognition Fund is a major initiative designed to specifically support communities across the country that are hosting people from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding has been allocated across all the five municipal districts based on the number of new arrivals located there.

Please see below details on the seven projects:

| | Project Description |
|---|---|
| Bray Community Centre | 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 |
| Baltinglass Community Park | Riverside Walking Path |
| | New Playground |
| | MUGA Refurbishment |
| Bray Parish Centre | Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings |
| Wicklow Town Placemaking Project | 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. |
| Arklow Playing Pitch | Groundworks and surfacing works |
| | Multi use pitch and fencing |
| | Landscaping |
| Rathdrum Community Park | Groundworks, Fencing, Gates |
| | Landscaping, large planters and benches |
| Greystones Community Park | Boules/pétanque playing ground |
| | Landscaping and Community Placemaking |

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The Scheme is funded under “Our Rural Future” which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.

Seven funding applications were made under Measure 1 on the 5th of September 2023, with a project timeline of around 18 months. These are:

| No. | Community Group Information | Location | Description (Brief) | Amount of ORIS funding sought |
|-----|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Hollywood District Forum | Hollywood | Natural Play area | 29,700.00 |
| 2 | Sean Lenihan Development Committee | Three Wells and Cushbawn | Upgrade/Resurfacing | 29,700.00 |
| 3 | Wicklow Uplands Council | Wicklow Uplands Way to rebrand to Sugar Loaf Way | Branding and promotion of trail | 24,660.00 |
| 4 | Wicklow Way Management group | Knockree Bridge, Wicklow Way, Glencree | Upgrade/Resurfacing | 29,700.00 |
| 5 | Wicklow Sports Partnership | Libraries in the County | Hiking Packages | 29,700.00 |
| 6 | Wicklow Uplands Council | Stanhely to Knocknamunion hill | Safety for walkers off army lands | 29,700.00 |
| 7 | Wicklow Way Management Group | Wicklow Way | Crone woods trail upgrades | 29,700.00 |
| | TOTAL | | | €202,860.00 |

Two project development measures were also submitted:

| Scheme Measure | Project Priority given by L.A. | Rationale for prioritisation | Community/Partner | Project Name | Project Description | Amount of ORIS funding sought |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Project Dev. Measure | 1 | It was chosen as priority one to assist with access to this popular route and re-open one of the closed routes to this popular area in the County. | Rural Recreation Officer | Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan | Recreation Plan for the Lugnaquilla uplands area to manage visitor numbers, land use, habitats and safety in changes to access routes. | 45,000.00 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Project Dev. Measure | 2 | It was chosen as priority two to address the issues on this heavy utilised landscape. | Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer | Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan | Recreation Plan to manage and protect the landscape and ensure safe and appropriate recreation. | 45,000.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | €90,000.00 |

Measure 2 applications are due for submission on the 27th of October next, with an approval date of Qtr. 1 2024 and a project timeline of around 24 months.

Measure 3 applications are due for submission on the 27th of October next, with an approval date of Qtr. 1 2024 and a project timeline of around 24 months.

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

| ORIS Project | Present Position |
|---------------------------|--|
| North Wicklow Trails | The Vartry Reservoir section is close to completion. |
| Avonmore Way, Avondale | Trail segments linking the Avondale River to the Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way is now complete. |
| Stratford on Slaney | This project is completed with a new connection to Stratford village |
| Clogherna Access | Works to improve surface and increase traffic safety at the Clogherna access to Baravore Bridge, Glenmalure. The project is due to start on the last week in September. |
| Wicklow Blueway | 1) Greystones – New boardwalk is installed at Greystones South Beach which will make the beach more accessible to all individuals including those with varying degrees of ability. A Live Cam has been installed and will soon be streaming the sea conditions in real time. |
| | 2) Research is underway to determine the possibility of enhancing amenities along the coastline at Wicklow, Kilcoole and Bray. |
| | 3) Arklow - Bicycle stands, privacy screens for changing, planting, information boards and cleaning of graffiti are some of the features of the plan in place for The Cove, Arklow Rock and South Beach Arklow. |
| | 4) Brittas Bay - An upgrade of existing facilities is planned for Brittas Bay along with new information boards in conjunction with the guidance of the Heritage Officer. |
| Avonmore Kayak Project | Plans are in place to improve a number of access and egress points along the Avonmore River and the fitting of railings and privacy screens at the Meetings of The Waters in Avoca. The willow privacy screens are now installed. |
| Kilmacanogue Nature Trail | Work is in progress to enhance the links between Wicklow Uplands and the Sugarloaf Way. Completed with new signage to be added. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Cliff Walk Protection Scheme | The project has been paused briefly to allow for finalising the purchase of third-party land. |
| Sugarloaf Repair | This project entails the manual pitching of stone at the Sugarloaf to create ascent and decent points, work scheduled to commence soon. |
| Three Trout Route Project Developments | Now at project design stage following the identification of two crossing points connecting the stream with existing infrastructure. |
| Ballyboy Equestrian Trail | Under way for resurfacing and improved access points. |
| Miner's Way | Under way for resurfacing and improved access points. Currently upgrading and resurfacing. |
| Glen Turn Cliff Walk | Completed with new signage to be added. |
| Red Kite Loop Wild Play Area, Avoca | Play structures have been identified and design is currently under way. |
| Wicklow Uplands | Project has commenced with the airlifting of surface materials to the sensitive site in the Wicklow Uplands. |
| Russborough Parklands and House Trail | It is planned to enhance the existing walking trails and install a cyclist's area. Project has commenced with some boundary up grading works. |
| Glenmalure Recreation Area | The project will include the upgrading of the existing trail, removal of damaged boardwalk and replacement with a sustainable surface. |
| Coolkenno Equestrian Trail | The aim of this project is to construct an 8km equestrian trail and associated access points. |
| Roundwood Recreation Area | Development of the layout has commenced. The project will include the provision of a bike hub, way-marking and promotion of Roundwood Recreation Area. |

Social Investment Fund Policy

The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) is committed to contributing towards the social and economic fabric of communities through sponsorship of initiatives delivered by its customers.

Through the Social Investment Fund, the HFA supports local projects that complement housing schemes and nurture community development. Funding of up to €250,000 per annum has been made available, with a maximum limit of €30,000 (excluding VAT) for any one application.

