

AUGUST 2023



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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E N D L E S S   O P P O R T U N I T I E S

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### **This month:**

#### **30KM PERIODIC SPEED LIMITS OUTSIDE ALL SCHOOLS FROM AUGUST**

August will see the introduction of periodic 30km/h speed limits outside every one of the 102 schools in the county – the first local authority in the country to introduce such a measure.

By ensuring that cars travel at lower speeds, the front of school area will be a much calmer and welcoming place for children and their parents who choose to walk, cycle or scoot to school. As a result of these changes, the most vulnerable road users will find themselves in a safer environment.

Studies have shown that pedestrians have a 90 per cent chance of surviving after being hit by a car or a truck going at 30 km/h, but less than 50 per cent at 50 km/h or higher. Existing speed limits in the vicinities of County Wicklow's schools varied from 50km up to 80km per hour.

The safety of all children is paramount, and the introduction of these new periodic speed limits will signal the intention from Wicklow County Council to motorists that they need to slow down, particularly in the vicinity of school zones.

The new speed limits will complement the National Transport Authority and An Taisce's Safe Routes to Schools programme, of which eight schools in Wicklow have already been selected for.

#### **CREATIVE PLACES BALTINGLASS – YEAR 2 PROGRAMME LAUNCH**

Year two of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme – which will see an investment of nearly €400,000 in local art programmes over three years - was officially launched in Rathcoran Estate recently.

The event provided the opportunity for Wicklow County Council representatives to meet with leaders of local organisations and projects and to hear from community members and creative practitioners about their Creative Places journey.

The Creative Places initiative was devised by the Arts Council of Ireland to provide communities and places that had not benefited from sustained arts investment in the past with funding and professional support to build their local arts programmes and benefit people living in these places.

Baltinglass is one of 17 places in Ireland selected for the Creative Places scheme that brought €1.7m in investment across the country and provided over 100,000 people in rural areas with access to the arts.

Spearheaded by the Wicklow County Council Arts Office, the Creative Places Baltinglass programme aims to build on existing cultural strengths in Baltinglass, encourage community participation and support local artists.

## Housing & Community

### 1. Housing

	July 2023	July 2022
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4495	4560
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	165	223
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2806	2596
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	21
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	29	31

### Allocation of Social Housing

	July 2022	July 2023
Wicklow County Council	34	17
Approved Housing Bodies	03	18

### Social Housing Stock

	July 2023	July 2022
Tenancies occupied	4,827	4768
Total weekly rental accrual	319,770.76	312,614.56
Arrears	2,899,643.04	2,805,084.47

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

<b>Schemes Recently Completed</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
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
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
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
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Detailed design stage underway - Contractor appointed
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Construction ongoing
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing tender documents
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	On site completion anticipated Q3 2023
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Tender advertised
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Design Stage
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Design stage.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

## Part V

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Due for Delivery</b>	<b>Method</b>
Bray	2	18 Delivered, 2 Units delivered June 2023	CALF
Rathnew	3	3 Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivered June 2023	WCC

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

## Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Greystones, Ashford, Newtownmountkenedy, 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 - €946,774.51 spent to date
- › Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - €396,134.40 spent to date

2023 - 78 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 131 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 –124 applications paid and closed

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Number of Grants Received/Processed</b>	249	216	266	327	281	271

### Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in September 2023. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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	Contractor 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	Detailed design complete – stage 3 approval received – contractor appointed and due to start on site in September 2023 – one year to completion.
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## 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
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.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Refurbishment underway.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Refurbishment underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	Refurbishment underway.
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
Croneynhorn	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	2023 to date	2022 (6 Months)
Applications Received	37	18
Applications being processed,	32	14
Applications refused or withdrawn	5	4

## Infill Sites

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

## Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

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

## Local Authority Home loans up to July 2023

Received	Approved in principle
34	12

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

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

## Homeless figures for July 2023

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/07/2023	Year To Date	As at 31/07/2022
No of New Presentations	33	218	29
No. of Repeat Presentations	3	9	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	15	97	14
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	20	124	11

	4	14	3
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>			
<b>No. of Children</b>	29	174	27
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	9	73	13
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	8	62	11
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	3	13	0
<b>Mental Health</b>	1	12	0
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	19	30	3
<b>Arrears/Loss of Income</b>	0	6	2
<b>Addiction Issues</b>	0	20	0
<b>DV/DA</b>	3	17	1
<b>Medical Issues</b>	1	9	0
<b>Overcrowding</b>	10	21	1
<b>Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left</b>	0	22	1
<b>ASB:</b>	0	6	0
<b>Rough Sleeping*</b>	1	17	0
<b>Sofa Surfing*</b>	5	31	1
<b>Staying with Family*</b>	11	50	4
<b>Staying with Friends*</b>	3	8	1

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

<b>Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/07/23</b>	
Families	17
Adults	28
Children	53
Single individual	2

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	25	30	13	1	6	1	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/22								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	26	18	6	6	5	0	3

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, 459 households (331 families & 123 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. (187 homeless cases, 260 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 130 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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

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

There are 9 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 16 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that at least four 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**

<b>Ballintreskin – 3 houses</b>	Contractor on site- expected completion date Nov 2023
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses</b>	Approval received for funding from Department, – Contractor appointed
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses</b>	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 26<sup>th</sup> July the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,536 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 241 No.
- Baltinglass MD 352 No.
- Bray MD 638 No.
- Greystones MD 147 No.
- Wicklow MD 158 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 26<sup>th</sup> July we will have housed 228 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

#### **Walkability Audit - Aughrim**

As part of the work plan for this year, under the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027, a Walkability Audit in Aughrim was carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The Walkability Audit was co-ordinated by the Age Friendly Ireland Regional Manager Southeast (Alice Corbett) and the County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager (Clodagh Whelan), who briefed the participants in advance, using the NTA Universal Design Walkability Audit Toolkit.

A diverse group of local community participants, with a mix of abilities and disabilities, included representatives from Kunstverein, Aughrim, Tidy Towns and Active Retirement Group, Arklow Municipal District, and local elected representative. The audit identified the main concerns, areas for improvement of accessibility and made recommendations on priority areas. An action plan will be developed, in consultation with the Municipal District, and presented to the Age Friendly County Alliance at its next meeting.



### **Older People's Council**

The first meeting of the new Older People's Council Executive Group will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

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

The next meeting of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, to review progress on implementation of the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027.

