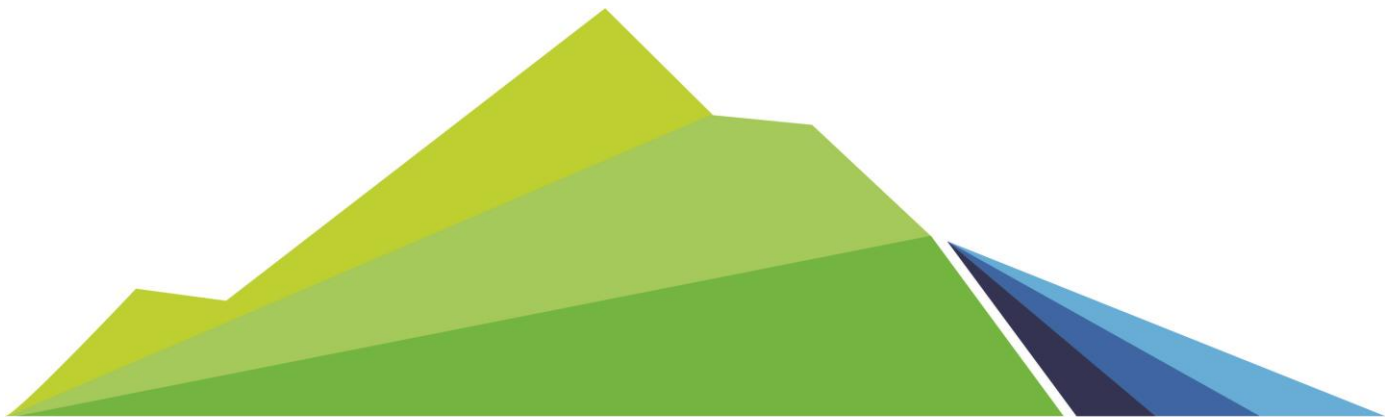




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Table of Contents

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY7

1. Social Housing Support.....7

2. Allocation of Social Housing.....7

3. Social Housing Stock7

4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery7

5. Home Improvement/Adaptation 10

6. Homeless figures for March 2022 12

7. Energy Efficiency..... 15

8. Community, Cultural & Social Development..... 16

Wicklow Arts Office 16

County Wicklow Library Services..... 18

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE26

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)26

Retail..... 26

Town Teams..... 27

Tourism..... 29

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications..... 32

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund..... 32

Maritime 33

Food and Beverage Strategy 35

Business Briefing 35

2. Local Enterprise Office.....37

2. Planning and Development40

County Development Plan Review 40

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office..... 40

Development Management..... 41



3. Environmental Services.....	46
Waste Management	46
Climate Action.....	47
Environmental Awareness.....	48
Harbours and Ports.....	50
Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes.....	52
5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services.....	54
Public lighting	54
Transportation Statistics (General)	55
Parking Income.....	60
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS	61
1. HR and Corporate Services.....	61
Recruitment	61
Access to Information	62
Register of Electors.....	62
Customer Service Hub	63
2. I.C.T.....	64
IT Helpdesk	64
Implementation of ePlanning	64
GIS & Systems Analysis	64
Business Systems/Applications Development.....	64
Customer Service Delivery.....	64
eServices.....	64
COVID-19.....	65
FINANCIAL.....	66
Revenue Account	66
Cashflow/Overdraft.....	66



Capital Account..... 66

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections 67

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022 67

Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024..... 68

Capital Funded Projects 69



This month:

Council of the Year

Wicklow County Council has been crowned Council of the Year in Ireland in prestigious national awards.

Council of the Year recognises a local authority which has gone above and beyond for the people of the community and developing continuously a range of innovative projects and initiatives which improve and enhance the social, environmental, cultural and economic aspects of community lives.

In addition to Council of the Year, Wicklow County Council won six other awards across different categories on the night:

- Wicklow Sustainable Development Goals Mapping Tools won **Gold** in Best Environmental or Ecological Project or Initiative.
- Carrig Eden Housing Project won **Gold** in Best Social Housing Project/Initiative
- Wicklow Tourism Passport won two awards – **Silver** in both Best Tourism Initiative and Best Arts/Culture Initiative (inc. festivals & events)
- San Remo Housing Project won **Silver** in Best Community Health Initiative
- Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub won **Silver** in Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment.

Community Groups to benefit from new funding

Over 100 community groups across County Wicklow are to share in €282,686 funding received by Wicklow County Council under a special Government scheme.

County Wicklow received the funding as part of a €9m fund allocated by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

This funding is being used to support community groups impacted by COVID-19 by providing small grants for community groups affected by the Pandemic and will support facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

The Community Activities Fund is supporting groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

Funding under the Historic Structure Fund

Three Wicklow projects are to benefit from capital funding under the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) for essential conservation works following an announcement by Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD.

The three projects are:

- €40,000 for roof repairs at St. Matthews Church, Newtownmountkennedy



- €25,000 for Phase II repair and stabilising of Russborough weir wall to facilitate pedestrian traffic under N81, linking demesne walkways with the extended Blessington Greenway
- €10,000 towards the workshop at Grenan Mor farmstead, Rathdrum, a vernacular building, to include masonry repair, roof re-construction and re-instatement of corrugated iron.

The latest announcement follows on from last month's allocation of €96,000 for 10 Wicklow projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) also co-ordinated by the Council.

Funding for Arklow Municipal District

Arklow Municipal District has been awarded €15,162 following a successful application submitted to the Department.

The playground at South Green in Arklow will be upgraded with sensory equipment and a new inclusive play unit thanks to a grant received from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation.

The funding was sought to compliment the great work that has been carried out by the Arklow Tidy Town group and the CBS transition year recently including a general clean up, painting, planting and removal of graffiti from the existing play equipment. They also plan to install a touch and smell planter section, perennial planters, climate change mural and a wildflower bug area which will be a great addition to the playground.



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	March 2022	March 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4525	4478
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	242	275
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2495	2233
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	16
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	31	28

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	March 2022	March 2021
Wicklow County Council	72	64
Approved Housing Bodies	10	02

3. Social Housing Stock

	March 2022	March 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,698	4,569
Total weekly rental accrual	307,236.46	300,639.09
Arrears	2,893,800.43	2,994,968.48

4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated

Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and being allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed, allocations ongoing
Total	376	
Schemes on Site	units	CURRENT STATUS
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completion anticipated May 2022
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completion anticipated Quarter 2 2022
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build	36	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Sheehan Court Design & Build	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
TOTAL	149	
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 in progress
Three Trouts Greystones Design & Build	41	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q2 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q2 2022
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing stage 2 application.
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Approval received from department. – preparing part V111
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 approved.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval received, stage 2 application prepared.
Rehills, Bray	80	Masterplan ongoing
TOTAL	388	

Public Private Partnership.

Following a request from the Department of Housing, the following sites have been submitted for consideration for inclusion in future bundles:



- Burnaby, Greystones
- Rehills, Bray.
- Tinahask, Arklow.

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	Scheduled phased Q2-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022, 3 Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Wicklow Town	4	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2021-2023. This includes the 53 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
Arklow	10	Scheduled Q2 2022, 3 Scheduled 2023	CALF
Rathnew	10	6 Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	188	Scheduled Q2-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	42	Scheduled Q2-Q4 2022	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.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

5. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

› Grant funding for private house - €1,952,700 (2021 budget) (€299,655.31 spent to date)

› Grant funding for social house - €1,168,200 (2021 budget) (€111,855.24 spent to date)

Private Houses

Open Applications 115 (some carried over from 2021, approvals not included in this figure)

Approved applications 162 (some carried over from 2021)

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 National Housing Strategy for Disable People 2022 – 2027 will be launched in mid-January 2022

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – Two x 2 bed properties	Detailed design complete – tender documents finalised about to go out to tender
Castle Villas - Two 2 x bed properties	Detailed design complete – tender documents finalised to go out to tender
Carraig Eden - 14 age friendly 1 bed apartments	Part 8 complete – and going before Greystones MD at their April meeting
Kilcoole Health Centre 4 no 1 bed apartments	Detailed design underway.

Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 15 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
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5 Priory Way, Delgany	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement . Nearing completion of refurbishment. Already allocated.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchase by agreement with Receiver in progress.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchase by agreement with Receiver in progress.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála still pending. In process of buying the house by agreement with Receiver.
114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing will follow.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing will follow.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. Likely to be confirmed in April.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO now confirmed by Chief Executive. Newspaper notice of same will be published 2 nd week in April in Wicklow Times. Next stage will be Notice to Treat.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO published 1 st week in April.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April.
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April.

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

Further reports relating to Co Wicklow on www.vacanthomes.ie were received in March. Most of these did not contain any information that could identify the property in question and the rest are already known to us and are being investigated.

Infill Sites

- Blackhills - Two 3 bed semi-detached properties are currently being constructed
- Knockroe – Stage 2 Approval received for 2 x 4 bed roomed fully accessible units -part V111 advertised with a closing date of 26th April

Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

The 1st round of Gas & Oil heating offer letters for 2022 was sent out in January and 4th round offers have now been issued. The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000. Gas & oil boiler maintenance contracts



are due for renewal and have now been procured through www.Supplygov.ie. Emerging from the procurement process there have been significant increases in the cost of boiler servicing – in the range 12 to 23%, Similar increases will apply to boiler repair and replacement costs.

. Rebuilding Ireland Home loans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
22	11

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	March 2022
Applications Received	355	5
Completed	88	0
Declined	237	3
Ongoing	30	30

6. Homeless figures for March 2022

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/03/2022	Year To Date	As at 31/03/2021
No of New Presentations	25	74	42
No. of Repeat Presentations	3	13	5
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	13	42	13
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	14	38	32
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	6	2
No. of Children	25	78	20
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	11	26	8
Family Circumstances	7	22	19
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	1	2
Mental Health	1	2	0
Risk of Homelessness	3	11	6
Arrears/Loss of Income	3	3	4
Addiction Issues	0	3	0
DV/DA	3	10	1



Medical Issues	0	1	1
Overcrowding	1	2	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	2	11	3
ASB:	0	2	1
Rough Sleeping*	0	0	3
Sofa Surfing*	0	8	8
Staying with Family*	5	14	10
Staying with Friends*	2	7	3

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/03/2022	
Families	20
Adults	37
Children	52
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	18	23	22	7	6	1	2	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	14	16	15	2	7	2	2	1

COVID 19

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone and email - Bed and Breakfast properties currently retained by Wicklow County Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients –All Covid 19 protocols are in place in these facilities

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, 388 households (288 families & 100 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31st April, 2022. (168 homeless cases, 211 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 118 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

There are 11 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon have 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 - Refurbishment works and snagging are now complete.