Under this call for funding Wicklow County Council has submitted the following three projects:

| Location | Project Details | Funding Sought |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| Avoca Village | Community and Heritage Centre – Restoration works to the roof of the centre | €30,000 |
| Kirikee Village | Community Centre – Repair and upgrading works | €30,000 |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---------|
| Newtownmountkennedy | Community Centre – Upgrading and repair works including window replacements, roof repairs and the installation of fire alarm panels and smoke detectors. | €31,852 |
|---------------------|--|---------|

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

As the current SICAP contracts are ending on December 31st a tendering competition for the new 2024-2028 contracts is underway. The Request for Tender was issued on e-tenders at the start of July and the closing date was September 8th. An evaluation process is now underway in relation to tenders submitted with new contracts to be in place by the end of December.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

Consultations: Future of Local Democracy (Seanad Eireann), How well do you know Ireland's Seas, Digital Local Government Have your Say, Wicklow County Council Part 8 Consultation, Get Ireland Cycling Strategy, Climate Conversation 2023, ECRDTF Community Needs Analysis, Wicklow CYPSC County Plan, Universal Design Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, Wicklow Town & Rathnew Local Area Plan, Identification of Bathing Waters, Regional Water Resources Plan.

Training Opportunities: Dealing with Financial Institutions as a Non-profit Organisation.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: WCC Community Climate Action Fund, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, The Tik Tok Digital Future Fund, Climate Emergency Fund, European Youth Foundation - Pilot Activity Grant, LIFE Programme Grants, St Stephens Green Trust Funding Programmes, Meet & Code, Ecclesiastical Insurance Launch Movement for Good, Community Food Initiatives at Home Fund, Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023, 14th EESC Civil Society Prize, Sports Capital & Equipment Programme.

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

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

LECP 2023 – 2029

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

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

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

The LECP is developed under five main themes:

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

The LECP Strategy Framework is completed and was signed off by both the LCDC and the EDES SPC. The plan has been presented to the 5 MDs. It has also been presented to EMRA (to ensure it complies with the RSES). The next step is to be considered at plenary Council. The Implementation Plan is being developed at present.

In addition, Wicklow County Council has appointed CAAS Ltd to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment for the LECP.

Town Regeneration

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. LUC were awarded the tender for the Masterplan and have commenced work. The Town Regeneration Team visited Blessington Square on 7th September to carry out Public and Business surveys. The people they meet were very positive and very enthused with the news of the Plan.

Town Teams Networking

There will be a Town Team Networking event taking place in the Brockagh Recourse Centre, Laragh on 23rd September. All Town Team members have been invited to attend, A presentation will be given on Town Team Networking followed by a discussion.

Blessington Town Team

The Town Centre First Policy was launched at the recent Town Team meeting held on 7th September. Ms. Deirdre Whitfield, Wicklow County Council Town Regeneration Officer, gave a presentation on the Town Centre First Policy. The committee were advised that consultants have been engaged to carry out the process with work to commence immediately and with an expected completion date of the document expected to be eight weeks. There will be an extensive public consultation process during this period with input sought from community, sports and social groups as well as the wider community of Blessington.

A working group made up of members of the Blessington Town team has been established to oversee the implementation of the Town First Policy.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Pottery Website Project – The Town Team are delighted to have received additional funding for the Arklow Pottery Website. Treasure Vox has set up meetings with interviewees for to take place over the next few weeks. The aim is to speak to about 10 - 12 people and record their stories. Work is ongoing to photograph Arklow Pottery pieces to add to the patterns database on the website.

A further element of this project was to update and reprint the Pottery Trail brochure which has now been complete.

Medieval Abbey Lane Project – The Town Team in partnership with the 402 Art Collective were also delighted to receive support for funding through the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2023. The mural

designed and painted by 402 Art Collective member Adam Burke is well underway in Abbey Lane. The mural is a fantastic addition to the laneway.

Bray Town Team

A meeting was held with Bray MD, the Town Regeneration Officer and facilitator to plan for the future of the Bray Town Team.

Greystones Town Team

Greystones Town Team (GTT) CLG Steering Group last meeting was held on Wednesday 30th August, 2023 and updates were received from all the sub-committee chairs.

Rachel Harper – Principal of St Patrick’s NS provided an update on the “It Takes a Village” movement and the Greystones Town Team pledged their support to the initiative. There was an event organised at The Cove to bring everyone together to highlight the campaign on September 9th which saw a great turn out on the day.

Wicklow Town Team

The Wicklow Murals – Connectivity Project is progressing at a fast pace. The artists have been confirmed, preparatory works have been carried out and the draft murals have been provided to the sub-committee. Painting of the murals will commence at the end of September and into October.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Blessington RRDF

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin “Our Rural Future” Ireland’s Rural Development policy.

Baltinglass RRDF

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

Newtownmountkennedy RRDF

The project is under review at present due to revisions necessary to the public realm, due to contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions it is hoped that agreement will be reached, the plans will be signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

The Urban Regeneration Development Fund announced recently that Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction in the towns of Wicklow and Arklow, thus promoting vibrant communities. The fund will be administered through the Town Regeneration Office and covers the entire cost of acquiring suitable properties identified within Arklow and Wicklow towns which can then be developed. Four properties have been chosen (2 in Arklow and 2 in Wicklow). The process to acquire these sites will commence very soon.

Bray Harbour Improvements

A feasibility study and screening reports were completed last year for the Bray Harbour Improvements. Work has commence on preparing tender documents for the procurement of engineering consultancy services for the purpose of producing detailed designs, an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), a Natura Impact Statement and an application to An Bord Pleanala for the proposed improvement works at Bray Harbour. The tender will be issued when the URDF funding has been confirmed for the next phase of the project.

Tourism

Fáilte Ireland met recently with Senior Management in relation to a Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for County Wicklow. The procurement for a new Tourism Strategy has paused pending the publication of the new Failte Ireland Report which will inform the County Wicklow Tourism Strategy.

Wicklow Tourism continues to promote County Wicklow as a premier tourism destination utilising various methods including Facebook, Instagram and Website. Wicklow has an abundance of attractions whether you are looking for recreation, relaxation or cultural attractions they are there to be explored. Two of the most popular attractions during August and September:

- The Wicklow Passport is attracting new Ambassadors who were very excited to share their adventures on visitwicklow.ie

- **EcoTrail** – We are welcoming athletes from all over the world to take part in this year's event which will take place from 28th to the 30th September. There are various activities and events scheduled over the weekend including a Gathering on Thursday night. On Friday we are proposing a trip to Glendalough, a Pínsín Bar with Wicklow Naturally, Bib Collection, Press conference and Multi Sport activities organised by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership. Saturday is Race Day with 80k starting at 7.30am, 46k at 9am, 30k at 10am and 19k at 11am. The race can be followed on @visitwicklow YouTube Channel.

Wicklow Naturally

Tinahely Agricultural show in the “Best of Wicklow” marquee was a great success with high attendance for Catherine Fulvio and Charlo the Chef. Members Veronica (Healthy Habits), Aine (Arklow Bay) and Barry (Glenview) all put on great demonstrations promoting all Wicklow products.