### **Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee**

The next meeting of the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The final draft of the County Wicklow Disability and Inclusion Strategy was presented to the DISC for approval at this meeting.

### **CLÁR Funding Scheme**

Rathdrum Cancer Support (€44,034) and Wicklow Irish Community Rapid Response (€50,000) were awarded funding under the CLÁR Funding Scheme (Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport). In total, Minister Humphreys announced over €2 million for 37 Vehicles for Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders throughout the Country.

Successful applications under Measures 1 and 3 of CLÁR 2023 will be announced at a later date.

### **Healthy Ireland**



Healthy  
**Wicklow**



Sláintecare.  
**Healthy  
Communities**

Healthy Wicklow in collaboration with The Colour Club and Little Warriors held a Play Event to promote the Colour Court, Kynoch Park, Arklow. The action-packed event consisted of basketball drills on the new colourful court, the popular giant games were available on the day and the new Communication board was in situ. The Communication board will be an important valuable asset for the area and will support so many individuals in the community as a visual tool for communicating.





## Period Poverty Initiative

Due to the success of the period poverty initiative in Wicklow to date, Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Healthy Wicklow have been allocated an additional €10,000 from the Department of Health to roll out the project further. This opportunity has enabled the Healthy Ireland Coordinator and the Sláintecare Local Development Officer to engage with services that they had been struggling to connect with, which hopefully will provide future collaboration.

## Active Community Action (Tinahely/Shillelagh/Carnew)

Healthy Wicklow, Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership held a free Let's Play Event in the Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely Show on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Information on upcoming programmes and initiatives was also provided on the day. A taster Activator Pole session will take place in Shillelagh on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

## County Library Service

### Mid-Year Statistics

The LGMA have provided statistics for library visits from January to June for each local authority. Using pre-Covid 2019 stats as the yardstick, visits, nationally are at 40% of the 2019 total (6.8m v 16.987m). This suggests a year end projection of circa 80%, compared with 2019. Wicklow's libraries recorded 301K+ visits in the first 6 months, compared with the 2019 12-month total of 575K+, suggesting that we may achieve the 2019 total by year end.

The national LMS allows borrowing stats from across the country to be compared. Wicklow County Council's "Unique Issues" (which excludes renewals), shows we are at 49.4% of the 2019 total, compared with a national average of 34.2%

	National	Avg per Pop National	Wicklow	Per Pop Wicklow
Library Visits Jan-June 2023	6,808,927	1.33	301,376	1.94
Jan – June 2023 as %	40%		52.3%	(2 <sup>nd</sup> nationally,

of 2019 Total				after Cork City)
Unique Items Borrowed Jan- June 2023	4,461,933	0.87	193,122	1.24
Jan – June 2023 as % of 2019 Total	34.2%		49.4%	(1 <sup>st</sup> nationally)

These stats show Wicklow (1.94 visits per pop) as being currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Cork City (2.01 visits per pop). The national average is 1.33 visits per pop.

Regarding unique items borrowed (excluding renewals), Wicklow is in 1<sup>st</sup> position, nationally, with

## Baltinglass Library New Communities Programme

In recent months, Wicklow County Council Library Service have been working along with support worker Tetiana Leschenko, Olha from Ukraine and a group of local volunteers to bring together a programme of activities for the Baltinglass community. A significant focus is on integration of new friends from other countries into the local community.

The **English Language Conversation Group** is a welcoming space where language and culture come together and takes place every Tuesday evening from 6.30-7.30pm. For newcomers looking to refine their English conversation skills, this group offers a supportive environment to practice speaking, share stories, and build connections.

Behind the scenes, a group of dedicated volunteers from the Baltinglass area play a vital role in creating this vibrant community. They bring diverse perspectives, experiences, and a passion for helping others succeed. Together, they are fostering language growth and cultural understanding.



By introducing a **weekly board games session** for children, new communities and children from the local community, we aim to maintain and build on friendships already made at school. It's not just about rolling dice or moving pieces – as children engage in games on an equal playing field, regardless of their background; they gain a sense of belonging and self-assuredness.

A weekly **Arts & Crafts programme for Adults** has been enjoyed by adults from Baltinglass and newcomers alike. Painting and crafting together as adults offers a dynamic platform for language skills to flourish and social connections to strengthen. So far adults have enjoyed coffee painting, T-shirt painting and a painting session featuring the Sakura tree as inspiration.



**A Story Telling Workshop with Philip Byrne** took place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of August in Baltinglass Library. Storytelling for new communities goes beyond cultural boundaries, fosters connection and understanding. Through shared stories, people learning English as a second language will improve their listening skills and their vocabulary.

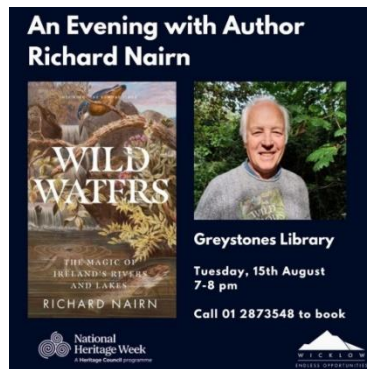
### ABC Storytime at Arklow Library

Each Saturday until the start of the school year, Arklow Library has an additional, simpler story time focusing on learning the ABCs; Arklow invites all, especially those in our new communities. After a couple of short stories featuring letters, they will have colouring, again featuring the alphabet. These sessions are short and sweet and will begin at 11 am and last until the usual 12 noon story time.



### Richard Nairn at Greystones Library

An Evening with Richard Nairn, author of (most notably) Wild Waters, Wild Shores and Wild Woods took place on Tuesday, 15th of August. Richard Nairn is an ecologist and a lifetime sailor. During his career, he worked as a nature reserve warden and was the first director of BirdWatch Ireland.



## Tiny Easel Workshop at Wicklow Town Library

'Nature and Still Life, Tiny Easel Workshop' took place on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Each participant completed a tiny painting on the theme of Nature and Heritage.

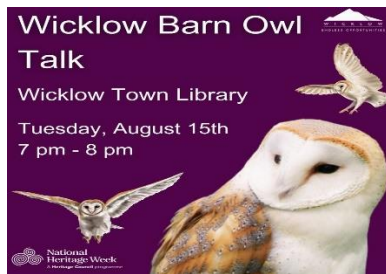


## Wicklow Barn Owl Project - Presentation Wicklow Town Library

Project Field Officer Oran O'Sullivan will provide an update on the Wicklow Barn Owl project on 17<sup>th</sup> August at Wicklow Library.