The first 3 families have now been accommodated and assessments are underway to fill the remaining apartments in the hub.

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

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

San Remo opened to clients in October 2020. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) 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.

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) approved funding to upgrade the building to provide 35 ensuite bedrooms within the existing building, with associated kitchens and common areas, as well as the upgrade of Fire Protection.

The facility is fully operational. Wicklow County Council are making arrangements with the AHB to run an in-reach service with the clients in the service to support them as they continue their journey into more permanent accommodation.



Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There continues to be a number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

Housing First

Housing first recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 9 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation.

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballinteskin – 3 houses	All residents who were on the proposed site have been rehoused. Final approval to construction has been submitted to the department
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Revised Stage 1 approval received March 2021. Survey of utilities in the area complete, preliminary design underway.
Ballinteskin,	Stage 1 for a disability extension has now been approved – discussions underway with tenant regarding decanting of Bay.

Fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section in October 2021 and further inspections will be carried out in 2022.

7. Energy Efficiency

Solar Panel Carport – Solar carpark complete and commissioning complete

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Works completed on 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum and snagging underway

Additional BERs and suitability inspections being carried out on properties listed as being down for fabric upgrades in 2022. Framework for fabric upgrade works is completed.



8. Community, Cultural & Social Development

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Places Scheme – ‘My Future Baltinglass’

Wicklow County Council Arts Office submitted an application to the Arts Councils ‘Creative Places’ scheme which, if successful, could result in funding of up to €450,000 over a three year period for the county. ‘Creative Places’ is an opportunity for places which have not benefitted from sustained arts investment in the past, to build local arts programmes which will benefit the resident community. The approach is inclusive and diverse and is rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles. It builds on existing cultural strengths and is led by community participation and ideas as is supported by artists.

Baltinglass was identified by Wicklow County Arts Office as the area around which the application would be based and the Arts Office undertook an initial research and engagement phase to support the application. This project is titled ‘My Future Baltinglass’. Meetings were held in Baltinglass with focus groups including local artists, local community and voluntary organizations and a zoom meeting took place with the West Wicklow Interagency group.

As part of the research phase of this pilot project, a survey was carried out with the aim of capturing the views and ideas of a wide range of people who might not have previously engaged in the arts or, who might not have felt that cultural activity was for them. If the application is successful, a wealth of local knowledge, ideas, insights and resources will be applied to how the project will run, ensuring that the outcomes are deeply rooted and shaped by the community and surrounding areas.

As part of the Creative Places pilot project ‘My Future Baltinglass’, Wicklow’s Culture team led by Wicklow County Arts Office rolled out a family creativity day in Baltinglass on the 26th February 2022. The programme of events included arts and crafts workshops for children, hip-hop workshops, bike skills workshops, zumba and pound fit workshops and Bodhrán workshops for adults and children.

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme - LLPPS 3

Under strand 3 of the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme, Wicklow County Arts Office organized three outdoor live music concerts which took place in Baltinglass on 26th February 2022 with headline act ‘The Hothouse Flowers’.

Artists Connect Panel

Eight new members were selected to join Wicklow County Artists Connect Panel for the two year period 2022/2023. Artists Connect is an artist development initiative of Wicklow County Council with the purpose of supporting artists who are residents of or from County Wicklow across all art forms to connect, share information and learn from each other.



Arts Funding Schemes

Wicklow County Council Arts Office provides a number of schemes designed to support artists, arts festivals, arts participation and artform development in County Wicklow. This scheme forms part of a wider set of actions initiated and developed by Wicklow County Council directed at supporting quality practice and public participation in the arts in the county.

Applications were invited for three arts funding schemes; Individual Artists Award Scheme, Artist and Community Collaboration Award Scheme, Arts Festival Awards Scheme. Assessment of applications is in progress and Letters of Offer will be despatched presently.

Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021

The Community Activities Fund (CAF) provides funding to support community groups across Ireland. The amount of funding allocated to County Wicklow is €282,686.00.

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs for example utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for example tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

It is administered by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The applications are currently being assessed and it is anticipated that they will be considered for approval at the LCDC meeting in April and then forwarded to the DRCD for final approval. It is anticipated that details of the successful applications will be announced mid-May onwards.

Community Awards Scheme 2022

Wicklow County Council operates this scheme as part of its commitment to supporting local community development and is available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. The maximum grant amount is €500 per organisation to assist with small projects and group running costs. The closing date for receipt of applications was Friday 29th April.

Local Community Development Committee

Town and Village Scheme 2021 Funding Announcement

- Wicklow Town (€221,339), Place Making Project
- Ballinaclesh (€63,000), remote working space and access works in community centre
- Donard (€26,100), community café

A new Town and Village Scheme for 2022 is expected to be announced soon.

The development of the new LECF is continuing. A public consultation process is open online. Two workshops have been held so far. During the Month of May, public workshops will be held in each MD. An

additional €40,000 was awarded for a project on meaningful engagement with the LECP process, in partnership with the PPN.

County Wicklow Library Services

Rathdrum Library Official Opening



Rathdrum library's official opening took place on April 1st, exactly one month after opening to the public. 2,000+ items were borrowed in the first 4 weeks, while 150+ new members joined, in addition to those who had used the former library at Gilbert's Row, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Shay Cullen said he believes this is a flagship library for the smaller towns in county Wicklow and welcomed the fact that a similar sized, modern library is planned for Aughrim.



In addition to an attractive relaxation area for reading newspapers & magazines, the new library has 12 dedicated study spaces, plus 4 public IT units, with total opening hours of 26.5 per week:

Tue, Thur & Fri	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Wed	2.00-5.00 & 6.00 – 8.30
Sat	10.00 – 1.00

Wicklow Libraries welcome Ukrainian Families

In preparation for our new Ukrainian community, the library service has embarked on seeing how best to extend a warm welcome when they visit the library. The library information has been translated into Ukrainian with the help of Anna who is an English teacher; Anna is based in Greystones and has also supported the library by translating a welcome poster and a piece for the library section of the website. The focus will now be on obtaining some Ukrainian titles for all age groups as soon as possible. Meanwhile library branches are busy setting up English language conversation groups to support the improvement of English language skills; where possible a teacher trained in the teaching of English as a foreign language will assist. As soon people from the Ukraine get set up with library membership, they will be able to access the online language learning tool *Transparent Languages Online* where they can access English as one of the languages. Staff are also being encouraged to look at learning a few Ukrainian phrases and words just to be able to speak a few words of Ukrainian. Membership will also give access to Borrowbox audio books which will be another support with acquiring and improving English.

Wicklow County Council Library Services are looking at acquiring a database of Children's picture book titles in other languages and there will be a range of Ukrainian titles included.

Spring Into storytime

Wicklow County Council Library Service launched "Spring Into Storytime" on April 1st. This annual programme of story time activities will run throughout April and May . There are plenty of story times, crafts and drama sessions planned, so there is bound to be something for everyone.

Easter events will be a big part of the "Spring Into Storytime" schedule with Ballywaltrim, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones and Arklow offering plenty of family fun in the form of story times and crafts.

"My Little Library Book Bags"

To help children to navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag of books just for them, that can be collected at any library.

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is collaboration between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step.

Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout Wicklow.

Each "My Little Library Book Bag" contains:



- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

Book bags are available in both Irish and English.

Library staff look forward to meeting the children and their families and will be welcoming them time and time again as they come back regularly to keep their bag filled up with borrowed books and to take part in story times, classes and all the other events we have to offer.

Dear Children,

We know that you are starting school in September. To celebrate this, the Minister for Children has asked us to put together a gift of a bag of books just for you.

The stories in the books are about starting school, being happy in yourself, and making friends, and they're waiting for you in a very special place: your local library.

A library card and a special Little Library card wallet is also included with every bag. We hope that you will join the library and come and fill up your book bag with borrowed books whenever you can.

You can also come and hang out and read some books in the library with your parents or guardians if you have some free time.

We hope that this gift of books will lead you to a lifelong link with your library and a love of books and reading.

We look forward to meeting you, and we hope you enjoy the books,

Your local library



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Right to Read
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“A Helping Hand” – Parenting Talks from Wicklow County Council Library service

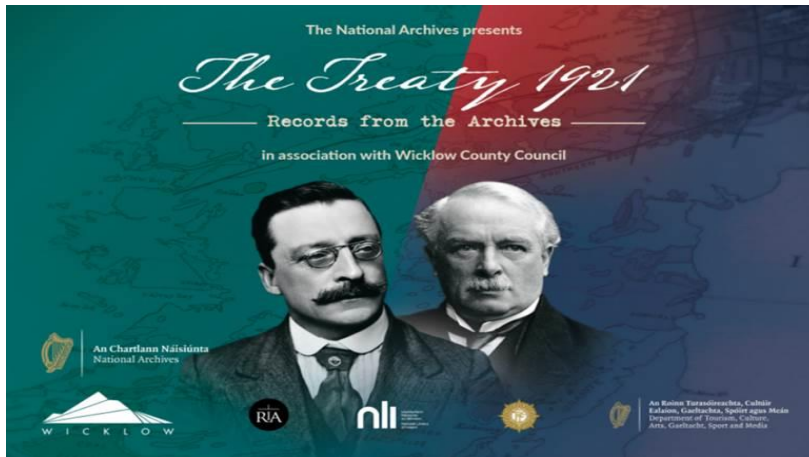
Starting on 15th of March, these talks aim to support parents and carers who are encountering tricky or challenging scenarios in their day to day parenting roles. Wicklow County Council Library Service have engaged with facilitators who possess the expertise to guide parents and guardians through these situations. Talks included ‘Responding to Child and Adolescent Anxiety’ with Tara Kelly, who has worked with children and families for over 20 years, “Building Strong Relationships with Your Tweens and Teens” with Madeleine Connolly, “ADHD Explained” with Ken Kilbride CEO of ADHD Ireland and “How to Talk to Your Child (under 13) About Pornography”. Judging by the response to these talks, the topics are very relevant and Wicklow County Council Library Service plan to run additional talks on the topic of Body Image and Talking to Your Child about Gender Identity. Information about upcoming talks will be available on the library section of the website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Events>

One Book, One Community” Dunlavin

After six weeks the “One Book, One Community” Project came to its conclusion in St Kevin’s Community College, Dunlavin on Friday 1st April. All the pupils from 1st year along with 5th and 6th classes from Scoil Niocláis Naofa and Jonathan Swift NS gathered together with teachers and library staff to welcome author Helena Duggan to Dunlavin for a celebratory finale to a very successful venture. Students performed drama reads of sections of the very popular ‘A Place Called Perfect’ to great applause and a spectacular exhibition of paintings and sculpture inspired by the book were on display. Helena Duggan then hosted a Q & A session with the students and she ably answered the varied and many questions with good humour and genuine enjoyment. Afterwards, students received awards for their contributions. Wicklow County Council Library Service enjoyed the experience of working with St. Kevin’s and looks forward to repeating the project with other schools in the future.