Wicklow Naturally co-ordinator's activities:

- **The Food Stakeholder Networking** - co-ordinator, Paul Smith, has been accepted to the sustainable tourism experience course launched by Skillnet Ireland;
- **Local Food to Local Consumers TV Series** – a meeting took place with the Caterer for Gordon Ramsey's new TV series and agreement was made to have Wicklow Naturally products on their menu. Wicklow Naturally co-ordinator, Santana, was on hand to offer support to the production team and liaising with local producers.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Regular meetings are taking place with the Project Management Team for the Abbey Grounds.

The redesign for the Coach House/Café has been approved and a structural engineer and quantity surveyor has been appointed to progress the works on this building.

Works in relation to clearing the bridge has been completed. Tree canopy pruning and scrub removal has also taken place. Works including public lighting design, mechanical and electrical works for the project is advancing also.

A detailed archaeological survey of the existing ruins is being carried out at present.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Work continues on this strategic project for County Wicklow. The revised Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is out for consultation.

The project team are exploring options for partnership in the delivery of the masterplan.

Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

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

MOLA Architects, working with the project team, expect to make a presentation on the Masterplan by the end of September.

Special Projects

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn. The purchase of the space is expected to be completed in September 2023.

Progress on the Mill Road site is on hold pending PRA confirmation of site registration.

The procurement process has begun for the design of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew for the provision of a remote working hub and ancillary facilities. Contractors are expected to be appointed end October 2023.

Offshore Renewable Energy

Wicklow County Council has established an Offshore Renewable Energy Network with representatives from local businesses, chamber of commerce and the education sector.

Engagement continues with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow.

Skills Strategy

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

The contract for a Skills Audit and Strategy was awarded to KPMG Ireland. This project is currently finalising its public consultation to seek employer, employee, and education provider's views on what skills and/or skills shortages exist in County Wicklow. A baseline report, provided by KPMG, is being considered by the Economic Development team.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of the Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. Work continues on the preparation of an Action Plan.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Architectural Design Services & Project Design Preparation (including Part VIII) for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

Local Enterprise Office

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

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

| METRICS: Grants | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters | -28/ €748,180 -8/ €12,829.95 | - Meet Demand - Meet Demand | 15/ €365,602 2/ € 2,642 |
| NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO | | | |
| METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes. | 44 | 60 | 13 |
| Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes) | 84 / 7 programmes | 120 | 43 |
| Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes (all programmes except SYOB and MDP) | 653 | 1200 | 304 |
| Women in Business Network Number of Meetings | 8 | 20 | 15 |

| METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|--|------------|---------|--------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Number of new clients added to database *Criteria have been amended for this metric | 498 | 500 | 350 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor | 426 | 390 | 344 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|

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

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

| Trading Online Voucher | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No of Trading Online Vouchers approved | 2022 | 2023 | Year to Date 2023 |
| Trading Online Vouchers | 67 Total value: € 138,464 | 38 (meet demand) | 44 |

| Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects | HISTORICAL | TARGETS | YEAR TO DATE |
|---|------------|---------|--------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert | 9 | 17 | 3 |
| No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert | 4 | 6 | 1 |

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

August/September 2023 Activities

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- Preparations are underway for LEO clients exhibiting at the National Ploughing Championships in September.
- Preparations are underway for 4 LEO Wicklow craft clients to exhibit in the LEO hall at Showcase 2024.
- A number of one-to-one Export Consultancy sessions ongoing to assist clients with their export strategy.
- The 'Owner Manager Development Programme' (OMDP), delivered by Blaies Brosnan, will commence again on 7th September with 18 experienced business owners.
- Organisation ongoing of an event to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day on Thursday 19th October.
- Organisation ongoing of the official launch of Clermont Screen Hub on Thursday 26th October by Cathoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Minister Simon Coveney.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter Business and IT Skills training programme has been published on the LEO website and is now open for booking. A wide range of core business skills training courses are on offer from September through to December. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Upcoming courses include:

- Start Your Own Business Course, starting 7th September
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar, 13th September
- Social Media for Your Business, 12th September
- Digital Marketing Clinics, 19th September
- Costing and Pricing Strategy, 26th & 27th September

2. Planning & Development

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

Proposed Variation Number 1 to the WCDP 2022- 2028

Proposed Variation Number 1 will be published on Wednesday 6th September with submissions invited for 4 weeks up to 3rd October. This Variation is in relation to a parcel of land in Rathdrum Town Plan and is on foot of the RZLT process.

New Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation has commenced for the new '**Wicklow Town & Rathnew**' Local Area Plan. Submissions are invited up to 28th September 2023 with a public open day scheduled for Thursday 14th September 2023 in Wicklow County Buildings. The team have designed a new on line consultation portal where the public can view the topics relevant to the plan and make a submission through the web portal. Submissions can also be made by post. The portal is available to view here <https://wicklow-rathnew-lap-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

A Public Information Day was held in the Wurzburg Room, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96 on Thursday **14 September 2023** from 10.00 to 13.00 and 16.00 to 19.00. The plan team was available on the day to answer any questions on the plan, the plan process and to help guide the public on how to make a submission.

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on two other new LAPs for '**Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole**' and '**Blessington**'. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage. We are in the process of preparing a consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultations. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation in Q4 2023.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the 3 LAPs and they have commenced their preliminary work with the SEA Scoping Reports sent to the Environmental Authorities, with submissions due back on 15th September. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP's are available to view here <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans>

RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heritage & Biodiversity Office

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funded projects

- Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project: €34,170 funding received. Project underway (conservation grazing and ecological monitoring). New interpretive units due to be installed in coming weeks and community engagement programme planned for Aug- October. Butterfly identification workshop held 17th August, Dynamic Dune workshop to be held on 16th September and Bird Migration field trip 30th September. Invasive species control volunteer days and community clean up planned for October to December.
- County Wicklow Hedgerow survey €20,000 funding received. Deborah D'Arcy ecology engaged. Fieldwork scheduled 5th July- End August. Final report due Q4.
- Community Outreach Programme €18,830 funding; numerous events already undertaken.
- Woodland Monitoring project (bats) €7,000; Project underway with Bat Conservation Ireland and NPWS staff. Final report due Q4.
- Wicklow Pond Restoration project €20,000; Projects underway, preliminary surveys undertaken for Clermont House & Mill Lane.