The aim of the project is to gather baseline data on Barn Owls in County Wicklow and providing suitable supplementary habitat through the installation of Barn Owl nesting boxes where appropriate. Nationally Barn Owl numbers have suffered due to the lack of habitat and rodenticide poisoning and the project aims to reverse this decline in Wicklow.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of interested individuals all over the county, multiple sightings of Barn Owls have been reported on project's GIS data base and over 50 nesting boxes have been installed. Members have been busy surveying each of these nesting boxes over the summer season in the hopes of attracting breeding pairs.



### **Heritage Herbs & Well-being Workshop & Back Garden Seed Saving with Festina Lente at Bray Library Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Back Yard Seed Saving**

By saving seeds – you will experience multiple benefits of contributing to sustainability, saving money, learning how to grow your own, healthy eating and social community benefits of sharing seeds.

The workshop involved;

- An overview of the practical and botanical basics with hands-on demonstrations and activities— identifying native/heirloom varieties and seed-saving harvesting techniques – including a look at vegetables, flowers and wild species.
- Exploration of the seeds saved in the Bray Seed Library and exchanging ideas about how to share these seeds and grow in different locations or use them in developing projects.
- Seed-saving creative lab: Experimenting with rapid ways of seed-saving and eating – growing of microgreens, tasting foods that include used seeds, and extending your salad plate when you have limited seeds available.

•

**Heritage Herbs, their culinary and wellbeing potential at Bray Library**, took place on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Participants learned to:

- Identify a selection of native herb plants and their culinary and well-being use.
- Sow, grow and propagate your favourite herbs – to be grown indoors, in a container or outdoors.
- Explore the wisdom and folklore of herbs as part of Irish heritage and the added emotional, physical, social and ecological benefits of including in your diet, gardens and lifestyle.
- A range of practical demonstrations on how to use herbs for your wellbeing – culinary recipes and tastings, homemade body care products, herbal crafting and journaling.



## Irish Bees for Beginners Presentation by Brian Murray at Baltinglass and Dunlavin Libraries

"Irish Bees for Beginners," held a captivating 90-minute presentation on 17<sup>th</sup> August in Dunlavin Library and 19<sup>th</sup> August in Baltinglass Library, hosted by local naturalist, Brian Murray, known for his remarkable contributions to the study of native bees and wasps in West Wicklow.

With a rich background in recording the native bees and wasp fauna of the region for the past five years, Brian Murray has even made a groundbreaking discovery - a previously unknown species of wasp that has never before been documented in Ireland.

The presentation was an engaging journey through the various families of native bees in Ireland, shedding light on their nesting and foraging habits. Brian shared valuable insights on how to become biological recorders of these vital pollinators. Attendees learned when and where to find Irish bees and gain the skills to accurately identify different species.

A highlight of the event was Brian's impressive pinned collection of bees. This extraordinary exhibit showcased the immense diversity of bees that call Ireland home, leaving the audience with a profound appreciation for these vital insects and their crucial role in our ecosystems.



## Family History Advisory Evening at Dunlavin Library

Ita O'Boyle, a local genealogist, facilitated a Family History Clinic/Genealogy Advisory evening in Dunlavin Library on 15<sup>th</sup> August 15<sup>th</sup>. Ita guided participants through the research process involved in



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Family History gathering and demonstrated the use of the various online resources available for use in our libraries including “Find My Past”.



### Ballywaltrim Library is setting up a Scrabble Club

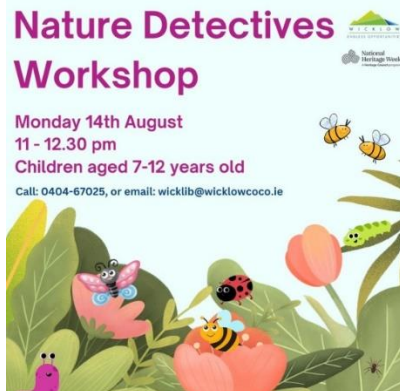
Calling all word enthusiasts from our community! Join our Scrabble Club; it's not just a game – it's a way to improve mental agility, enrich vocabulary and meet new people.



### Nature Detectives Workshop at Wicklow Town Library

A fun nature workshop where children will discover what animal tracks and signs to look out for, how to identify common Irish butterflies, and what trees they might find in their own back garden, took place on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Participants took home a nature notebook, butterfly colouring book, and a bug net & bug jar.



### **'Let's Play' Garden Games for Loan**

If you are hosting a children's birthday party at home or maybe going on a picnic in the outdoors, heading away for the weekend or perhaps playing in your own back yard, why not check out our new Let's Play Outdoor Games pack? Our libraries have been working with Healthy Wicklow, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership to bring you the opportunity to borrow 'Let's Play' Outdoor Games from your local library. Each pack can be borrowed for up to one week on an adult library card, you just need a current membership.



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

**SICAP 2024-2028:** Call for Tenders for upcoming new contracts in Wicklow has issued on e-tenders platform. Closing date is September 8<sup>th</sup> after which time all tenders submitted will be evaluated. New contracts will be awarded and signed before end of year.

### **Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):**

**Consultations:** Wicklow CYPSC County Plan, Wicklow Skills Strategy, Ireland's Private Residential Rental Sector Review, Climate Conversations, Festivals, Audiences & the Digital Experience Survey,



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Passport Design Public Survey, ECRDTF Community Needs Analysis, Universal Design Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, Identification of Bathing Waters, Regional Water Resources Plan, Digital Local Government Have Your Say, Wicklow Town & Rathnew Local Area Plan.

**Funding Opportunities/Competitions:** WCC Tidy Towns Estates & Sustainable Development Awards, International Decade for People of African Descent, Sports Capital & Equipment Programme, LGBTI+ Community Services Funding, Circular Economy Fund, WCC Arts Office 2024 Strategic Projects Award Scheme, Meet & Code, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Ecclesiastical Insurance Launch Movement for Good, 14th EESC Civil Society Prize, Community Good Initiatives at Home Fund, Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023.

Please see [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://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.

#### **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. The tender process for consultants has now closed, with work to commence in the coming weeks.

### **Blessington Town Team**

Blessington Town Team continues to meet on a regular basis.

### **Arklow Town Team**

Arklow Town Team continues to work on projects including:

- The Town Team received additional funding for the Arklow Pottery Website, capturing former employee stories and photographs of Arklow Pottery pieces to add to the patterns database.
- The Medieval Abbey Lane Project – The Town Team in partnership with the 402 Art Collective received funding through the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2023. Work is on-going to finalise a mural design.