Wicklow hosts The Treaty 1921 – Records from the Archives exhibition





The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives exhibition will open at Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town on 25 April, where it will stay until the 17 May. This follows a hugely successful three-month exhibition at Dublin Castle where the Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921 went on public display for the first time. The exhibition marks the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty (6 December 1921). Presented by the National Archives in association with Wicklow County Council, *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* has been developed in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Royal Irish Academy, the National Library of Ireland with records from the collections of the Military Archives and University College Dublin Archives.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty is one of the most significant historical documents held by the National Archives. Using the Treaty as a centrepiece, the National Archives present an exhibition that marks its role as the official repository of the records of the State, one hundred years since its formation. *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* opens up significant historical records, official documents and private papers for the first time, including the first public presentation of both the Irish and British copies of the Treaty document. Using contemporary reportage, images and footage, *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* locates the Treaty negotiations in the political context of the Irish revolution and a world turned upside down by the First World War. Beginning with the exploratory talks between Éamon de Valera, President of Dáil Éireann, and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George during the summer of 1921, it details the work of the Irish plenipotentiaries and their secretariat, by presenting the documentary record that they left behind.

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: “ I look forward to welcoming this important exhibition - *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* to County Wicklow, to our new Wicklow Library and Archives in Wicklow Town this year. The papers of our own Robert Childers Barton of Glendalough House, who was one of the plenipotentiaries of the treaty, will also feature in the Wicklow element of the exhibition, as well as other local records from the Wicklow County Archives collections. Indeed, archival sources have featured strongly in our Decade of Centenaries programme, where local stories and experiences have been combined with research and scholarship in archival sources. In doing so, it promotes a greater understanding of historical events and their legacies and thus encourages communities toward further exploration and reflection. It is a tangible demonstration of the benefits of free public access to authentic archival material, which is at the heart of this exhibition.”

The Military Archives has also kindly loaned items from their collections for the Wicklow exhibition. Also, an Anglo-Irish Treaty Document Resource Pack for secondary schools has been developed by the National Archives in consultation with the Department of Education. This teaching resource is based on Treaty records held in the National Archives and its contents are drawn mainly from the Dáil Éireann record series (DE/2–DE/4) and the papers of Treaty delegate and Minister for Economic Affairs Robert C. Barton. The DE/2 series consists of the administrative records of the Dáil Éireann Secretariat (1919–1922) relating to the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations while the DE/4 series contains the proceedings of the First and Second Dála (1919–1922) and papers relating to the peace negotiations of 1921.



Current focus is on networking with community stakeholders in Bray, mapping services across the area, developing a community profile using a social determinants of health lens, and overseeing the enhancement fund projects. The programme is due to be officially launched in partnership with the HSE in May.



Launch of ‘Hello Wicklow, How are you?’

Mental Health Ireland launched Hello Wicklow, How are you? Where they are asking people to say Hello in a meaningful way and say Hello, Engage, Listen, Learn and give Options of support for people. Healthy Wicklow, Wicklow Healthy Communities and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership all took part in this initiative, with multiple events happening throughout the county.



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Events



Event	Description
Women’s Virtual Run – International Women’s Day 7 th March	In celebration of Women in Sport Week. 130 women took part in our virtual 3K run. Medals were given out on completion.
Fitness Programme	A four week Fitness Programme with Newtownmountkennedy Youth Project in Newtown Community Centre has been



	completed. This programme was delivered by our tutor Shane. 14 youths took part.
Mountain Bike Programme	This was a four week Mountain Bike Programme with the Newtownmountkennedy Youth Project. This programme took place in Belmont, Kilruddery Bray with 14 youths taking part.
Inclusive Online Dance Classes for Children with a Disability	Our Inclusive Online Dance Classes was a follow up 5 week programme. 6 Teens/Pre-teens engaged in this energetic fun dance class. Social chats at the end gave an added dimension to this programme.
Learn to Cycle – Arklow Community	This 6 week programme with 15 children in the community of Arklow. A mixture of mainstream and children with a disability participated with great success in learning the skills of cycling. The age range of 4 to 12, divided into 2 groups, with 2 tutors ensured a high quality programme was delivered.
Bray Area Partnership Programme	A four week programme in partnership with the social prescribers in Bray Area Partnership was rolled out. The programme was a multi-activity programme consisting of walking, dance, yoga and fitness. All activities took place on Bray Promenade with 10-12 people taking part each week.
Walking Football for 40+	Free Walking Football Taster Session 40+, in partnership with the FAI. Taking place in Newcastle Community Centre, Wednesday 11th May @ 12pm - 1pm. All Welcome! To register your interest please call Denise on 0404-20100 or e-mail doshea@wicklowcoco.ie

Courses

Safeguarding 1	10 th March	Online - Roundwood Athletic Club
Safeguarding 1	15 th March	Online – Public - FULL
Safeguarding 3	22 nd March	Online – Public - FULL
Safeguarding 1	4 th April	Online – Public - FULL
Safeguarding 1	29 th April	Online – Wicklow Rovers



Upcoming Events:



Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Ukraine Refugee Crisis: Both Bray Area Partnership (BAP) and Co. Wicklow Partnership (CWP) have become very involved with and are providing extensive support to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees to Co. Wicklow. BAP are supporting the refugees currently housed in north Co. Wicklow and CWP are supporting those arriving to other parts of the county. As this work was unexpected it may impact on some the programme implementers' SICAP 2022 workplans and targets. This will be reviewed at the mid-year review stage at end May.

Public Participation Network (PPN):

Supporting response to Ukrainian refugee crisis through supporting volunteers involved and through PPN representation on WCC's Community Response Forum.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Training Links Programme; Community Centres investment Fund; Music Capital Grants Scheme; WCC Community Awards; Equity in Education Fund.

Training/Workshops: Funding, Risk Management, Responsibility & Insurance; Fundamentals of Volunteer Engagement; Ready & Able to Rebuild After Covid; SMART Villages; Environmental Sensitivity Mapping Webtool; Fundamentals of Micro volunteering; Alone Free Digital Skills Training.

Consultations: Wicklow PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing/LECP Online Survey; Food Waste Prevention Roadmap; Census 2022; 21 Actions to Tackle Racism Survey.



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

New guidelines have been launched for the preparation of LECPs. LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas. The guidelines will require the Council to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECPs. The guidelines are timely as the current LECP finishes in 2022.

The next Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 will 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 directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The new plan will take account of lessons learned and the changing needs of communities, climate action and sustainability among other things. The Economic Development unit is seeking to engage with the business, tourism and wider community to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan

Retail

Bray Central

Oakmount has informed Wicklow County Council that the project has reached practical completion (PC). The supporting documentation is currently under review by the Council's Engineer. It is expected that this process will be completed in the coming weeks.

Fit out of two of the restaurants is nearing completion, it is expected that these restaurants and the car-park will be open to the public in May. The cinema fit out is due to commence in early May, it is anticipated that the cinema will be open in the Autumn. Announcements regarding anchor tenants are expected in the coming weeks.

Bray Outdoor Performance Space

The successful tenderer, Vincent Hannon Architects, has now been appointed to proceed to detailed design stage and is engaging with Council officials with regard to the development. The executive has already met on zoom with residents on the seafront on a number of occasions. There is more scheduled non-statutory



consultation planned in the coming weeks with residents, businesses and other stakeholders such as the Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre

Town Teams

Under the Government policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of Town Teams is encouraged and we are likely to see more Town Teams in situ over the coming years.

Most Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2018. It is considered timely to carry out a review of the town teams and with this in mind Wicklow County Council has appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review. It is proposed to present the results of the review at a plenary meeting of all the Town Teams to be held in early 2022.

Masterplans for Town Centres under 10,000 population

Blessington has been awarded funding of €100,000 to develop a Master Plan for the town. This will also allow plans for projects identified as part of the drive to become e-greenway ready to be advanced.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ strategy and the forthcoming ‘Town Centre First Policy’ which will be announced in the coming weeks.

Wicklow County Council will now work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan building on the very comprehensive Health Check carried out by Future Analytics.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team is delighted to announce that they will receive €20,000 for a successful application submitted to the Heritage Council, Community Grants Scheme for the Arklow Pottery Online – Digital Database project. The aim of the project is to help people access and engage with the heritage of Arklow Pottery, through a digital resource of first-hand stories and techniques, and creating an interactive online catalogue of pieces, images and videos.

As part of An Taisce National Spring Clean a litter pick will take place on the Vale Road between Arklow and Woodenbridge on the 24th April. Volunteers are welcome.

The Harbour to Headwaters project is progressing well and it is hoped to launch this exciting project in the coming months.



Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team

Terms of reference were issued to the Bray MD Members in 2021. The Cathaoirleach is reviewing these and will be examining the best way forward.

Blessington Town Team

At the most recent meeting, Blessington Town Team made a presentation to Mr. Eric Blatchford on his retirement as General Manager of Russborough House. The presentation noted the input by Mr. Blatchford and his colleagues in Russborough House on many varied projects in Blessington.

The Town Team also focussed on the review being carried out of all Town Teams; looking at what is the role of the Town Team and what areas has Blessington Town Team performed well in. A robust discussion was held, with both the strengths and the challenges of the Town Team noted for submission to the review by MCA Consultants.