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

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach: Community (Volunteer) excavation scheduled for 8th- 18th August to coincide with Heritage Week. Big Dig held 13th Aug plus Lego workshops, Archaeology of Glendalough talk on 16th August, Daily tours of the excavations were held during Heritage Week and a talk in association with Wicklow Mountains National Park was held on 18th August.
- Wicklow Barn Owl Project: Monitoring of 60 nesting boxes taking place from May-Sept. Report of five nesting sites to date. Heritage Week event scheduled in Wicklow library on 15th August, promoted as part of Tinahely Agricultural Show on 7th August.
- Seasonal nature workshops; Programme of monthly, free, family friendly events at East Coast Nature Reserve commenced on 22nd July in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland. Next 'Hide & Seek' family event to be held Sat 16th September.
- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews: Agreement from SMT to commence review.
- Our Wicklow Heritage communications: Hosted ICAN National launch on 31st May. Public event on the Our Wicklow Heritage Network of sites took place in Wicklow Library on 25th July. Public open event held for Tinahely on 7th September. Expressions of interest sought from Wicklow groups to join the network by end of September.
- Community Archaeologist Part Time post. De Faoite Archaeology engaged for 2023. Ongoing liaison with community groups from March to Dec. GIS database created to document Early Medieval Church Sites and Historic graves and headstones. Family friendly event hosted in Arklow for European Archaeology Days on Sunday 18th June; 'Big Dig' for children and talks and displays on recent CMF funded research on Arklow. Five community archaeology events scheduled as part of Heritage Week, community archaeologist participated in 'Best of Wicklow' tent at Tinahely show on 7th Aug, next public talk scheduled for Tinahely on 10th September.

Conservation Management of Council owned lands (Climate Action): Draft Conservation management recommendations report for Bray Head completed by ALC nature. Management prescriptions and recommendations drafted in consultation with local stakeholders to increase the climate resilience of Council owned land at Bray Head and address recreational and other pressures. Discussed at SAAO committee meeting in August and due to be presented at the Bray MD meeting in October.

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

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): There are 19 Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) projects underway in county Wicklow (budget of €101) and 2 approved projects under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF)-

Crusher House, Barravore (stream1) €35,000 and Cronroe Gardeners cottage (vernacular) €10,000. All projects underway. Next progress report due 15th September.

Development Management

Planning Applications

| Total valid applications received | To 31st August 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Received (Valid) | 926 |

A total of 91 valid applications were received during August as follows:

| Type of Development | 31 st August 2023 Number Received |
|-------------------------|--|
| Individual Houses | 20 (15 refer to a rural house) |
| Housing Developments* | 06 |
| Agricultural Structures | 02 |
| Commercial | 05 |
| Other Developments** | 58 |
| Total | 91 |

***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

Large Scale Residential Development

PRR23/627, Roy Cromie, 30 dwellings, Ballyguile Beg, Wicklow Town

PRR23/60219, Keldrum Limited, 352 dwellings, Tinakilly, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

Decisions issued in respect of applications in August 2023

| Type of Development | Number of Decisions |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Housing Developments | 03 |
| Individual Houses | 7 (3 refer to a rural house) |
| Other Developments | 73 |
| Other Developments Requiring EIA | 03 |
| Total | 86 |

Decisions issued between January to August 2023

| | 31/08/2023 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total Number of decisions issued | 699 |
| Total Number of decisions to grant | 587 |
| % Grant Rate | 84% |
| No of applications withdrawn | 11 (9 refer to rural house) |

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE report 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, 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 4th October, CE report submitted 21/11/2022.

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

Substitute Consent

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

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

E-Planning Project

The ePlanning system went live on 17th April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately. Since going live **46.5%** of applications have been received online (526 received in total: 245 through eplanning and 281 hard copy).

There has been a mix of application types including:

- One off houses/extensions
- 26 apartments in Bray
- 68 dwellings in Rathnew
- 7 new houses in Greystones
- Coastal defence works and commercial units
- 12 residential apartments in bray
- Installation of an aircraft noise monitoring terminal at Roundwood
- Change of use of Boswell House Ancillary Building and The Stables to 7 apartments providing short stay residential accommodation
- Construction of 131 parking spaces which includes 24 electrical charging points at Templeraíne, Arklow
- Construction of 30 no. dwellings, Wicklow Town
- 397sqm industrial unit in Kilcoole

- Erect 14,500m2 of photovoltaic panels, Arklow
- Large Scale Residential Development – 352 residential units, Tinakilly, Rathnew
- Erecting a 21m high multi-user monopole structure together with antennas, dishes & associated telecommunications equipment, Delgany

Planning Enforcement

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| New Files | 9 |
| Advisory Letters | 19 |
| Warning Letters | 5 |
| Enforcement Notices | 0 |
| Legal Files | 0 |
| Closed | 9 |

Short-Term Letting

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| Applications received for Registration in August 2023 | 2 | 9 |
| Complaints received in August 2023 | 0 | |
| Warning Letters issued in August 2023 | 0 | |
| Enforcement Notices issued in August 2023 | 0 | |
| Legal proceedings in August 2023 | 0 | |
| Files under investigation as of 31/08/2023 | 58 | |

Derelict Sites

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

Vacant Sites

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

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

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

3. Environment

Litter/Waste Management

| | |
|--|-----------|
| No. of Complaints Created during the month | 123 |
| No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed | 101 |
| No of Litter Fines Issued | 9 |
| No. of Waste Management Files Opened | 1 |
| No. of Warning Letters Issued | 4 |
| No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued | 17 |
| No. of Burning Applications Granted | 0 |
| No. of Temporary Signs Granted | 1 |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act | 4 |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act | 1 |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act | 0 |
| No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued | 0 |
| No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists | 15 |
| No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act | 0 |
| No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act | 0 |
| | |
| Income - Litter | €1,050.00 |
| Income- Waste Management | €7,006.92 |

Whitestown Remediation

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

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan Work is progressing on the development of the Climate Action Plan.

The draft actions have been presented to the CABA SPC Meeting on 6th September and has been positively received. A similar presentation will be made to the PDE SPC on 21st September.

Consultants have been recruited to undertake the SEA and AA for the plan. A scoping report has been issued to the statutory consultees, which will end on 3rd October.

Public consultation of the Plan is targeted between 3rd October and the 15th November 2023 inclusive.

Arklow Energy Awareness Day An Energy Awareness Day will be held on the 9th of September where Arklow SEC will launch their Energy Master Plan.

Presentation of CYP Biodiversity Report to Chief Executive

A presentation will be made by the Children and Young People's Assembly of the Biodiversity Loss Report to the Chief Executive on 26th September.

Link to report is as follows: [available here](#).

The 58 actions contained within same have been reviewed as part of the stakeholder engagement for the Wicklow draft Climate Action Plan (CAP).

A number of actions have been added to the draft Wicklow CAP based on same.