### **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**

A very successful all-inclusive family fun day took place in Burnaby Park on 12th August, which was organised by Greystone Town Team.

### **Wicklow Town Team**

Community engagement workshops were held during July to brief the local community in relation to The Wicklow Murals – Connectivity Project. The artists have been chosen for the project and it is anticipated that works to prepare the walls will commence shortly.

## **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.

### **Bray Harbour Improvements**

Wicklow County Council is awaiting approval from the Department to proceed to the next stage of the project which will involve going out to tender to engage consultants to prepare preliminary design, EIA, NIS and required surveys. The development as confirmed by An Bord Plenala on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June last, requires An Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

### **Tourism**

Fáilte Ireland met recently with Senior Management in relation to a Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for County Wicklow. The procurement process has begun and it is anticipated that consultants will be in place by Q4 2023.

Wicklow Tourism continues to promote County Wicklow as a premier tourism destination utilising various methods including:

- Wicklow Passport
- Online themes such as Dublin's great rivers; from source to sea, West Wicklow walking trails, mountain biking in Wicklow and rainy days in Wicklow.
- EcoTrail - US Top Trail Runner Hillary Allen and the Eco Trail Paris Winner Yoann Stuck are expected at the upcoming event.

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

Regular meetings are taking place with the Project Management Team for the Abbey Grounds and staff from the Municipal District.

The redesign for the Coach House/Café has been approved and a structural engineer has been appointed for the works. The tender documents for the building are being drafted. Detailed designs (including materials, canopies, and lighting) for the Amphitheatre and performance area are being finalised.

### **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 have a Masterplan in place by Q3 of 2023.

### **Special Projects**

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn.

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.

### **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

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	-28/ €748,180 -8/ €12,829.95	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	15/ €365,602.5 2/ € 2,642.00
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	44	60	13
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	120	43
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	653	1200	304
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	15

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Number of new clients added to database	498	500	303

*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	390	295

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)	41

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	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert	9	17	1
No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert	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



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## July 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.
- 1<sup>st</sup> June: National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House. WHC Labs, who represented Co. Wicklow at the awards, won the Innovation Award and a prize of €5000.
- Preparations are underway for LEO clients exhibiting at the National Ploughing Championships in September.
- A number of one-to-one Export Consultancy sessions are taking place during the summer months to assist clients with their export strategy.
- A delegation from Dublin, California, who Bray MD are twinned with, visited, and participated in an information exchange on the various economic development projects progressed by the Enterprise Team in WCC.

## Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

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

## 2. Planning & Development

### Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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

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

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 with a public open day due to be held in Wicklow County Buildings in September 2023. 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/>

### Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for '**Wicklow Town & Rathnew**', '**Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole**' and '**Blessington**'. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage for all three plans and are in the process of preparing the online consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultations for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole as well as Blessington. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole and Blessington in Q3/Q4 2023.

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

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

### RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax

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

The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that have been prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional

areas. These maps were published on Wicklow County Councils website on 01 November 2022. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Heritage & Biodiversity Office**

### **National Biodiversity Action Plan Funded projects**

- Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project: €34,170 funding received. Project underway (conservation grazing and ecological monitoring). New interpretive units due to be installed in coming weeks and community engagement programme planned for Aug- October. Invasive species control scheduled Oct-Dec. Butterfly identification workshop scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- County Wicklow Hedgerow survey €20,000 funding received. Deborah D'Arcy ecology engaged. Fieldwork scheduled 5<sup>th</sup> July- End August. Final report due Q4.
- Community Outreach Programme €18,830 funding; numerous events already undertaken, community project fund to be opened before Q4.
- 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 planned 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 8<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> August to coincide with Heritage Week. Big Dig scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> Aug plus Lego workshops, Archaeology of Glendalough talk on 16<sup>th</sup> Aug, daily tours of the excavations during Heritage Week.
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> August, promoted as part of Tinahely Agricultural Show on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- Seasonal nature workshops ; Programme of monthly , free, family friendly events at East Coast Nature Reserve commencing on 22<sup>nd</sup> July in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland.
- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews: Agreement from SMT to commence review.
- Our Wicklow Heritage communications: Hosted ICAN National launch on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Public event on the Our Wicklow Heritage Network of sites took place in Wicklow Library on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Next public event planned for Tinahely on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. Expressions of interest sought from Wicklow groups to join the network.
- 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Aug.

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

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

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## Development Management

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31st July 2023
Received (Valid)	813

A total of 89 valid applications were received during July as follows:

Type of Development	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 Number Received
Individual Houses	17 (12) refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	06
Other Developments**	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>

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

Decisions issued in respect of applications in July 2023

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	02
Individual Houses	10 ( 3 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	83
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

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

	31/07/2022	31/07/2023
Total Number of decisions issued	639	610
Total Number of decisions to grant	539	510
% Grant Rate	84%	87%
No of applications withdrawn		3 (0 refer to rural house)

### Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

### Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

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

## **Strategic Infrastructure Development**

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

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

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

## **Substitute Consent**

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bunded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container &

electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.

## E-Planning Project

The ePlanning system went live on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately. Since going live 45.3% of applications have been received online (417 received in total, 189 through eplanning & 230 hard copy).

There has been a mix of application types including:

- One off houses / Extensions
- development of 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 30no. dwellings, Ballyguile Beg, Wicklow Town
- 397sqm industrial unit in Kilcoole
- Erect 14,500m<sup>2</sup> of photovoltaic panels, Arklow.

## Planning Enforcement

New Files	14
Advisory Letters	25
Warning Letters	8
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	18

## Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

# AUGUST 2023



## Vacant Site Levy

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

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)

## Short-Term Letting – 01/07/23 – 31/07/23

Applications received for Registration in July 2023	2
Complaints received in July 2023	1
Warning Letters issued in July 2023	0
Enforcement Notices issued in July 2023	0
Legal proceedings in July 2023	0
Files under investigation as of 31/07/2023	63



## 3. Environment

### Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	133
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	90
No of Litter Fines Issued	9
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	9
No. of Burning Applications Granted	0
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3
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	20
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	6
Income - Litter	€775.00
Income- Waste Management	€4,185.72

### 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. Following on from stakeholder engagement the focus has been on developing actions for the plan under five core themes which are Governance & Leadership, Built Environment & Transport, Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure, Communities: Resilience & Transition and Sustainability & Resource Management. Consultants have been recruited to undertake the SEA and AA for the plan and a first meeting was held to start the process. Consultation with statutory consultees is planned.