Greystones Town Team

The Town Team with support from CIE, Irish Rail, Greystones Tidy Towns and the Whale Theatre has launched an ambitious project which will involve a complete makeover of Greystones Railway station. At the centre of this project will be the construction of up to nine Corten Steel Totems, each of which will feature artistic portraits created by Tom Byrne, of key figures who have connections to Greystones in a variety of ways. Another local artist, Mary Kate Hardy has been commissioned to paint a 45-foot wall mural along the station's eastern platform,

A team of professionals, volunteers, and Irish Rail have commenced work by digging and clearing on the East platform. Irish Rail has repainted the station inside and out, repairing walls and boundaries. Greystones Town Team has secured some sponsorship from businesses based in the area, ultimately this will be a citizen funded project. Chairman of the Town Team Dermod Dwyer is appealing for public support for this legacy project.

Wicklow Town Team

The inaugural guided walk of the first section of the Wicklow Town Heritage Trail took place on Saturday 19th March and started at St. Patrick's Church. Local historian John Finlay conducted the walk and his knowledge of the history of Wicklow town has been instrumental in putting this very informative Heritage Trail together. The second section of the Heritage Trail took place on the 16th April from the Barrow Green.

Streetscapes

Wicklow County Council has been allocated €320,000 in Streetscape funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development Town and Village Streetscape Scheme.

The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of the Government's 'Our Rural Future' and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive colourful and vibrant places to live, work and visit.



108 applications were received and approved under this measure with 48 businesses submitting required documents to receive payment. €89,000 has been paid out to date.

It is expected that there will be new Streetscape funding announced in 2022.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

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

Wicklow Passport Display Units:

The first display unit for the Wicklow Passport was set up in the Glenview Hotel with plans to have more set up in the Arklow Bay, Druids Glen, Powerscourt & Killruddery.

The display units are great promotional tools to help raise awareness about the Wicklow Passport project. We are working in partnership with each location where the units are installed to develop dedicated Wicklow Passport tours, special offers and staff training. We will regularly assess the performance of each display.

Wicklow Influencer's Itineraries:

The first itinerary was run in the middle of April when we invited journalist and blogger Sarah Slattery (The Travel Expert) to tour around West Wicklow. Her itinerary included a visit to Russborough House, lunch at the Hollywood Café, drive the West Wicklow Heritage Trail including Donard, Baltinglass and Dunlavin. Overnight was at Tulfarris, and the following day the tour went to the Blessington Greenway. Sarah featured her trip on her own social media throughout the days. Wicklow Tourism shared Sarah's posts through the visitwicklow Facebook and Instagram accounts, thus maximising online exposure. Following her journey, Sarah sent a selection of photos, and a blog was created to showcase her itinerary. This itinerary is available at <https://visitwicklow.ie/west-wicklow-discoveries-with-sarah-slattery-the-travel-expert/>

Our objective over the next months is to attract influencers and journalists and create a variety of itineraries to suit all type of visitors.



EcoTrail Wicklow:

The third edition of EcoTrail Wicklow will take place on Saturday September 24th, 2022. Registrations for the event are now open. EcoTrail Wicklow and other adventure races will be used to showcase Wicklow as an outdoor activities' destination to overseas visitors. Engagement has started with the various offices of Tourism Ireland around the world to help promote the events and the destination.

Nature Trail Press Feature

Following on from the Press Trip organised in November of last year, Wicklow made the front page of the latest edition of 'Nature Trail' one of France's leading trail running magazines. The magazine is widely distributed around France through a niche but strong trail running community (estimated one million trail runners in France).

A blog post was launched to feature details of the press trip and included parts of the EcoTrail route and trails around Glendalough. See full itinerary at <https://visitwicklow.ie/nature-trail-mag-visits-wicklow-trail-running/>

Celtic Routes

More than fifteen Wicklow experiences have been identified to feature on the Celtic Routes extensive promotional activities. There is a strong Outdoor Activities theme as well as Food and Heritage included in the experiences.

Those experiences will feature on www.celticroutes.info website that is currently being enhanced. Celtic Routes is also planning some support and cross promotional activities between Wales and Ireland to participating businesses.

Vikings Valhalla

The new series 'Vikings Valhalla' was launched at the end of February and is one of the top viewed series on Netflix worldwide. A dedicated blog entry has been created on the Vikings to showcase the various film locations around Wicklow: <https://visitwicklow.ie/the-vikings/>. This page is top ranking on search engines and is now the second most visited page on visitwicklow.ie website. Tourism Ireland has also created a short 'behind the scenes' video featuring Lough Tay and Ashford Studios.

Season three starts shooting this spring and options are being explored to maximise the enormous exposure that the series will offer over the next three years and more.



Destination Town Funding

An application to Fáilte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in the Abbey Grounds with Mosart consultant's appointed to lead the design process. A planning application to enhance and redevelop the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow, into the Abbey Gardens and event space was passed unanimously by the members of Wicklow Municipal District at their meeting held on Monday 20th December 2021. The procurement process for detailed design and construction has begun.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

This is a Fáilte Ireland funded project led by FI with strategic partners NPWS, OPW, Coillte and WCC. The Plan covers visitor attractions and activities available in the area and the first stage of stakeholder engagement has been completed.

The consultant team is now engaging with some of the key landowners to assess the feasibility of developing additional off road trails between Laragh and Glendalough and provision of additional parking. The process has identified a number of issues: congestion at key sites, concerns over security, capacity and quality of car parking and visitor services, issues with local access, and erosion and degradation of the environment.

Visitor Experience Hubs have been identified around the county where there is a particular focus of visitor attractions. Development of these hubs will build capacity, help disperse visitors across the county, encouraging longer stays and greater investment in the area. The team is developing detailed plans for walking, mountain biking, off road family cycling.

Measures have been taken this year to introduce additional temporary parking and to use traffic counters to improve parking management and signage. Toilet facilities have been upgraded.

The consultants have prepared the draft masterplan and this was presented to members of the Laragh/Glendalough Community on the 27th October 2021 and to the members of at the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council on the 6th December 2021.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Economic Appraisal are underway at present . A number of multi-agency sub-groups have been formed to address Environmental, Financial and Management issues; these are data gathering at present. The consultants and Fáilte Ireland are working with Wicklow County Council to further alleviate traffic problems during peak season.



Outdoor Dining

All Local Authorities were invited to apply to Fáilte Ireland for funding under Part Two - Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme - to develop streets and public spaces to facilitate outdoor dining in urban tourism centres, enabling access to outdoor seating for extended periods throughout the year.

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000). Works have commenced on the Wicklow project with five of the canopies/umbrellas installed at Market Square and some wiring to be completed. The bases for the two canopies at the Gaol are installed and all electrical supply ducts are in place with the final two canopies ordered.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

A call was announced for RRDF category 1 proposals with a closing date for applications on the 29th April 2022.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are currently underway.

Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area.



Following a presentation to the Bray members on the 11th January, RPS recently completed a draft feasibility report covering the marine and terrestrial elements of the Bray Harbour Improvements Scheme. A meeting of the Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee took place on the 24th February at which the preferred options described in the report were presented along with some further matters that have been requested for attention.

It is recognised that space for existing and proposed recreational facility providers around the harbour remains an issue and was discussed at the meeting. RPS will be asked to further examine the regeneration opportunities on the north side of the harbour that may also facilitate the provision of improved recreational infrastructure. RPS has also been requested to address future sea level rise in the terrestrial works proposals and to outline the stakeholder engagements that took place in preparing the report.

The preferred option for the marine works provides for extending south pier northwards and extending a breakwater spur northwards from the north pier to create a smaller outer harbor. Along with another spur on the inside of the south pier this will serve to greatly reduce the wave action from the north easterly winds that are responsible for the wave damage that occurs in the harbor. This will also provide a berth for small passenger ferries and also provide a holding area for boats while waiting on the tide before entering the main harbor. Dredging is also proposed to facilitate mooring but access in and out of the current harbor will be still dependent on the tides.

An estimate of about €8.5m plus VAT has been provided for the preferred option for the marine works. A cost for the terrestrial works was not provided and this has been requested for inclusion in the report. A steering group meeting is planned for the 9th March, at which additions and amendments to the report will be discussed. Additional works, in relation to environmental assessments will also be examined with RPS to determine if they can be progressed within the current contract. The draft feasibility report has found that there are significant potential environmental impacts and that the planning decision will most likely be determined by An Bord Pleanála.

The Bray Sustainable Bridge Project is on hold until An Bord Pleanála make a determination on the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Maritime

The area of offshore renewable energy is rapidly evolving. Due to the number of projects proposed off the coast of Wicklow it is important that the County engages with the process to enable the community of



Wicklow to benefit from the opportunities arising while mitigating against any likely impacts that any offshore renewable project will have.

Key milestones have been:

The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.

The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment

One of the elements of the MAP is the creation of a new maritime consent process (MAP)

Under the special transition provisions in the MAP Act, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications will have the responsibility for assessing and granting MACs for a first phase (Phase One) of offshore projects, which satisfy the definition of "relevant maritime usage" under the Act (the Relevant Projects).

The relevant projects of interest to Wicklow include the Codling Wind Park and the Dublin Array

A consultation process on the Offshore Renewable Energy Maritime Area Consent (MAC) Assessment for Phase One has taken place.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Set out the proposed approach to MAC assessment for Relevant Projects
- Provide important information on various aspects of the new MAC regime for Relevant Projects
- Invite feedback from interested stakeholders on the proposed approach to the assessment of Phase One MAC applications

Following completion of the consultation process, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications has announced the opening of the application process for Marine Area Consents to relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.



Food and Beverage Strategy

Funding of €175,000 has been secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and a tender for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Wicklow Naturally will contribute 5% from subscriptions and it is proposed that Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

Wicklow Naturally, supported by Wicklow County Council was successful in securing funding from Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in respect of the development of Food Trails as part of Wicklow's tourism offering. Wicklow Naturally will be working with Wicklow Tourism to develop this product.

Wicklow Naturally continues to increase its network of members in 2022 to add to the array of County Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally members will be represented at a range of events throughout the year Starting with Bloom, through Taste of Wicklow, Tinahely show, Ploughing Championships, OctoberFeast, Gifted all aimed at raising the profile of Wicklow produce.

Business Briefing

Wicklow County Council's annual business briefing was held on 6th April at Druids Glen. It was well attended by representatives of the business community across large and small companies.

Opening the event, Cllr Shay Cullen, the Cathaoirleach, said the theme this year was "The Future is Green" adding: *"In terms of climate leadership – Wicklow is right up there."* He said Wicklow was the first County to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency and to adopt a Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2019. One of the more innovative initiatives that he spoke about was the introduction of a Solar Car Park at County Buildings which was capable of generating 300 kW peak hours of electricity. *"Of course, this is tiny when you consider the 3.5 gigawatt target for offshore wind energy, much of it will be generated off the coast of our county,"* he state.