Update on posts for the Climate Action Team

Recruitment is underway for the following positions:

- Biodiversity Officer
- Environment Awareness Officer

Mid-East Energy Unit (MEEU)

MEEU – Steering Group meeting took place in July to discuss progress of the 3 local authorities, The next Steering Group meeting is scheduled to take place at Clermont Campus on Friday September 22nd.

- * Meeting held with SEAI and CODEMA to discuss pilot project for swimming pool energy upgrades
- * Ongoing energy review and collaboration with Wicklow, Kildare and Meath Energy Officers. Monitoring and Reporting review completed for Meath & Kildare.
- * Fortnightly meetings held with Energy Officers (Meath, Kildare & Wicklow)
- * Training day held in Codema offices in Dublin on past and present energy reviews

Wicklow Co Co Energy - SEAI ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council has signed up to the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme which will allow the Council to apply for ISO 50001 accreditation. WCC hosted the last meeting of the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme. Preparing for ISO Masterclass Day 7 in September, working with the appointed ISO mentor on the Council's energy action plan.

The Council is currently working with its energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach our 2030 targets but being mindful of the 2050 targets also. .

Wicklow EV Chargers – The public electric vehicle chargers in Blessington and Bogmeadow Enniskerry are now operational and proving successful.

WCC hosted a site visit by JB Barry consultants working on behalf of Cork City Council to view the operation of the solar car park Collaboration with Maynooth University on SFI project, to provide solutions that will assist communities in decarbonising.

Meeting held with Shoreline Leisure, presentation made on energy and carbon targets to 2030/2050 and challenge of decarbonising the swimming pools

Meeting held with Energy Elephant to update WCC's energy usage portal, it is now reporting all natural gas, electricity and public lighting.

Coastal Erosion

Brittas Bay - Wicklow County Council has made applications over the years for Minor Works funding and carried out funded works in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Avoca. An application for funding to support dune management at Brittas Bay as a (Coastal) flood risk management intervention is currently being prepared for submission to the OPW in September.

The Heritage Officer has published a Dune Management Plan for Brittas Bay, which includes removal of invasive species, and channeling people away from sensitive areas, and fencing parts of the dunes. This should help to make the dunes also more resilient to erosion.

The Murrough - Wicklow County Council has been actively engaging with Irish Rail who are progressing their East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Programme (ECRIPP). Site investigations are due to commence in September 2023.

Environmental Awareness

The team participated in the Arklow energy awareness day on Saturday 9th Sept., including event coordination and the inclusion of a Climate Action stand. The event was a success, with good attendance and a high level of interest in the Climate Action stand.

Entries for the Tidy Towns and the Sustainable Development Awards schools section closed on the 8th of September. Judging take place throughout September, with over 50 entries received, representing an increase on last year.

A series of workshops are being planned, focusing on the repair and maintenance of bicycles. Workshops are planned for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow and Blessington. The aim is to encourage active travel and also to facilitate longevity in products, thereby promoting the principles of a circular economy.

Wicklow County Council will have a stand promoting green gardening, energy efficiency in the home, and reducing food waste, at the Ashford Honey Fair on Saturday 23rd September.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 1 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Air pollution complaints closed.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

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

Licensed discharges to Waters

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Private Water Supplies

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

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 14 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards

- 52 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 3 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

Bathing Waters

- 31 Bathing Water samples taken – 30 Good or excellent.
- 2 Bathing Water Prohibitions were issued for Bray South Promenade on 31/07/23 and South of Bray Harbour because of poor water quality after rainfall and subsequently lifted on 10/08/23 when they returned to excellent or good water quality.

The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2024 season.

The final water testing for the season took place on Monday 4th September. The 6 designated bathing waters were sampled 10 times and the non-designated bathing waters were sampled 4 times. All results can be found on Wicklow.ie or on beaches.ie

Blue Flag

The Blue Flag season on beaches at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South, has now finished. There will be no lifeguards on site for the winter months on any beach in County Wicklow.

Well Grants

- 18 New Water Grant applications received
- 1 New Well granted
- 7 New Pumps granted
- 5 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 29 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

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

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 2 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with reminder letters.
- 2 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 0 Dry cleaners installations inspected.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 2 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Air Pollution Licensed Sites

- 0 licensed bitumen plant inspected.

Planning & Development

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

Harbours and Ports

Harbour Projects

| | Grant Available | Project Update |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon | €200,000 | Contractor appointed for supply and installation of pontoon. Installation to commence in October |
| South Quay Arklow Storage facilities | €325,000 | Contractor has commenced on site. Approx build time 3 months. |
| Arklow Harbour welfare facilities | €100,000.00 | Unit to be installed in October. |
| Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids | €50,000 | Project underway, main structure refurbished. Awaiting glass to be fitted. |
| South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon | €52,000 | Installation of pontoon to take place in October. |
| North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space | €120,000.00 | Contractor appointed, works to commence end September. |
| Wicklow Harbour - concrete works | €150,000 | Concrete replacement works completed on Packet pier. Works are underway to pump concrete into the quay walls on the New (North) pier. These shall take approximately 4 weeks. |
| Wicklow - welfare facilities | €100,000 | Contractor appointed, civil works are underway prior to installation of unit. |

Control of Dogs - Dog Licences

281 dog licence reminders were sent out during August 2023. 308 licences were purchased, with 140 (or 45%) of all licences purchased via the Licences.ie portal. There are currently 4,787 number of Dog licensed in County Wicklow.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with the DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project.

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

1. Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

A tender for the maintenance of public lighting in CO. Wicklow is currently being prepared and is intended to be issued this week, with a new PL maintenance contract in place by the end of October.

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **247 – 1.62%** of total stock of 15,245. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we are currently drawing up a program with the ESB to repair these faults.

| Status | ARKLOW MD | BALTINGLASS MD | BRAY MD | GREYSTONES MD | WICKLOW MD | Grand Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Access Issues (Attended) | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | | 10 |
| Cable Fault (Attended) | | 1 | 3 | | 4 | 8 |
| ESB Interface Required | 4 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 2 | 32 |
| ESB Required (Attended) | 17 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 65 |
| Knock Down (Attended) | | | | | | 0 |
| Materials Required | | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 8 |
| No Supply | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| On Hold | 5 | 1 | 10 | | 5 | 21 |
| Submitted | 15 | 31 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 82 |
| TMR | 5 | 3 | 2 | | | 10 |
| Tree Cutting Required | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Grand Total | 49 | 62 | 62 | 37 | 37 | 247 |
| Percentage Not Working | 1.64% | 2.56% | 1.85% | 1.32% | 1.00% | 1.62% |

| Date | 04/09/2023 | 11/09/2023 | 18/09/2023 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Access Issues (Attended) | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| Cable Fault (Attended) | 13 | 13 | 8 |
| ESB Interface Required | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| ESB Required (Attended) | 50 | 54 | 65 |
| Knock Down (Attended) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Materials Required | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| No Supply | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| On Hold | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| Submitted | 85 | 83 | 82 |
| Traffic Management Required | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Tree Cutting Required | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 239 | 236 | 247 |
| PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING | 1.57% | 1.55% | 1.62% |

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The above project is due to commence surveys of the existing public lighting network in Wicklow in the next month. This is the initial phase of the project, and the fitting of lanterns will follow on in due course.