**Ebike Scheme** The Bolt e bike scheme in Bray has now been operational for over six weeks. 9,236 bike rides with 2,285 unique users and a total of 20,184 KM travelled have been recorded up to the end of July. There are now 90 bikes operational in the town.

**Arklow Energy Awareness Day** An Energy Awareness Day is being planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> of September at which Arklow SEC will launch their Energy Master Plan. The event will feature companies providing retrofitting and renewables products and service and electric vehicles as well as workshops and kids activities. The event will be held in Coral Leisure Centre Sports Hall from 11.00 to 4.00.

## **Update on posts for the Climate Action Team**

All posts have been filled and the Climate Action Team is now fully staffed.

## **Mid-East Energy Unit**

**MEEU** – Steering Group meeting took place in July to discuss progress of the 3 local authorities

- Meeting held with SEAI and CODEMA to discuss pilot project for swimming pool energy upgrades
- Presentation on MEEU progress to Planning, Development and Environment SPC
- Ongoing energy review and collaboration with Wicklow, Kildare and Meath Energy Officers

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

The Council is currently working with its energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach our 2030 targets and is also collaborating with OPW and ZEVI on delivering projects in Wicklow.

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

**SEAI Energy Awards** – WCC submitted two applications into the SEAI Energy Awards (Mid-East Energy Unit & Solar Car Park). The shortlist of successful applicants will be announced in August.

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 to address the challenge of decarbonisation.

Meeting held with Cork County Council/CARO to demonstrate Mid-East Energy Unit model .

**Arklow Flood Relief Scheme** - The Request for Tender for a Consultant was published in June, with closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**Environmental Awareness** - Wicklow County Council **Tidy Towns and Sustainable Development Awards** were launched in June, with a significant number of entries to date. The closing date was extended until Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> and entries are currently being assessed.

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

The **Gum Litter Taskforce** (GLT) launched its Summer Roadshow in Wicklow on Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>.

The campaign aims to both raise awareness of the damaging environmental impacts of gum litter and also to demonstrate how gum can be appropriately disposed of. This is achieved through engagement with the public during the roadshow, and the spreading of the message around proper disposal of gum.

The interactive Roadshow works with local authorities and communities across the country to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter.

Now in its sixteenth year, the campaign is a collaboration between Food Drink Ireland, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the chewing gum industry, and local authorities.

## **Pollution Control**

### **Pollution Response & Investigation**

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

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

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

### **Licensed discharges to Waters**

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

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

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

## **Private Water Supplies**

- 12 Private water supplies monitored deemed compliant with drinking water limits
- 2 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
- 9 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

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

- 1 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

## **Bathing Waters**

- 19 Bathing Water samples taken – 15 Good or excellent.
- 2 Bathing Water Prohibitions were issued for Bray South Promenade on 12/07/23 and 31/07/23 because of poor water quality after rainfall and subsequently lifted on 15/07/23 and 10/08/23 when they returned to excellent water quality.

## **Well Grants**

- 25 New Water Grant applications received
- 2 New Well granted
- 7 New Pumps granted
- 15 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 26 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.
- 10 Petrol Filling Stations were inspected.

## **Deco Paint Solvent Regulations**

- 2 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with certificates of compliance.
- 3 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 3 Dry cleaners installations inspected.

## **Smokeless Coal Regulations**

- 2 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

## Air Pollution Licensed Sites

- 1 licensed bitumen plant inspected.

## Planning & Development

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

## Identification of Bathing Waters 2023

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

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

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

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

## Avoca Mines Remediation Project

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

## Harbours and Ports

### Wicklow Harbour – Cargo Movements

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

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June 23	5	4	1	6	4	2
July 23	8	4	4	11	7	4

## Harbour Projects

Arklow Harbour	Grant Available	Project Update
Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon	€200,000	Contractor appointed for supply and installation of pontoon. Installation to commence in September
South Quay Arklow Storage facilities	€325,000	Tenders being assessed.
Arklow Harbour welfare facilities	€100,000.00	Location within harbour is under review. Contractor has been appointed to fabricate unit.
Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids	€50,000	Project underway, main structure refurbished. Awaiting glass to be fitted.
South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon	€52,000	Pontoon has been purchased. Awaiting finalisation of Foreshore licence before installation can take place.
North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space	€120,000.00	Tender award on hold until lease agreed
Wicklow Harbour - concrete works	€150,000	Concrete replacement works completed on Packet pier. Repairs to take place to North Pier after summer season.
Wicklow - welfare facilities	€100,000	Location has been selected beside steps to the beach at harbour office. Contractor has been appointed

## Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### 1. Transportation

#### Public lighting

The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **240 – 1.57%** of total stock of 15,243. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

#### Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	June 2023	July 2023
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	923	838	593	101	98
<b>Road closure applications</b>	53	78	26	5	3
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1575	1414	1398	142	402
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	54	60	28	2	6

#### M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

#### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

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

The public consultation information is available to view on the BPIS project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

#### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of

funding from TII. Site investigation works will commence at some of the locations over the coming weeks which will inform the final design option selection.

## **N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment**

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

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

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

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

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

## **N81 Pavement Capital Works**

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

## **N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood**

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

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

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

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

## **N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works**

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

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

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

## **Arklow Public Realm**

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

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

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



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

## **Baltinglass Town Centre Plan**

The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope. Simultaneously, they are conducting a value engineering exercise specifically targeted at this aspect of the project. The objective is to bring the scheme within the budget limits currently in place. Reduced scope town centre works presented at Baltinglass Municipal District meeting. Draft tender drawings issued to WCC with tender package to be received shortly for final review.

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

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

## **Redford Junction**

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

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

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

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

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

## **Blessington eGreenway**

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

## **Bridge Rehab works;**

The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 7 bridges and another has been prepared for full investigation anticipating structural repairs. The 7 bridges are Donard, Ballinclea, Kippure, Old Court x2, Liffey Bridge Lower, Blackmoor.

The seasonal window for in water works has begun and the crew expect to complete the first of four bridges requiring such works, on the Sally Gap, next week. Delays have been encountered on 2 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. Service records and CVRT/RSA reports are currently being moved to ProWork digital system.