At Wicklow County Campus, Clermont, great strides have been made towards a greener campus, through the upgrading of lighting, introduction of solar panels and a building management system. This year a Biomass heating system will be installed.

The green theme continued through many Council initiatives such as housing, transport, public lighting, tourism and the food network Wicklow Naturally. The Local Enterprise Office offered Green for Micro Training and support to help small businesses reduce their carbon footprint and save money.



Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, outlined the role the Council is playing in Climate Leadership including:

- Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC
- Climate Action Team
- Energy Team and Energy Performance Officer
- Strong Citizen/Community engagement
- Climate Action Charter
- Climate Adaptation Strategy

Mr Gleeson also gave details of how County Wicklow will be a key location for the development of our offshore renewable energy resources. *“The Climate Action Plan commits to increasing our offshore wind capacity to 3.5GW in order to reach 80 per cent renewable energy by 2030.”*

The Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan proposes Marine Enterprise Hubs at Arklow and Wicklow Harbours to provide services to the offshore renewable energy industry and a Marine Education and Training Facility at Wicklow County Campus to meet the demand for up to 2,500 direct jobs along the East Coast.

Mr Norman Crowley, CEO, Cool Planet, spoke about the work his company is doing from its base at Powerscourt House, Enniskerry, including converting cars to electric power, advising global corporations on decarbonisation and running the energy consumption of major buildings around the world.

His company, which employs 250 with more to be taken on this year, provides energy efficiency software and advice on decarbonising adding: *“This software is saving leading companies the equivalent of all the energy of Dublin and Wicklow”.*

Mr Crowley said the green issue had moved from being a Top 10 item to a Top 5 during COVID but now because of the war in Ukraine, it had become a Top 2 issue

Cool Planet is advising some of the biggest buildings in the world on how to manage energy efficiency, including heating and lighting. They are also working with leading meat companies on the development of alternative meats.

Mr Ray O'Connor of the IDA spoke about the IDA's objectives and key areas of focus. There are over 275,000 people employed in IDA companies in Ireland. Climate Action and the Green Economy are key factors in attracting investment. He noted the importance of offshore wind and the content creation industry to Wicklow's economy



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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value)			
- Measure 1	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	-8/ € 225435
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-9/ €11,106.75
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
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	28
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	59
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	254
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	4

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	86

APRIL 2022



Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	89
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 21-22
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	864

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	70 Depending on budget and demand	12

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	10

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	10	2

MARCH 2022 Activities

- Fornightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.



- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Local Enterprise Week took place from Monday 7th till Friday 11th March during which a full week of training and networking events including a Spotlight event called: Future Proofing your business using Technology, Thursday 10th March. Vibeke Delahunt outlined available supports during this session. Over 130 business clients took part in training and meetings throughout the week.
- The launch of the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan by Minister Damien English took place on Thursday 3rd March at County Buildings.
- The Wicklow County final of the Student Enterprise Programme took place virtually on 22nd March 2022. 864 Students have participated in the programme over the past academic year and have learned how to set up and run a mini business. The Winners will represent Wicklow in the Junior and Senior category of the National Final which takes place on 18th May in Dublin.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer 2022 business skills training programme is underway with courses now open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-

- Start Your Own Business with a Focus on Blue ways and Green Ways, 1st March
- Essential Idea Exploration, 2nd March
- Digital Marketing Clinics (one to one) 7th March
- Start Your Own Business 9th March
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 10th March
- Video Production – Tools, Techniques & Tactics – Beginners Level 11th March
-

Business Skills Training Courses available for bookings on our website include:-

Bookkeeping Using Excel 7th April
Effective use of Social Media for your Business 27th April



2. Planning and Development

County Development Plan Review

Following consideration of the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Chief Executive's Report in respect of submissions received, the Members of Wicklow County Council, resolved in accordance with Sections 12(6) and 12(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that the Draft Development Plan be amended. The proposed amendments constitute material alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Proposed Amendments and associated Addenda are available to view and download from the Council's website consult.wicklow.ie from Wednesday 27th April 2022 to Wednesday 25th May 2022 inclusive.

Submissions or observations regarding the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Plan and the associated Addenda may be made between Wednesday 27th April 2022 to 5pm Wednesday 25th May 2022 inclusive.

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

County Heritage Plan allocations from The Heritage Council: Following the submission of project proposals, a total allocation of €57,000 has been received for 2022 for Wicklow for the following projects and activities; Wicklow Barn Owl Survey; Wicklow Swift Champion Project; Heritage Communications; Glendalough Community Archaeology project and a County Wicklow Community Archaeology initiative.

Wicklow Barn Owl project underway, survey work commenced, social media Facebook page created, over 100 reports of sightings (including historic) and expressions of interest in hosting a nest box received. Barn Owl Nest boxes (internal and external) erected by NPWS in 12 + locations to date.

Heritage Communications: Let's get buzzing, biodiversity awareness public event held on Sat 9th April in Roundwood Parish centre aimed at tidy towns and other community based groups. Providing update on latest biodiversity initiatives and an opportunity to share information and resources.

Distribution of 'managed for wildlife' and other pollinator resources among public and local authority staff.

Wicklow Heritage Forum meeting held 2nd March.

APRIL 2022



Meeting with Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN) on 15th March and with Wicklow ICAN member groups on 23rd March.

Swift project underway - promoted via social media, dedicated point of contact, nest boxes provided to tidy towns groups and schools.

Biodiversity Grazing on Wicklow County Council owned land: Introduction of x 5 Droimeann Cattle (Irish Rare Breed) to a specially designed grazing plot at North Beach Brittas Bay on 14th March. It is anticipated to retain animals onsite for 4-6 weeks as a trial regime of conservation grazing to enhance floral diversity and composition on the EU protected Dune Habitat. .

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund: The Heritage Office has prepared and submitted funding applications for €48,000 under the LBAPF for a continuation and expansion of the Brittas Bay Conservation Project and the initiation of a county hedgerow survey. Awaiting the outcome of these funding applications.

Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2022- The Heritage Officer co-ordinated applications for county Wicklow under this grant scheme on behalf of National Monuments Service. A total of 11 applications for community based archaeological projects were prepared and shortlisted by 1st March.

Protected Structures Grants: Applications were assessed and submitted from Wicklow under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Approval received for 11 projects under a county allocation of €96,000. Three successful projects under the HSF; €25,000 towards Russborough Weir Wall repairs; €40,000 for St Matthews Church, Newtownmountkennedy, and €10,000 to vernacular house at Greenan More.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 st March 2022	To 31 st March 2021	% Increase
Received (Valid)	274	298	-8.5%

A total of 135 valid applications were received during March as follows:

APRIL 2022



Type of Development	31 st March 2022 Number Received
Individual Houses	31 (29 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	13
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	08
Other Developments**	81
Total	135

* Large housing development

22/193, Oakway Homes, 46 units, Knockadosan, Rathdrum

22/259, First Step Homes, 61 units, Season Park, Newtown

22/261, Ardale Property Group, 27 Units, Newcastle

22/291. P.K. Stephens 60 Units, Ballinalea Ashford

**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 85 applications in March:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	06
Individual Houses	19 (17 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	60
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	85

Decisions issued between January to March 2022, in comparison to the same period for 2021:

	31/03/2021	31/03/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	247	249
Total Number of decisions to grant	211	211
% Grant Rate	85%	85%

APRIL 2022



No of applications withdrawn		08

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-305558-21, Kilgarron Hill, Parknasilloge, Enniskerry (219 Units), Members meeting 1/3/2022, CE report to be forwarded to ABP by 31/3/2022

ABP-312020-21, Lands at Bray Head House (179 Units) Members meeting 7/12, CE report forwarded 26/1/22, Granted 23/3.

ABP-313208-22 – lands at Season Park, Newtown (179 Units) Members Meeting 25/4, CE report due 30/5

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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



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.

E-Planning Project

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q3 2022.

The project will include the following elements:

- Standardised naming/structure of all documentation in Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
- Web Portal through which all electronic planning applications and all correspondence regarding same would pass.
- All submissions can be made on-line for both planning application and part VIII applications.
- Fees will be paid online by means of card payment or EFT.
- Part VIII applications for all Local Authorities would be submitted and stored centrally.
- Referrals to all prescribed bodies and the receipt of their submissions would be electronic.
- Electronic transfer of planning files to An Bord Pleanála following an appeal.

The e-Planning system will provide a better service to the public. It will allow agents to build their applications before submission, and will reduce the printing, copying and scanning of documentation. It will also facilitate electronic interaction between Local Authorities, An Bord Pleanála and prescribed bodies.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	6
Advisory Letters	30
Warning Letters	15
Enforcement Notices	4
Legal Files	0
Closed	15



Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	4
Greystones	3
Wicklow	8

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

3 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Market Valuation)

01 sites on appeal to Valuation Tribunal

€2,100 paid in levies in March

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	3 No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1
Bray	1

Short Term Letting

	To date	Jan to Mar 2022
Applications for Registration received to date	130	
Warning Letters issued	26	
Enforcement Notices issued	7	
UD files opened	27	
Under Investigation	51	
Legal Proceedings instigated	1	

The recent Government strategy 'Housing for All' has announced new regulations in this regard, with revised regulatory controls requiring the registration of short term and holiday lets with Fáilte Ireland. Responsibility for enforcement with the new registration requirements will lie with the Residential Tenancies Board, the Local Authority will continue to address illegal or unauthorised structures or changes of use.



3. Environmental Services

Waste Management

Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of Complaints Created	141
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	84
No of Litter Fines Issued	17
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	0
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	0
No. of Burning Applications Granted	19
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	40
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No. of cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	1

Whitestown Remediation Project

Wicklow County Council has employed Fehily Timoney & Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr. Justice Humphreys

Draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27th November 2020.

Following the receipt of submissions from a number of prescribed bodies, the High Court instructed WCC to incorporate the requests contained in the submissions into the draft plan and to commence surveys required for an Appropriate Assessment.