Parking Income

| Parking Income by Municipal District | EURO |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bray Municipal District | 713,632 |
| Greystones Municipal District | 207,113 |
| Wicklow Municipal District | 282,474 |
| Arklow Municipal District | 157,178 |
| Parking Permits | 63,525 |
| Parking Fines | 340,457 |
| Wicklow County Council | 1,764,380 |

Speed Limits

The speed limit signage is currently being erected throughout the County. The tender for the periodic speed limit signs at school was won by PWS Signs Ltd. and have commenced their work, with the signs due to be erected by Christmas.

Transportation Statistics

| | Total 2021 | Total 2022 | Total 2023 | July 2023 | August 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Solicitors Queries | 923 | 838 | 685 | 98 | 92 |
| Road closure applications | 53 | 78 | 29 | 3 | 3 |
| Road Opening licences | 1575 | 1414 | 1560 | 402 | 162 |
| Abnormal Load applications | 54 | 60 | 35 | 6 | 7 |

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred options for sections A and C took place in November 2022. Following further analysis, an emerging preferred option for the provision of bus priority measures between Junction 6 (Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) have now been identified. A Public Display event was held in the Glenview Hotel on 12th September 2023. The display presented the overall 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. Submissions on the emerging preferred option will be accepted on or before Friday 13th October 2023.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

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

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. The topographical survey works are ongoing along the project extents.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

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

N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood

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

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

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

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

N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works

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

N11/M11 Park & Ride Facilities

Proposals for bus based Park & Ride facilities are being progressed adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6, 11 and 16. A part 8 for the Park and Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 with plans and documents on public display until Wednesday 20th September 2023. Submissions or observations may be made on or before 12 noon Wednesday 4th October 2023.

Arklow Public Realm

The Parade Ground Public Realm works have reached a significant milestone, with substantial completion and successful snagging. Currently, the project is in the 12-month defects period, during which any necessary remedial works are addressed. The contractor has approached the conciliator to discuss the appointment and agree on a mutually acceptable timeline for the resolution of any remaining issues. David O'Leary MKM Dispute Resolution appointed as conciliator. Conciliation scheduled to take place on the 17th and 18th October.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

We are currently in the process of reviewing route options for specific sections of the proposed greenway route. As part of this review, updated ecological surveys have been conducted for those sections. Currently, Wicklow County Council is

in the final stages of Phase 2 Options Selection, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway before moving on to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

In line with our commitment to stakeholder engagement and transparency, we are planning a non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred route before. This consultation is scheduled to take place in late September and early October 2023.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope. Simultaneously, they are conducting a value engineering exercise specifically targeted at this aspect of the project. The objective is to bring the scheme within the budget limits currently in place. Reduced scope town centre works presented at Baltinglass Municipal District meeting. Final tender package issued by Arup. The NTA direct labour crew have met regarding the undergrounding of utilities to de-risk project. Setting out of services by NTA crew has been carried out. Meetings scheduled with ESB, Eir, Enervio to check provisions for utilities.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

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

Redford Junction

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

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

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

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

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

Atkins and Irish Rail consultants Jacobs are in communication regarding environmental surveys. Constraints Report has been finalised. Landownership maps are being completed. Stage 1 Route Corridor Assessment is being progressed. Draft public consultation material is being developed.

Blessington eGreenway

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we have formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála has agreed to extend the submission deadline to January 2024. We are diligently working on preparing our response to meet this revised deadline.

Bridge Rehab works;

The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 8 bridges and another has been prepared for full investigation anticipating structural repairs at Dev's Babbling Brook. The 8 bridges are Donard, Ballinclea, Kippure, Old Court x2, Liffey Bridge Lower, Blackmoor and Hillsbrook.

The seasonal window for in water works closes at the end of September. The crew expects to complete the last of the 4 bridges requiring such works, on the Sally Gap, next week. Delays have been encountered on numerous occasions due to rain and heavy flows at Kippure.

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

Machinery Yard;

Works continue on the maintenance of council vehicles, plant and machinery. Winter maintenance machine are currently a priority with the start of the gritting season commencing next month.

Service records and CVRT/RSA reports are currently being moved to ProWork digital system.

Works are continuing to bring the HVO trial to a start. All the relevant paperwork and licences etc are currently being prepared.

An upgrade to the fuel management and distribution system was installed in recent weeks.

Surface Dressing;

Works in all Districts, by the WCC Direct Labour Crew, is complete. The process of accounting and paying for all aspects of the work is continuing.

Active Travel Updates – August

Projects Under Construction

Arklow North Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

The construction of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. Works are progressing well on site, with the footpath and cycle track surfacing nearing completion. Accommodation works are ongoing and the remaining surfacing works are scheduled to be completed in October. It's anticipated that the works will be completed by the end of October.

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Progressing well, the kerbing installation has been completed on the southbound carriageway. Construction of the footpath is ongoing on southbound carriageway, along with preparation works for cycle track surfacing. Awaiting Eircom/Eir to move services. Construction will be ongoing during October for the footpath and cycle track on the southbound carriageway.

Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany (Greystones MD)

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

Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works are being progressed by the NTA deliverables team. Footpath and cycle track works have been substantially completed. The cycle track surfacing and other outstanding works to be completed following road resurfacing, which is being undertaken by Greystones Municipal District.

Non-Statutory Consultations

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

Proposals to improve road safety and make the areas adjacent to the schools safer, so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to the schools safely. The report following the non-statutory public consultation with a recommendation to proceed, was with Senior Management for review and sign off. This has been shared with the NTA for review, before informing Elected Members of the outcome. A meeting with the School Principal re-iterated their support for the scheme.

Part 8 Consultations

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

Provision of improved pedestrian facilities and public realm improvements. The works will take place along the R-761 Lower Kindlestown Road and at the junction with Carrig Villas. The scheme includes for signalised junction, new footpaths, new zebra crossing, improved junction layouts, improved footpaths, cycle climbing lane, a loading bay in front of commercial properties, and realignment of road carriageway. Part 8 documents were presented to members who approved the advertising of the scheme. Submissions can be made up until Friday 22nd September.