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

## **Surface Dressing;**

Works in all Districts, by the WCC Direct Labour Crew, is complete. Bray MD are awaiting a Contractor to complete their programme of works. The 2023 programme began on June 12<sup>th</sup> and ended on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Works were rained off on a number of days due to bad weather.

29 different roads were surfaced. Approx. 450,000m<sup>2</sup> of road was covered. The actual surfacing area is approx. 480,000m<sup>2</sup> due to multiple layers on some regional roads.

There were 15-20 staff on site for daily operations. There were also a number of additional staff in the Machinery Yard and District Offices assisting during the season.

## **Active Travel Updates – August**

### **Projects Under Construction**

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

The design of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. Works are progressing well on site, with the remaining footpath and cycle track on the southbound carriage to be completed. The pedestrian crossing at the roundabout is to be completed, as is the remaining boundary fencing works.

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

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Progressing well, with construction for the southbound carriageway footpath and cycle track ongoing. Accommodation works at two residential properties to commence.

#### **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. Road surfacing to be completed.

#### **Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)**

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

construction of the footpath. Works are progressing in Phase 2, with the construction of the boundary wall completed and ongoing construction of cycle track footpath. Toucan crossing to be completed also.

## **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 non-statutory public consultation closed on 26th of July. 137 submissions have been received and are currently being reviewed, with a report being prepared. Meetings with Principals to be scheduled, following by conversations with Elected Members. Barry Transport are finalising detailed designs.

## **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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **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 clarifications sought with contractors and meeting to be held to discuss them. Landowner agreements to be signed.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. A meeting with the school principal is being arranged for August to discuss the detailed design for the permeability link. Road repair works completed on Rathdown Road.

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

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

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

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Non-Statutory consultation to be undertaken for the Charlesland Dual Carriageway ped/cycle Crossing improvements. Detail design to be prepared for pedestrian crossings along Charlesland Dual Carriageway to be agreed with NTA. Rapid Build Options Report issued to NTA for approval.

## 2. Emergency Services

### Fire Service

#### Operational Fire Statistics July 2023

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	11	2	3	3	2	1					
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	27	4	6	5	2	4	1		1	2	2
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2	1	1								
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	10	5	5								
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	4	1	1	1	1						
<b>One Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	28	8	7	6	3	1	2				1
Fire Outdoor Rural: Gorse / bushes	6	6									
Fire Chimney	0										
Fire Small Urban / bin / skip / bonfire	13	5	5		2	1					
Fire Vehicle	3		1	1	1						
Flooding	1		1								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	6	1	1	1			1			2	
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	10	2	1	3				2	1		1
Garda Assist	1	1									
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	1			1							
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	0										
Malicious False Alarm	0										
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	7					3		2	1	1	
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	130	36	32	21	11	10	4	4	3	5	4

There were **103 incidents** attended during the month of July 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **130 occasions** including **7** 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 July 2023 **decreased by 25% (43 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (June 2023: 173 mobilisations). This can generally be accounted for by wetter weather compared to the hot spell in June as a result there was a decrease in domestic fires (-8 mobilisations), RTCs (-10 mobilisations), maliciously set fires in urban areas (-17), gorse fires (-16) and incidents in neighbouring counties (-11). There were increases in mobilisations to commercial fires (+10) due to 5 (2 pump) incidents at the former Charlesland Golf Club, an increase in fire alarm activations (+11) and an increase in ambulance assists (+6).

Operational activity for the month of July 2023 **was down 32% (60 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2022** (July 2022: 190 mobilisations). The decrease is accounted for by a reduction in vehicle fires (-14 mobilisations), a reduction in gorse fires (-37), less malicious fires in urban areas (-19) and a reduction in false alarms (-10).

## Sample Incidents (July 2023)

- 07/07/2023 Rathdrum and Wicklow Town crews attended a domestic fire at Parnell Park, Rathdrum.
- 11/07/2023 Wicklow town crew supported by Arklow and Rathdrum attended a derelict house fire off the Marlton road.

## Sample Incidents in County Kildare (3-incidents total):

- 19/07/2023 Dunlavin crew were mobilised to support Naas at a domestic house fire persons reported in Ballymore Eustace. Once casualty was taken to hospital.
- 27/07/2023 Baltinglass crew supported by a crew from Carlow town responded to and extinguished a domestic fire near Castledermot.
- 28/07/2023 Dunlavin crew supported Newbridge at a 3-car RTC at Barretstown.

## Sample Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents total):

- 04/07/2023 Arklow crew were mobilised to an RTC involving a truck and a car at Castletown. One casualty with head injuries assisted.
- 05/07/2023 Arklow crew attended an ambulance assist call at Inch to assist with CPR.
- 18/07/2023 Arklow crew supported Gorey an incident in Ramstown involving a possible gas explosion. One casualty provided with medical assistance.
- 28/07/2023 Carnew crew assisted by crews from Gorey attended an RTC at Kilmichael, Gorey. The Carnew crew used lifting equipment to raise an overturned tractor that was trapping the occupant who was partially submerged in a river and at risk of drowning. Casualty was extracted safely with relatively minor injuries in the circumstances.

## General

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

## Fire Prevention Statistics July 2023

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	1		1		7
Revised FSCs			1		0

FSC 7-Day Notice	2		3		6
Regularisation FSCs					0
DACs	10		1		19
Revised DACs					0
Dispensations / Relaxations					0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 22 planning files during the month of July 2023. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 20 of these files.

Licensing	Received		Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	5				1	2
Circuit	3			3		
Dangerous Substances Act			4	1		
Explosive Act						

## **Building Control**

### **Commencement Notices for July 2023:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 36

- 7 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 17 Opt Out Declarations
- 7 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 5 Seven Day Notice

### **Submission Statistics**

- 47 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 72 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 26 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 4 are Compliance Documentation (15%)
  - 16 are Opt Out (62%)
  - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (4%)
  - 5 Seven Day Notice (19%)
- 30 Valid Commencement Notices
- 57 new build residential Units and additional 67 Apartments
- 9 Non Res new builds
- Invalidated CNs for July = 3

## **Certificates of Completion processed in July 2023**

- 21 New No. of CCC submitted
- 16 Required Revised Information
- 21 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 88 new Residential units plus
- 16 Apartments
- 3 Non Res. Builds

## **Submission Statistics**

21 No. Validated CCCs related to;

6 No CCCs submitted in June 2023

15 No CCCs submitted in July 2023

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

Building Control continues to experience high construction activity & in particular Opt Out Commencement Notices. 57 new residential houses and 67 apartments were notified to LA for Commencement & 107 newly completed residential units plus 3 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in July. BER certificates for all newly completed units were requested & submitted to Building Control as per S.I. No. 243/2012 - European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012

Building Control continued with site inspections in July to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite. A joint inspection day with NBC&MS Office was undertaken in July, sites to inspect with NBC&MS Office were selected on a risk-based approach.