Surveys of the qualifying interests, as agreed with NPWS, were completed in December and results are being collated into report form. The reports must be circulated to the required stakeholders before

APRIL 2022



29th April 2022. There is a court date scheduled for Monday 25th April to provide the Judge with an update on progress

Recycling Centres

Tenders have been received and assessed to set up a Multi-Party Framework for Civil and Structural Engineer-Led Integrated Design Team Consultancy Services for various projects established in the next 4 years with the replacement of the Asbestos Roof in Bray Recycling Centre and general refurbishment of the centre. Contract documents will issue shortly to the successful tenderer.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing Our Future

The Climate Action Plan, which was launched on 4th November 2021, is an ambitious plan to put Ireland on a more sustainable path, cutting emissions and creating a cleaner, greener economy and society

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government.

The plan sets out 475 separate actions to halve Ireland's greenhouse emissions by 2030, including extensive offshore wind power, retrofitting 500,000 homes and putting a million electric vehicles on the roads.

The public sector will lead by example and halve emissions by 2030. Green Teams will be established in every public sector body. No new fossil fuel heating systems will be installed in public buildings after 2023, except in very limited exceptional circumstances. All new fleet purchases will be electric from 2023, where such vehicles are available.

A new National Retrofit Plan will drive demand and make retrofitting more affordable whilst there are increased targets for district heating and the public sector and strengthening building standards for all buildings.

Just transition principles are embedded in the plan, including the principles that people need to be equipped with the skills to benefit from changes and that costs need to be shared. A Just Transition Commission will be established.



All increases in carbon tax receipts are earmarked for targeted social protection measures, an expansion of retrofitting, particularly for social and low-income homes, and agri-environmental projects.

Wicklow County Council will commence the Advance Planning Stage of the development of the plan in Q2. This will include a review of the Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted in September 2019 and a Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI).

Wicklow Climate Action

The Tree Management Policy was adopted by Plenary on 10th January 2022. Work is ongoing to implement the protocols in the policy. This includes the development of an app to capture all information about existing trees on council owned land.

A draft Glyphosate Policy was presented to the CABA SPC on 17th February 2022. As with the Tree Policy, an App is being developed to record and map usage throughout the County by WCC Staff. The final draft Policy will be on the agenda of the next CABA SPC on the 28th April.

RPS Consulting Engineers have completed the base line carbon footprint study for the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone. They have also submitted two key interim deliverables, the Decarbonisation Zone – Register of Opportunities and the Placemaking and Active Travel Report and have progressed to completing the Draft Implementation Plan with proposed carbon reducing projects.

The Climate Action Officer is coordinating an input from a number of departments to develop a strategy for the Council on the rollout of EV Chargers in the public domain and also transitioning fleet to EVs. A National EV Strategy was launched by the Department of Transport in March. This strategy places an onus on the Public Sector to increase EV penetration in the public sector fleet, to coordinate the delivery of infrastructure across all levels of government and to facilitate the development of a comprehensive mixed-type EV charge point network serving the needs of all citizens.

The Green Team, a cross departmental team with 16 members, is looking at a policy to rollout the use of recycled paper throughout the organisation.

Environmental Awareness

In Green schools sixteen schools are either renewing their Green Flag or receiving their first Green Flag in 2022. Assessment visits were undertaken in March.

County Wicklow Partnership have funded an eight week Climate Action training course for community representatives in County Wicklow. 51 people participated in the training which was delivered by Sustaineo.

APRIL 2022



A composter and two worm composting systems were ordered to test composting options for food waste in the staff canteen and provide a demonstration of composting to staff.

Organisation of a biodiversity seminar and site visit to a neighbourwood project commenced with the event programmed for April.

A one hour webinar with Wicklow Tourism businesses was organised involving presentations on SEAI Support Scheme for Energy Audits and Support Scheme for Renewable heat.

An LAPN project will link to the Bikes for Africa project and involve delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. Workshops will target both adult and youth participation.

An LAPN project to provide training on composting has now been completed and a case study is being prepared.

The annual National Spring Clean Campaign has been launched and materials purchased to support the campaign. 105 groups had registered by the end of March.

1000 trees were distributed for National Tree Week which was from the 21st to 27th of March.

- Wicklow County Council is one of three local authorities involved in an EPA funded pilot on separate collection of textiles which will test different approaches for improving the collection of textiles. The communications campaign will target one town, for which we will use Arklow, focusing on the charity shops in the town and the recycling centre.
- Wicklow County Council is working with eight other local authorities to develop a series of short videos on dog fouling for use on social media. The videos are currently in production.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Work continues on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for Enniskerry, Greystones/Delgany, High Park Wicklow and Blessington. Greystones/Delgany and Wicklow are almost complete.

Newtownmountkennedy completed its Energy Master Plan in November and a claim was made to SEAI for grant payment.

Glenmalure and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

The Arklow SEC received grant approval for Energy Master Plan funding in December and consultants were recruited in February with a first meeting due in April.

Dog Licences

252 dog owners renewed their dog licences in March 2022

APRIL 2022



Horses

During the month of March no horses were impounded. 4 horses remain in a facility on behalf of Wicklow County Council and are in the process of being rehomed as they were not retrieved by their owners.

Caravan Park

Application forms have been sent out to approximately 30 caravan parks for the 2022 season. This generally runs from St Patrick's Day until the end of October.

Burial Grounds

It is intended to conduct a review of the Co. Wicklow Burial Ground Policy.

Harbours and Ports

Activity at Wicklow Port - Shipping Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	2	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1
Mar 22	11	8	3	14	10	4

Activity at Wicklow Port - Shipping Movements

The following funding application have been submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2022-2023 for Wicklow Harbour

- Refurbishment of Aids to Navigation on the East and North Piers Wicklow Harbour
- Installation of a pontoon at South Quay, Wicklow Harbour
- Creation of quay space through the demolition of a warehouse at North Quay, Wicklow Port

Arklow Harbour

The following funding application have been submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2022-2023 for Arklow Harbour

APRIL 2022



- Development of a heavy-duty pontoon at the Inner Harbour, Arklow
- Development of welfare & toilet facilities at South Quay, Arklow Harbour
- Storage facilities at South Quay, Arklow Harbour

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 14 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 24 Rivers monitored involving 184 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- A submission on the New Draft River Management Plan for 2022-2027 was made to the Department highlighting the challenges and resources implication from the WCC perspective.
- 12 Catchment related and engagement activities were undertaken.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 1 Vehicle Refinisher Installation was certified.
- 2 Vehicle Refinisher Installations were inspected
- 1 Dry Cleaner Installation was inspected

Petrol Vapour Regulations

- 1 Petrol filling station was inspected.

Drinking Water Regulations – Non-exempted Private Supplies

- 7 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and compliant with tested parameters
- 3 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and had minor non-compliances with pH parameters.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Preparation of Inspection Plan



12 Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems carried out and 7 found compliant.
5 Advisory notices issued requiring remedial action for the non-compliant domestic waste water treatment systems.

Bathing Water Regulations

1 Bathing Water Monitoring Calendar prepared and submitted to EPA for approval.
1 Bathing Water Profile for Bray reviewed, updated and submitted to EPA for approval.
2 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and 7 found compliant.
5 Advisory notices issued requiring remedial action for the non-compliant domestic waste water treatment systems.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

10 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
4 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and 2 deemed non-compliant.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

4 River/Lake samples taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants

Planning & Development

7 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Well Grants

Number of New Applications	19
Number of New Wells Granted	2
Number of New Pumps Granted	11
Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted	16
Number of Inspections in advance/after works	22

Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was signed by the Chief Executive and nominated member on the 25th of May 2021 and the Environmental Impact Statement and application to An Bord Pleanala was submitted to An Bord Pleanala on the 31st of May 2021

An Oral Hearing took place on the 19th and 20th of January 2022. This Oral Hearing only related to the CPO.

APRIL 2022



Wicklow County Council has been working with the Law Department and the OPW in reviewing the submissions in order to prepare for the Oral Hearing.

There were 21 submissions on the Planning Application and 9 submissions to the CPO, all of these submissions were addressed, either by way of written response or at the Oral Hearing.

A decision is awaited from An Bord Pleanala.



5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public lighting

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **322/2.13%** (details attached). Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults to same period in the previous three years.

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019
Date	04/04/2022	06/04/2021	06/04/2020	01/04/2019
No. of Outstanding Faults	322	359	368	303
Difference		37	46	-19

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Atten)	3	4	4	2	2	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	1	1	1		1	4
ESB Required (Attended)	5		3	4	8	20
Knock Down (Attended)		1	1	1		3
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	4	2	7		14
On Hold			10		8	18
Submitted	15	94	49	30	35	223
TMR	4		6	12	1	23
Grand Total	30	105	76	56	55	322

	28/02/2022	07/03/2022	14/03/2022	28/03/2022	04/04/2022
Access Issues (Attended)	15	14	13	14	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	4	4	4	4	4
ESB Required (Attended)	21	20	20	20	20
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1	1	2	3
Materials required	2	2	2	2	2
No Supply	12	12	12	12	14
On Hold	22	21	20	18	18

APRIL 2022



Submitted	246	228	218	203	223
Traffic Management Required	22	21	18	18	23
TOTAL	345	323	308	293	322
Percentage of lights not working	2.28%	2.13%	2.04%	1.94%	2.13%

Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	February 2022	March
Solicitors Queries	842	923	186	67	66
Road closure applications	23	53	16	8	5
Road Opening licences	1279	1575	378	174	119
Abnormal Load applications	33	54	14	3	3

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding have been provided to continue during 2022.

Following the motion passed at the Council meeting on 7th March 2022 a letter was sent to the Minister for Transport, on behalf of the Members, requesting a meeting with the Minister to discuss the suspension of funding for the N11M11 Improvement Scheme. A response on behalf of the Minister advised at meeting would be arranged with his officials in the first instance. A follow-up letter from the Chief Executive to the Minister dated 14th April 2022 advised that, given the importance of this project to the electorate of County Wicklow, the Elected Members have stressed their preference for an in-person meeting with the Minister and requested for this to be facilitated as soon as possible.

Environmental Surveys already commenced on site will likely be continued to a logical point and concluded. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

The N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme (BPIS) was, until the end of 2021, being progressed in tandem with the main N11/M11 scheme. The BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures along the N11/M11 corridor in advance of the main scheme.

In December 2021, the emerging preferred option for the BPIS was for a northbound and southbound bus lane linking between Junction 6 (Fassaroe) and Loughlinstown Roundabout. Bus priority south of junction 6 was expected to be discounted. Following the suspension of funding on the main scheme and clarification on the likely EIA requirement for the BPIS, it was decided to revisit full extent of the scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 9 (Glenview).