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements. The works will take place 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. Part 8 documents were presented to members who approved the advertising of the scheme. Submissions can be made up until Wednesday 20th September.

Greystones Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Approval received from members to advertise a non-statutory consultation for the Charlesland Dual Carriageway ped/cycle Crossing improvements. Submissions can be made until Friday 22nd September. Detail design to be prepared for pedestrian crossings along Charlesland Dual Carriageway to be agreed with NTA.

Project Updates

Bray Dart Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Tender assessment has been completed and approval to appoint received. Meeting held with contractor and a letter of intent to be issued. Liaison will continue with landowners to complete agreements.

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 works are planned for September weather permitting. A meeting with the school on the design for the link from Church Lane was held and the designs are being updated to reflect the schools feedback.

Safe Routes to Schools: St. Johns Senior National School, Arklow (Arklow MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Installation of bollards at the front of the school has been completed, along with road surfacing works and line marking. Junction tightening has also been completed at Coolgreaney Park. High friction surfacing works to be completed in October.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

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

2. Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics August 2023

There were 123 incidents attended during the month of August 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 138 occasions including 10 mobilisations in other counties. 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 August 2023 increased by 6% (8 mobilisations) on the preceding month (July 2023: 130 mobilisations). There was an increase in maliciously set fires (+15) which occurred mainly close to Schools Road in Bray.

Operational activity for the month of August 2023 was 25% higher than the normal 3-year average however it was less than August 2022 due to a year on year reduction in gorse fires. The weather in August 2022 was extremely hot which contributed to a significant spate of gorse fires across the county which is not normal for that time of the year.

Sample Incidents (August 2023)

19/08/2023 Rathdrum and Wicklow Town crews attended a fatal RTC at Ballinacarrig Lower near Ballinaclash.

Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total):

04/08/2023 Dunlavin crew attended a chimney fire in Kilcullen.
 07/08/2023 Blessington crew supported Newbridge at an RTC at Punchestown.
 08/08/2023 Dunlavin crew and Baltinglass crew attended an RTC at Narraghmore.
 15/08/2023 Blessington crew supported Maynooth at an RTC at Osberstown.
 18/08/2023 Blessington crew supported Newbridge at a domestic fire in Naas.
 18/08/2023 Dunlavin crew supported Athy an RTC in Ballitore.
 31/08/2023 Blessington crew supported Naas at an RTC in Naas.

Incidents in County Wexford (1-incident total):

23/08/2023 Carnew crew attended a barn fire in Monaseed.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incident total):

24/08/2023 Tinahely fire crew supported Tullow at a domestic fire at Liscolman.

General

- No training took place during the month and other activities were curtailed due to Industrial action.

Fire Prevention Statistics August 2023

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

| Application type | Received | Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn | Requested additional information | Inspections | Recommended for Grant |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| FSCs | 8 | | 4 | | 6 |
| Revised FSCs | | | | | 1 |
| FSC 7-Day Notice | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| Regularisation FSCs | | 1 | | | |
| DACs | 8 | | 4 | | 19 |
| Revised DACs | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Dispensations / Relaxations | | | | | |

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 23 planning files during the month of August 2023.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 12 of these files.

| Licensing | Received | Inspected | Request further info | Letter / Licence Issued | No objection entered on Courts on-line Service |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| District | 51 | | | 1 | |
| Circuit | 2 | | | | |
| Dangerous Substances Act | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Explosive Act | | | | | |

Annual court dates for alcohol licensing are scheduled for the end of September. Approximately 70 premises will be assessed and inspected as part of the process.

Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

Access to Information

The following interviews were held in August 2023:

- Creative Ireland Engagement Officer
- Business Advisor
- Business Export Advisor
- Cleaner (County Buildings)
- Assistant Architect
- Assistant Engineer
- Assistant Planner
- I.S. Technical Support Officer
- Clerical Officer

Employee Numbers

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

* Increase due to lifeguards

Freedom of Information Requests

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| August 2023: 7 | August 2022: 7 |
| January – August 2023: 77 | January – August 2022: 53 |

Ombudsman Requests

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| August 2023: 6 | August 2022: 7 |
| January – August 2023: 20 | January – August 2022: 27 |

Press Releases

August 2023 - 9

Register of Electors

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

We are continuing with our weekly social media campaign. We also forwarded static images to TD's, Councillors and Senator to share on their social media platforms.

Wicklow County Council is the first local authority in Ireland to roll out the new software release of the new iReg database, having been involved in its development and testing and it is providing greater assistance in processing applications. This includes a quicker turnaround time and if there are queries regarding any aspect of the application, we can contact the applicant much quicker to resolve any issues. This new system also provides for easier processing of applicants from other counties by automatically notifying the other local authority that the applicant has moved to Wicklow and to remove them from their database.

At the request of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and in conjunction with other local authorities, Wicklow County Council's Franchise Staff will provide assistance at the Register of Electors stand in the Government tent at the National Ploughing Championship.

The Boundary Commission Report was issued at the end of August 2023, and we await the legalisation in relation to these changes.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

| Customer Service Innovation Hub – August 2023 | | | |
|--|--------|---|--------------|
| Communication | No. | Public Counters | Transactions |
| No. of Phone Calls received to 0404 20100 | 10,450 | Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings | 1,652 |
| No. of Customer Service Emails received | 200 | Revenue Transactions processed | 1,424 |
| No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received | 61 | Housing Counter visits | 322 |

Total in person visits for August 2023 – 1,899



2. I.C.T.

Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Deployment of devices is continuing, upgrading of hardware stock and new starts.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Local Area Plans** – Continue supporting the Forward Planning section with the preparation of LAPs.
- A **Sustainability Communities Report** for Altidore Gardens, Newtownmountkennedy was completed which requires appendices indicating the availability of the following services in the area:
 - o Amenities and Services
 - o Education and Childcare
 - o Health
 - o Sports
 - o Social Housing
 - o Transportation

Planning Consultation Hub

Consultation Hub has gone live for the Wicklow-Rathnew LAP. Draft versions of hubs for Blessington and Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole have been published. An additional hub for Blessington Town Regeneration Centre has also been published and is currently in development phase.

- gReg, Housing, Environment and Roads GIS applications have migrated to new WMS Basemaps issued by the OSi.
- Map production for the Franchise Section in relation to amendments to Wicklow's Polling Districts.