Revised Information requests were high in July for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 72% of Commencement Notice submissions & 76% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement. Of the 17 Opt Out Submissions in July, 16 required Revised Information due to submissions lacking detail to demonstrate compliance with Building Regs.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022 has requested LA's to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

## Parking Income

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	<b>607,426</b>
Greystones Municipal District	<b>172,037</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>234,970</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>131,654</b>
Parking Permits	<b>51,845</b>
Parking Fines	<b>297,562</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>1,495,494</b>



## Organisational Development & Financial Matters

### 1. HR & Corporate Services

The following interviews were held in July 2023:

- Executive Engineer
- Executive Quantity Surveyor
- School Warden (Blessington)
- Creative Ireland Engagement 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>783</b>

*\* Increase due to lifeguards*

#### Access to Information

##### Freedom of Information Requests

July 2023: 11	July 2022: 8
January – July 2023: 70	January – July 2022: 46

##### Ombudsman Requests

July 2023: 2	July 2022: 3
January – July 2023: 14	January – July 2022: 20

#### Press Releases

July 2023 - 6

#### Register of Electors

Online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) continue to be received and processed daily.

Following on from the Department of Heritage, Planning and Local Government's multi-media platform and 'out of home' advertising campaign in mid-June 19<sup>th</sup>, we have continued with our own print social media campaign to encourage new residents in Wicklow to update their voter details, those who have changed address within the county and to encourage 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote. We are also focusing our own campaign on gathering PPSN, DOB and Eircodes. Wicklow County Council now have a 96.8% coverage of Eircodes on the Register of Electors. We have had a significant spike in online applications as part of both the national and local campaigns.

We have forwarded static images to TD's, Councillors and Senator to share on their social media platforms and will be issuing reminders regarding the importance of sharing these in the months of September and October.

The Register of Electors section, for the first time ever, had a stand at the Tinahely Agricultural Show in the Best of Wicklow marquee. We received a lot of footfall throughout the day and spoke to many people regarding registering to vote, pre-registering of 16 and 17 year olds, queries regarding postal votes and also took a number of applications for other local authorities.

We have visited a number of Nursing Home facilities to update their lists and add additional residents and this will go on until mid-September. We also will be writing to the Disabled Postal Voters & Postal Vote by Occupation voters to advise them on the position regarding their votes following the Electoral Act 2022. In September we will be engaging with Secondary Schools to inform them of the new facility for pre-registration and also to register 18 year olds in advance of the upcoming proposed referendum later in the year.

Wicklow County Council are, in conjunction with Kildare County Council, carrying out testing and troubleshooting of the latest software development before deployment to the remaining councils. This testing has gone very well with a few minor issues identified which we are working on with our colleagues in the LGMA, Kildare and for some issues, Meath. We are also in constant contact with our colleagues in other Local Authorities in the exchange of ideas and information on ensuring that all aspects of information regarding registering to vote are practiced.

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

## Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2023 - July			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	9,632	Motor Taxation	1,304
No. of Emails	1,184	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,456
No. of Elected Members Emails	80	Housing Counter visits	1,152
CRM Cases	53	<b>Social Housing Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be processed: 22</li> <li>• To be checked and validated: 1</li> <li>• Awaiting further info: 38</li> </ul>	

Total in person visits for July 2023 – 1,864



## Communications

### Wicklow County Council #YourCouncilDay 2023 Twitter Campaign Headlines

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

## 2. I.C.T.

### Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- A new Helpdesk Management Portal is currently being configured which should improve the workflow process of tickets.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.
- Deployment of devices is continuing, upgrading of hardware stock and new starts.

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Local Area Plans** – Continue supporting the Forward Planning section with the preparation of LAPs, in particular environmental assessments for various plans.
- A **Sustainability Communities Report** for Bowe's Lane in Greystones 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 been proposed and is currently in development.

- An updated version of the **Waste Tyre Inspection** mobile application has gone live and is currently in use by the Enforcement Section.
- New **MapGenie WMS** services supplied by the OSi have now been implemented and are hosted in our Organization's AGOL environment.

### 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 JULY 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	25,368,584	42,194,421	60%	(27,700,825)	(46,575,078)	59%	(2,332,241)
Road Transport & Safety	9,914,350	24,371,150	41%	(5,050,650)	(16,722,878)	30%	4,863,700
Water Services	2,924,862	5,649,853	52%	(3,325,100)	(6,606,528)	50%	(400,238)
Development Management	8,937,715	14,288,049	63%	(6,003,428)	(8,574,520)	70%	2,934,288
Environmental Services	7,231,322	13,559,916	53%	(646,746)	(2,628,049)	25%	6,584,576
Recreation and Amenity	4,854,219	8,984,450	54%	(375,283)	(1,085,428)	35%	4,478,936
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	986,486	2,106,287	47%	(388,803)	(1,049,228)	37%	597,683
Miscellaneous Services	5,057,270	9,728,355	52%	(7,394,537)	(13,260,436)	56%	(2,337,267)
Central Management Charges	12,541,764	21,746,281	58%	(603,161)	(1,050,000)	57%	11,938,603
Local Government Fund				(8,062,583)	(13,821,571)	58%	(8,062,583)
Commercial Rates				(18,247,232)	(31,405,046)	58%	(18,247,232)
	<b>77,816,573</b>	<b>142,628,762</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>(77,798,347)</b>	<b>(142,778,762)</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>18,226</b>

### Cashflow/Overdraft

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

### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JULY 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/07/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,814,239	51,987,629	(42,641,800)	(356,920)	26,803,148
Road Transport & Safety	(37,383,838)	6,372,836	(1,592,113)	(303,860)	(32,906,975)
Water Services	(13,023,496)	74,104	1,522,086	(87,640)	(11,514,946)
Development Management	(26,681,391)	269,446	(8,743,249)	(193,826)	(35,349,020)
Environmental Services	276,031	2,616,020	(1,328,249)	(367,500)	1,196,302
Recreation and Amenity	(2,034,378)	1,117,307	(223,130)	(275,587)	(1,415,788)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,040,366)	355,072	(251)	(335,674)	(2,021,217)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,515,300)	(3,413,421)	(533,920)	1,368,797	(13,093,844)
	<b>(73,588,498)</b>	<b>59,378,993</b>	<b>(53,540,625)</b>	<b>(552,210)</b>	<b>(68,302,340)</b>