The BPIS web site is now available on www.n11m1bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Work by the contractor on the snagging and outstanding items is continuing. The road works speed limit order was lifted on 01 October 2021, with the exception of the Parallel Service Road which will retain the RWSLO of 50km/h. The speed limit of 60km/h included in the current bye-laws will apply on the N11 mainline. It is intended to amend this bye-law to allow a 100km/h speed limit as intended by the Part 8 for the scheme. This will be further considered as part of the county wide review of speed limits in the coming months. TII have approved funding to carry out a noise assessment of the 7 no residential properties that are adjacent to the new Parallel Service Road Scheme. This noise assessment is expected to be carried out during April and May 2022.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature will be published by the Arts Officer shortly.

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

Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies') has been completed. Funding has been allocated by TII to progress this Phase 2 (Option Selection) in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG) in 2022.

N81 Pavement Capital Works - Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove will be tendered for in 2022.

N81 Capital Maintenance - Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky have been approved by TII. Tenders for this work have been received and are currently under assessment. Applications for funding for drainage works at Mullycagh and Tinode have been approved and works are to commence in Quarter 2.

N81 TII Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) Programme

The contract involves 9 complete barrier replacements and 6 barrier repairs. The contract has been awarded to CHM and works commenced on site in Nov 2021 and are continuing in 2022.

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics March 2022

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	12	2	2	4	1	3					
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	14	3	4	3	3						1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2			1	1						
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	5		1	2	2						

APRIL 2022



Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	1								1		
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	19	10	1	4		2				1	1
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	14	2	3		2		1	4	1	1	
Fire Chimney	4		1			1				2	
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	15	5	5	2		2		1			
Fire Vehicle	2		1							1	
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	2	1		1							
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	7	1	1	1	1	2			1		
Garda Assist	1								1		
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	1	1									
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	1		1								
False Alarm – Good Intent	2						1	1			
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	9						2	5		1	1
Times Stations mobilised	111	25	20	18	10	10	4	11	4	6	3

31st March Baltinglass crew were supported at an agricultural shed fire by a crew from county Carlow

There were **93 incidents** attended during the month of March 2022. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **111 occasions** including 9 incidents in other counties. There was one occasion during the month when an Incident Commander requested additional resources – a ship fire in Wicklow harbour.

Operational activity for the month of March was similar to the preceding month (February 2022 – 109 mobilisations). There was some variation in incident types: there was an increase in domestic fires (up from 1 to 6), alarm activations (down from 28 to 19) gorse fires (up from 3 to 14), chimney fires (down from 9 to 4) bonfires / rubbish fires (up 8 to 15).

Operational activity for the month of March 2022 was down 12% on the equivalent month in 2021 (March 2021 – 126 mobilisations). When comparing year on year, in 2022, gorse fires are down (from 31 to 14), chimney fires are down (from 14 to 4) vehicle fires are down (from 7 to 2).

Sample Incidents (February 2022)

- 02/03/2022 Crews from Arklow and Wicklow Town fought a fire in an apartment on south Quay, Arklow. The fire was contained and quickly extinguished.
- 12/03/2022 The Fire Service was alerted that a ship due in Wicklow harbour had a fire in the hold which the crew had managed to suppress. As a precaution 3 Fire Stations including a hydraulic platform and tanker were mobilised to the harbour to meet the ship which was carrying timber. A smouldering fire was located and extinguished while maintaining the stability of the vessel.
- 22/03/2022 Blessington and Dunlavin attended a large gorse fire in Vallemount.
- 22/03/2022 Rathdrum and Dunlavin attended a large gorse fire at the Wicklow Gap.

APRIL 2022



27/03/2022 Blessington and Dunlavin, supported by staff from the National Park and a civilian helicopter fought a large gorse fire on the Wicklow / Dublin border above Kilbride Army Camp.

Incidents in County Kildare (3-incidents):

07/03/2022 Dunlavin fire crew were mobilised to a chimney fire at Calverstown, Kilcullen.
 08/03/2022 Blessington fire crew supported crews from Naas at a domestic fire at Rathmore, Naas.
 09/03/2022 Blessington fire crew supported a crew from DFB Tallaght at an RTC in county Kildare on the N7, Junction 9 northbound.
 17/03/2022 Dunlavin fire crew attended a small outdoor fire at Ballymore Eustace.
 23/03/2022 Dunlavin fire crew supported a crew from Athy at an RTC at Ballytore. A car in collision with a truck
 23/03/2022 Dunlavin fire crew supported crews from Naas at a domestic fire in Brannockstown.
 25/03/2022 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to an alarm activation in Crockstown.

Incidents in County Carlow (2-incidents):

22/03/2022 Carnew and Tinahely supported crews from Carlow at a large hill fire.

General

- Wicklow were allocated two places on the National Module 1 Course held in Sligo to develop the skills and knowledge of officers at Station Level.
- Officers from Wicklow assisted with the delivery of an Initial Breathing Apparatus Wearers course in Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- Officers from Wicklow assisted Limerick City and County Fire Service with the delivery of training for fires in Electric Vehicles.
- Officers attended the 6th International Safety Seminar in Dublin and attended the NDFEM Fire Seminar in Portlaoise
- Clare County Fire Service and Cork City Fire Brigade used the training centre in Bray for refresher training.

Fire Prevention Statistics March 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	1		10		13
Regularisation Certificates				1	1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	4		4		6

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	2		2	1	

APRIL 2022



Circuit			1		
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act					

Commencement Notices for March 2022:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 47

- 13 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 28 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 0 Seven-day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 60 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 64 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 30 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

- 11 are Compliance Documentation (37%)
- 15 are Opt Out (50%)
- 4 Without Compliance Documentation (13%)
- 0 Seven Day Notice (0%)
 - 38 Valid Commencement Notices

- 156 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for March = 4
-

☐ Certificates of Completion processed in March 2022

- 22 New No. of CCC submitted
- 5 Required Revised Information
- 18 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 81 new residential units validated

Submission Statistics

18 No. Validated CCCs related to;
 3 No CCCs submitted in February 2022
 15 No CCCs submitted in March 2022
 **BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control experienced increased activity in March 2022. 156 new residential units in were notified to LA for Commencement in March. 81 newly completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in March.

Building Control continued with site inspection in March to identify non-compliances with Building Regulations onsite and 4 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

APRIL 2022



Building Control Officers attended the National Building Controls Conference for 2 days in late March. Presentations included information on Part A,B, D & L of the Building Regulations and also updated guidance from NBC&MSO.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	222,877
Greystones Municipal District	56,643
Wicklow Municipal District	79,021
Arklow Municipal District	52,224
Parking Permits	18,890
Parking Fines	79,594
Wicklow County Council	509,249



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in March:

- Assistant Staff Officer (Grade IV) – Shortlisting and preliminary interviews
- Staff Officer (Grade V) – Final Interviews
- Senior Staff Officer (Grade VI) – Final Interviews
- Administrative Officer (Grade VII)
- Drivers A
- Drivers B

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Managerial/Administrative	297	304	305	303
Professional/Technical	118	121	122	117
Outdoor	264	261	262	273
Temporary/Seasonal	71 (increase relates to lifeguards)	49 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	49	44
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	6
Total	758	743	746	743

APRIL 2022



Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

March 2022: 7	March 2021: 3
Jan – March 2022: 26	Jan – March 2021: 18

Ombudsman Requests

March 2022: 3	March 2021: 2
Jan – March 2022: 9	Jan – March 2021: 3

Press Releases

March 2022 - 8

Register of Electors

The Franchise Section published the 2022/2023 Live Register of Electors on 1st February 2022 which came into force on 15th February 2022.

The Franchise staff will continue to strive for excellence and accuracy on the Register of Electors database. We are continuing to accept applications from 18-year-olds and new residents moving into the county in the event that an electoral event occurs and there is a requirement for a Supplement Register. We will continue to make contact with new housing developments and urban areas where new developments are coming on stream in an effort to get new residents register.

Now that the Live Register is published, we are progressing contact with Nursing Homes with a view to updating the Disabled Special Voters List.

Work is ongoing and continuous throughout the year where is a lack of Eircodes and dates of birth. Wicklow Co Co are in the top 3 of local authorities in Eircode coverage on their register with over 99% of the electorate having an Eircode attached to their Register of Electors entry.

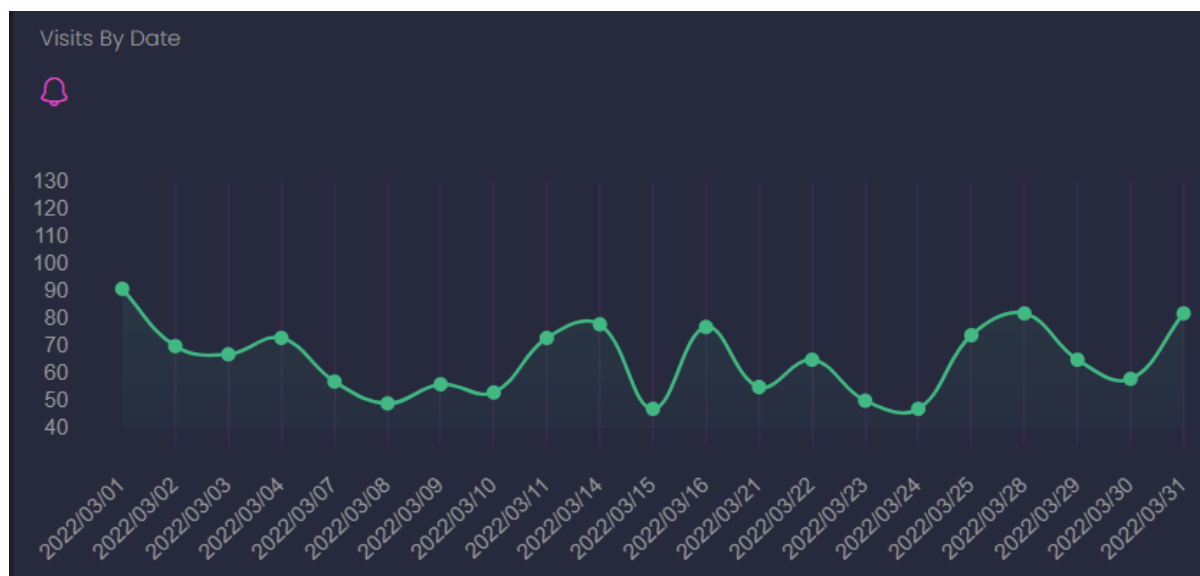
We are continuing to assist the LGMA in their exercise to have other Local Authorities achieve similar Eircode coverage on their own Register of Electors. Work is also progressing and the Wicklow County Council Franchise Section have significant input into, the new Electoral Register Modernisation Process with staff members forming part of the Department Committee on this process. The Franchise Section are an integral part of the team in assisting the LGMA in developing an updated version of the current register database system with regular MS Team Meetings and discussions on this project. Testing and troubleshooting this new system commenced in Wicklow Co Co's Franchise Department along with Kildare Co Co which in turn will be rolled out to other Councils as the year progresses'



Customer Service Hub

Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	10,043	Motor Taxation	1660
No. of Emails	1302	Revenue	335
No. of Elected Members Emails	125	Social Housing Applications	57
CRM Cases	223		

Total in person visits for March 2022 – 1369 an increase of 12.2% from February 2022.