Infrastructure

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

3. Finance

Revenue Account

| DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST AUGUST 2023 | | | | | | | |
| | EXPENDITURE | | | INCOME | | | NET |
| | Actual Expenditure | Adopted Full Year Budget | % Budget Spent to Date | Actual Income | Adopted Full Year Budget | % Budget Spent to Date | Actual Expenditure / (Income) |
| | € | € | % | € | € | % | € |
| Housing and Building | 27,203,734 | 42,194,421 | 64% | (29,780,480) | (46,575,078) | 64% | (2,576,746) |
| Road Transport & Safety | 11,567,297 | 24,371,150 | 47% | (6,235,547) | (16,722,878) | 37% | 5,331,751 |
| Water Services | 3,395,241 | 5,649,853 | 60% | (4,001,443) | (6,606,528) | 61% | (606,202) |
| Development Management | 10,014,787 | 14,288,049 | 70% | (6,665,407) | (8,574,520) | 78% | 3,349,380 |
| Environmental Services | 8,496,642 | 13,559,916 | 63% | (768,517) | (2,628,049) | 29% | 7,728,125 |
| Recreation and Amenity | 5,682,036 | 8,984,450 | 63% | (535,129) | (1,085,428) | 49% | 5,146,907 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 1,076,512 | 2,106,287 | 51% | (424,008) | (1,049,228) | 40% | 652,503 |
| Miscellaneous Services | 6,006,916 | 9,728,355 | 62% | (8,683,774) | (13,260,436) | 65% | (2,676,858) |
| Central Management Charges | 14,297,877 | 21,746,281 | 66% | (688,410) | (1,050,000) | 66% | 13,609,467 |
| Local Government Fund | | | | (9,214,381) | (13,821,571) | 67% | (9,214,381) |
| Commercial Rates | | | | (20,853,980) | (31,405,046) | 66% | (20,853,980) |
| | 87,741,042 | 142,628,762 | 62% | (87,851,076) | (142,778,762) | 62% | (110,034) |

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st August 2023 to 31st August 2023.

Capital Account

| CAPITAL ACCOUNT | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST AUGUST 2023 | | | | | |
| | Opening Balance at 01/01/2023 | Actual Expenditure | Actual Income | Transfers to/from Reserves | Closing Balance at 31/08/2023 |
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Housing and Building | 17,814,239 | 56,059,360 | (46,765,428) | (356,920) | 26,751,251 |
| Road Transport & Safety | (37,383,838) | 7,367,132 | (1,667,655) | (303,860) | (31,988,221) |
| Water Services | (13,023,496) | 81,475 | 1,514,358 | (87,640) | (11,515,303) |
| Development Management | (26,681,391) | 452,882 | (10,799,380) | (193,826) | (37,221,715) |
| Environmental Services | 276,031 | 3,124,689 | (1,638,435) | (367,500) | 1,394,786 |
| Recreation and Amenity | (2,034,378) | 1,749,008 | (251,158) | (275,587) | (812,115) |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | (2,040,366) | 394,043 | (251) | (210,674) | (1,857,247) |
| Miscellaneous Services | (10,515,300) | (3,404,918) | (533,965) | 1,344,719 | (13,109,463) |
| | (73,588,498) | 65,823,672 | (60,141,914) | (451,287) | (68,358,028) |

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

| SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST AUGUST 2023 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Income Collection Area | Opening Balance 01/01/2023 | Accrued | Vacancy Property Adjustments | Write Offs | Waivers | Total for Collection | Collected | Closing Arrears 31/08/2023 | Specific Doubtful Arrears | % Collection |
| Rates | 4,598,635 | 31,429,618 | (11,317) | (522,742) | (41,897) | 35,452,297 | (23,466,870) | 11,985,427 | 415,411 | 67% |
| Rents & Annuities | 3,281,584 | 11,743,208 | 0 | (15,059) | 0 | 15,009,733 | (11,478,987) | 3,530,746 | 0 | 76% |
| Housing Loans | 440,112 | 1,590,561 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,030,673 | (1,557,355) | 473,319 | 0 | 77% |

NB Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date. The rates collection, rent collection and housing loan collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

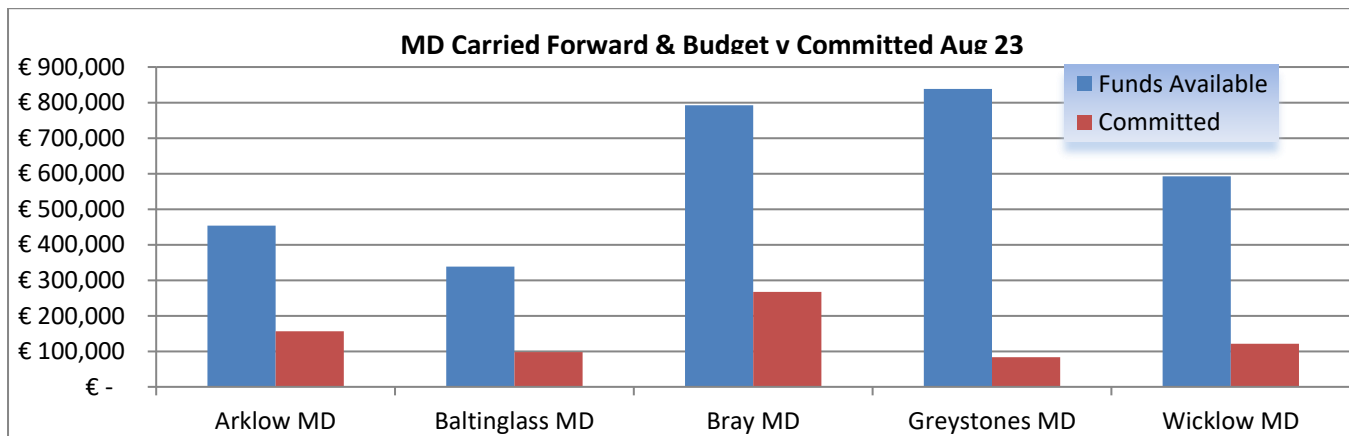
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

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

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

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

| Municipal District | C/F from 2022 | Adopted Budget 2023 | Funds available to MD | Committed | Balance to Expend |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Arklow MD | 184,779 | 269,197 | 453,976 | 156,311 | 297,665 |
| Baltinglass MD | 92,215 | 246,197 | 338,412 | 97,970 | 240,442 |
| Bray MD | 365,206 | 426,778 | 791,984 | 267,216 | 524,768 |
| Greystones MD | 592,012 | 246,197 | 838,209 | 83,201 | 755,008 |
| Wicklow MD | 342,471 | 250,197 | 592,668 | 120,940 | 471,728 |
| Total | 1,576,683 | 1,438,566 | 3,015,249 | 725,638 | 2,289,611 |



Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

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

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

Capital Funded Projects

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

| 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 | Askanagap - Boundary Wall | €50,000 | €5,000 |
| CLAR 2022 | Askanagap - 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 |
| | Total to date | €63,955,710 | €13,910,951 |