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JULY 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/07/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	4,598,635	31,329,428	(32,184)	(522,742)	(41,897)	35,331,240	(21,492,617)	13,838,623	425,346	62%
Rents & Annuities	3,281,584	10,077,220	0	(15,059)	0	13,343,745	(10,035,148)	3,308,598	0	75%
Housing Loans	440,112	1,192,547	0	0	0	1,632,659	(1,434,380)	198,279	0	88%

**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.

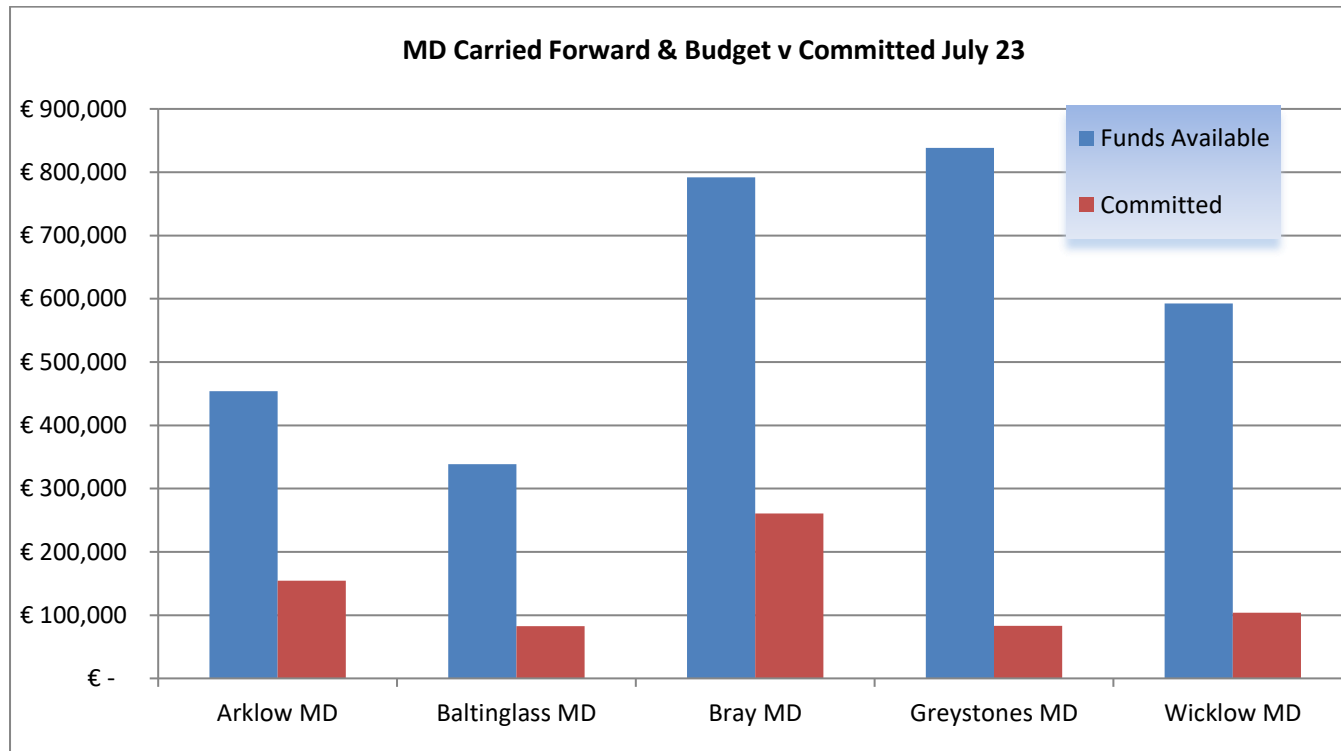
## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,197</b>	<b>246,197</b>	<b>426,778</b>	<b>246,197</b>	<b>250,197</b>	<b>1,438,566</b>

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	154,162	299,814
Baltinglass MD	92,215	246,197	338,412	82,550	255,862
Bray MD	365,206	426,778	791,984	260,537	531,447
Greystones MD	592,012	246,197	838,209	83,201	755,008
Wicklow MD	342,471	250,197	592,668	103,824	488,844
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,576,683</b>	<b>1,438,566</b>	<b>3,015,249</b>	<b>684,274</b>	<b>2,330,975</b>



## Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

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

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



## Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€1,000,000	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment	€52,500	€2,750
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€2,443,654	€1,579,477
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclesh	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2021	Ballinaclesh	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
T&V 2022 PMD	Carnew	€55,555.00	€5,555
T&V 2022 PMD	Kiltegan	€55,555.00	€5,555
T&V 2022	Ashford - GAA Wall	€127,000.00	€12,700
T&V 2022	Blessington - Community Space	€20,000.00	€2,000
T&V 2022	Kilcoole - Stakepark	€277,777.00	€27,777
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>€57,988,686</b>	<b>€12,404,276</b>

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501
CLAR 2022	Kilpipe	€18,000	€1,800
CLAR 2022	Askinagap - Boundary Wall	€50,000	€5,000
CLAR 2022	Askinagap - Carpark	€50,000	€5,000
CLAR 2022	Knockanna - Pitch	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€460,000	€91,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€165,157	€33,031
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€160,000	€30,000
ORIS 2019	Wicklow Way Infrastructure Enhancement	€25,000	€5,000
ORIS 2019	Baltinglass Road Cycle Trails	€11,000	€2,200
ORIS 2019	North Wicklow Trails Network Development	€240,700	€108,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€754,820	€205,482
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€27,000	€3,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Avonmore Way Clara Vale	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk Airlift	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way Ballinafunshogue	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop Play Area	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands Airlift	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Aughrim Heritage Access to Stoneworks	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Devil's Glen river Walk Extension	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Oakwood Ballinagee Trail Upgrade	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M2	Blessington Greenway Link to Russborough	€198,200	€19,820
ORIS 2022 M2	Glenmalure Riverside Walk & Recreation Area	€133,100	€13,310
ORIS 2022 M2	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M3	Roundwood Recreation Area	€550,000	€55,000
	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>€62,955,710</b>	<b>€13,210,951</b>