Communication

Wicklow County Council was crowned **Council of the Year** in Ireland in prestigious national awards. The 2022 All Ireland Community & Council Awards took place on Saturday 9th April in Dublin, they were presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA (the Local Authority Member’s Association) to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities in their Communities all over Ireland.

These awards recognise and illustrate the collaborative work between Wicklow County Council, the community and volunteers creating a better place to live and work in Wicklow.

In addition to Council of the Year, Wicklow County Council won six other awards across different categories on the night:

- Wicklow Sustainable Development Goals Mapping Tools won **Gold** in Best Environmental or Ecological Project or Initiative.
- Carrig Eden Housing Project won **Gold** in Best Social Housing Project/Initiative
- Wicklow Tourism Passport won two awards – **Silver** in both Best Tourism Initiative and Best Arts/Culture Initiative (inc. festivals & events)
- San Remo Housing Project won **Silver** in Best Community Health Initiative
- Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub won **Silver** in Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment.



2. I.C.T.

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 29 tickets a day in March, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway.
- The upgrade of PC's in libraries and general offices continues and due to complete by end Q1 2022

Implementation of ePlanning

- Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

GIS & Systems Analysis

- Preparation of the draft Greystones/Delgany - Kilcoole LAP has commenced.
- Testing of an upgrade to Environment Enforcement's hardware has commenced.
- A proof of concept has been developed for a Heat Pump Management System.
- An Online Consultation Portal of the draft County Development Plan is being prepared.
- A case study which will be used in the national implementation plan for the SDGs has been sent to CARO.

Business Systems/Applications Development

- Arklow Municipal District's Road's Section is collaborating with the inhouse Applications Development Team, to design and develop a new generation of "Smart" mobile data collection applications.

Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.
-

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from March 1st, 2021, to February 28th, 2022, were 1,436,784 This is a slight increase in unique pageviews compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date

- o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 11,002 followers. This is an increase of 313 followers or 3% on the previous month.

- o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7612 followers. This is an increase of 23 followers or .3% on the previous month.



o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2714 followers. This is an increase of 38 followers or 1.42% on the previous month.

- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
 - o Part 8 – Four Bedroom semi-detached dormer houses near no.8 Knockroe, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
 - o County Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan Consultation 2022
 - o Greystones Transport Study
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone

COVID-19

The IT Department continue to support all the systems setup to respond to the additional business needs arising from the response to COVID19:

- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness
- Remote working licencing has increased in all business areas with ~300 WCC users now having the facility to work remotely using a combination of Citrix and Cisco.



FINANCIAL

Revenue Account

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MARCH 2022							
	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	9,659,864	34,438,754	28%	(10,825,167)	(39,943,965)	27%	(1,165,302)
Road Transport & Safety	3,679,864	22,204,016	17%	(1,279,322)	(15,347,052)	8%	2,400,543
Water Services	1,390,701	5,394,788	26%	(1,727,915)	(6,561,262)	26%	(337,214)
Development Management	3,271,856	12,355,595	26%	(2,153,177)	(6,872,547)	31%	1,118,679
Environmental Services	2,605,202	12,130,078	21%	(250,521)	(2,083,134)	12%	2,354,681
Recreation and Amenity	2,020,233	8,498,513	24%	(290,966)	(1,148,299)	25%	1,729,267
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	217,262	1,566,840	14%	(91,868)	(809,228)	11%	125,394
Miscellaneous Services	4,181,040	10,846,102	39%	(3,340,511)	(9,033,954)	37%	840,529
Central Management Charges	4,469,711	20,213,475	22%	(255,250)	(1,000,000)	26%	4,214,461
Local Government Fund				(3,267,227)	(13,068,907)	25%	(3,267,227)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(7,982,453)	(31,929,814)	25%	(7,982,453)
	31,495,734	127,648,161	25%	(31,464,376)	(127,798,162)	25%	31,358

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 March 2022 to 31st March 2022.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MARCH 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/03/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,706,643	19,322,882	(11,394,031)	0	21,635,494
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	2,316,870	(562,349)	0	(33,952,333)
Water Services	(10,436,363)	129,179	(89,559)	0	(10,396,743)
Development Management	(25,225,375)	143,871	(2,236,830)	0	(27,318,335)
Environmental Services	743,438	987,608	(900,851)	0	830,195
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	792,208	(182,071)	3,858	1,060,615
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	33,995	0	0	(1,409,768)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	2,227,914	(5,844,879)	74,221	(22,368,568)
	(76,741,477)	25,954,526	(21,210,570)	78,079	(71,919,442)



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

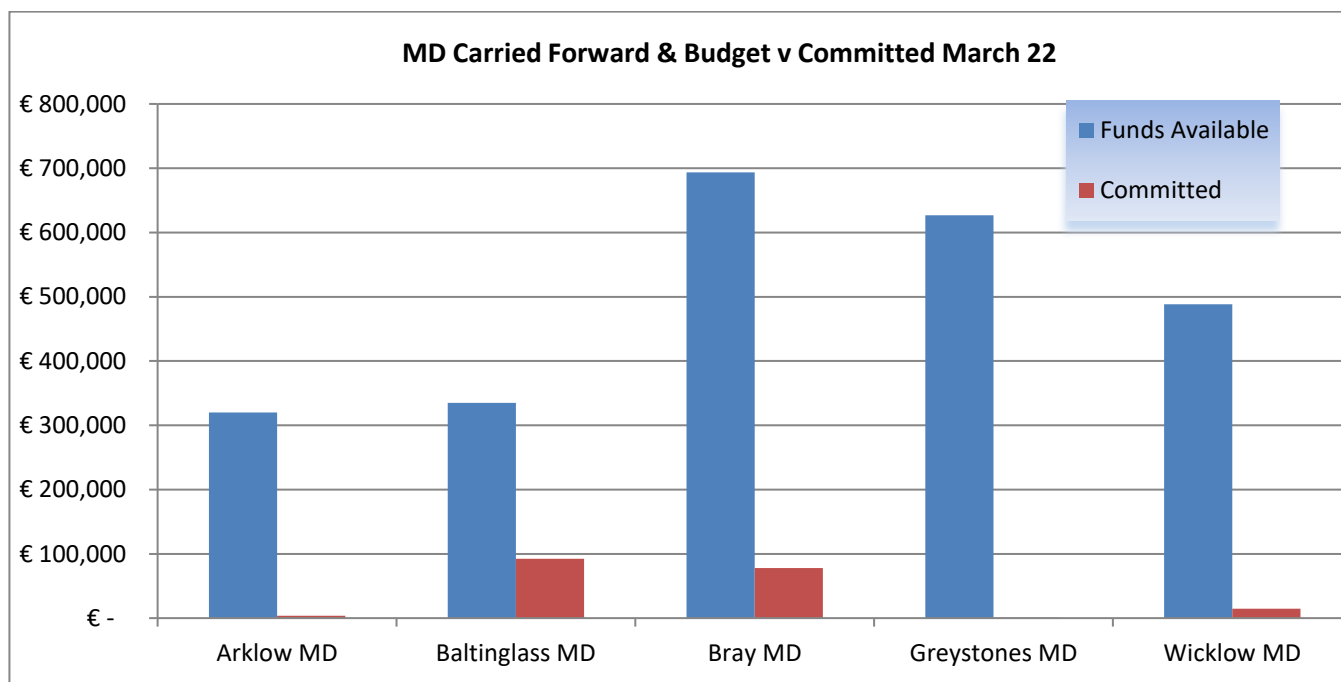
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST MARCH 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/3/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	6,342,375	31,917,481	0	0	(1,165,636)	37,094,220	(3,130,331)	33,963,889	2,810,522	9%
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	4,564,541	0	47	0	7,402,114	(4,041,844)	3,360,269	0	55%
Housing Loans	446,170	578,156	0	0	0	1,024,326	(573,535)	450,791	0	56%

The rent collection and housing loan collection percentage is 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 2022

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on July 27th 2021 to raise the LPT basic rate by 6% resulted in an additional €1,043,460 in the Revenue Budget for 2022. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2022 is set out below:

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	3,665	316,455
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	92,407	242,698
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	77,810	615,673
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	523	626,200
Wicklow MD	246,816	241,649	488,465	14,887	473,578
Total	1,079,046	1,384,850	2,463,896	189,294	2,274,602



Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 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 March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2022 €	2023 €	2024 €	TOTAL €	Dev Charges ¹ €	Loan €	Grant Aid ² €	Other ³ €	TOTAL €
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,820,000	104,427,500	107,603,750	319,851,250	-	26,000,000	288,594,000	5,257,250	319,851,250
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	24,647,487	29,100,107	16,356,902	70,104,496	14,713,521	7,795,000	42,632,508	4,963,467	70,104,496
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	6,550,000	10,178,000	5,962,000	22,690,000	2,897,800	2,000,000	9,627,200	8,165,000	22,690,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2,920,000	10,850,000	28,550,000	42,320,000	-	-	32,060,000	10,260,000	42,320,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	11,281,823	22,079,000	12,091,000	45,451,823	9,525,870	-	35,025,953	900,000	45,451,823
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,150,000	16,900,000	30,682,946	52,732,946	4,585,368	-	41,647,210	6,500,368	52,732,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	158,669,310	193,834,607	201,546,598	554,050,515	31,722,559	35,795,000	449,886,871	36,646,085	554,050,515



Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€620,000	€120,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€490,000	€98,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€197,131	€39,426
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€200,000	€50,400
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	€310,700	€38,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€59,271	€5,927
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501



Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	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
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€5,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€22,000
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
	Sub-Total	€59,067,435	€11,267,801