

Wicklow County Council
Chief Executive's Monthly Report – May 2025



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow County Council

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This month:

MAGHERAMORE BEACH

Wicklow County Council is pleased to announce the successful purchase of a 21-acre beachfront parcel of land at Magheramore in Wicklow. This land, which offers panoramic views of the beach and the Irish Sea, was previously owned by the Columbian order of sisters before being sold multiple times. Long celebrated for its natural beauty, clear waters and unspoiled surroundings, Magheramore Beach has become a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. Magheramore Beach has also been featured in numerous film and TV productions making it an integral part of the Wicklow coastline.

Wicklow County Council had previously attempted to secure public ownership of the land for beach access. They were unsuccessful bidders at the initial auction in 2021 and again at the auction held in March 2025. However, after the successful bidder decided not to proceed with the sale, the Council was given the opportunity to intervene and complete the purchase of this important coastal amenity.

The acquisition of the land at Magheramore will guarantee continued access to the beloved beach. Furthermore, it is a step towards the County Development Plan objectives to protect the Special Area of Conservation and the National Heritage Area.

GREAT SUGARLOAF RESTORATION PROJECT AND LAUNCH OF THE WICKLOW TRAILS APP

The Great Sugarloaf Restoration Project was officially opened in May.

Over time, erosion and overuse had damaged the popular trail on the mountain and its surrounding habitat. The ambitious path restoration works, which commenced in early 2024 have now been completed.

These works included screening reports, helicopter airlifts of materials, hand-pitched path restoration, drainage improvements and replanting of the lower section of the mountain. These efforts will now encourage habitat development and recovery, providing a stepped trail and a designated safer route for users ascending and descending the mountain.

Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), with Matching Funds from Wicklow County Council. A key priority of the scheme is to promote outdoor activity tourism as part of a long-term vision for sustainable rural development in Ireland.

The Sugarloaf Mountain lies along the route of the Sugarloaf Way, which will eventually connect Bray Head to the Wicklow Way and other trails in the Wicklow Mountains.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	April 2025	April 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	92	107
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1363	1397
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	21	23

Allocation of Social Housing

	April 2025	April 2024
Wicklow County Council	10	12
Approved Housing Bodies	2	9

Social Housing Stock

	April 2025	April 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5043	4928
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€341,524.56	€329,247.84
Arrears (Including Bray)	€3,227,653.09	€2,952,553.54

Rent

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

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 30/04/2025
Arklow	938
Ashford	393
Aughrim	40
Avoca	37
Ballinaclash	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	117

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Barndarrig	11
Blessington	259
Bray	1135
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	73
Conary	4
Coolboy	4
Delgany	222
Donard	15
Dunlavin	31
Enniskerry	48
Glenealy	12
Greystones	316
Kilcoole	54
Kilmacanogue	10
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	2
Knockananna	6
Laken	1
Laragh	13
Newcastle	12
Ntmk	66
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	61
Rathnew	117
Redcross	2
Roundwood	33
Shillelagh	21
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	32
Wicklow	257
TOTAL	4374

Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

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

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

- Forms issued to the social housing support applicant.
- Advertised in paper and on local media to remind applicants to complete and return these forms.

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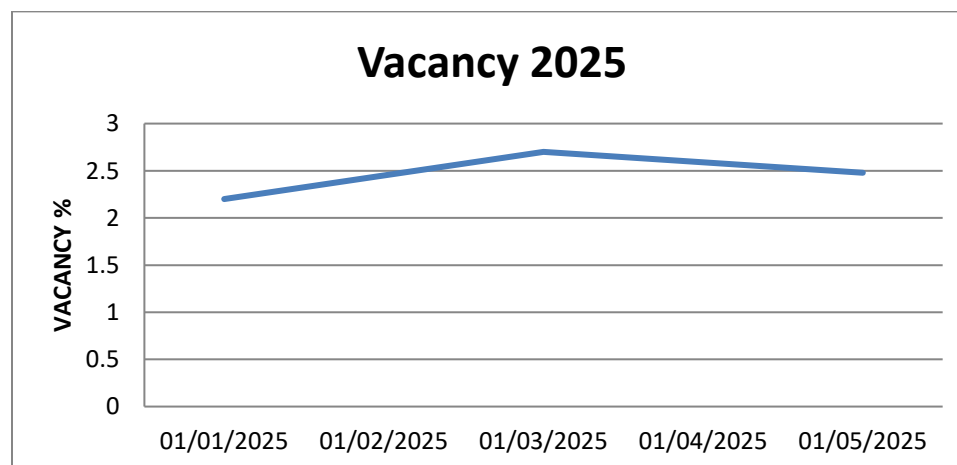
- Reminder letters issued to applicants.
- Follow up emails and phone calls to the applicant.
- Review of list by housing teams – Homeless, Traveller accommodation and Tenant Sustainment Officers.
- Reports on the Social Housing application list were generated from the IHouse System.

Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	5 (+1)	6 (+1)	5 (-1)	7 (-3)	18(-2)
Baltinglass	5 (+5)	7 (-2)	9 (-3)	12(+1)	28 (0)
Bray	23 (+16)	2 (-3)	5 (-6)	18(+11)	25(-21)
Greystones	3 (+2)	4 (0)	5 (+1)	6 (0)	15(+2)
Wicklow	8 (+1)	14(+2)	17 (-3)	7(-3)	38 (+7)
2025 Totals	44(+25)	33 (-3)	41 (-12)	50(+7)	124 (-14)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.48	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

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

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



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

Core Capital Programme

i. Traveller Accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date June/July 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 Expected Q3 2025.
Vale Road, Arklow	Part 8 submitted

ii. Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

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

iii. Energy Retrofit Program

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

EERP	Numbers carried out as of April 2025
Houses retrofit	32

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of April
Targeted and complaint inspections	148

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

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

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Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	208
Prohibition Notice	14 (+5)						

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

To date, April 2025, Wicklow are working in partnership with Ark Housing and Tiglin to deliver on two properties. Wicklow continues to work with Sunbeam House Services and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired to bring two active projects to completion. WCC has also offered support in principle to Sunbeam to acquire & upgrade a property which is presently home to four Sunbeam service users. The property is currently leased to Sunbeam and the owner wishes to sell.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Expected Delivery Q2	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q3	CAS

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

Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of April 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	2,985,924	1,280,340
Grant Funding for Social Housing	TBC	593,207

Local Authority Home Loans up to April 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
22	5

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	April 2025
Applications Received	466	9
Completed	123	5
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

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Housing Acquisitions

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

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2024	6	6	5	17
2025 (to 30th April)	1	5	1	7



(5 The Way Meadowvale, Arklow – sale closed 15th April 2025)

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

There are currently 103 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
53	50	8

Homeless Services - Homeless Figures for April 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/04/2025	Year To Date	As at 30/04/2024
No of New Presentations	24	118	35
No. of Repeat Presentations	5	25	1
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	5	42	13
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	25	120	32
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	6	2

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No. of Children	10	84	19
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	21	6
Family Circumstances	9	40	16
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	3	7	0
Mental Health	1	3	2
Risk of Homelessness	21	91	23
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	1
Addiction Issues	4	7	1
DV/DA	0	6	0
Medical Issues	0	1	0
Overcrowding	2	11	10
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	0	4	6
ASB:	0	0	1
Rough Sleeping*	4	8	2
Sofa Surfing*	5	15	5
Staying with Family*	4	22	8
Staying with Friends*	2	16	3

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/04/25	
Families	17
Adults	30
Children	41
Single individual	14

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/04/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	27	24	9	6	3	1	6
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/04/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	26	21	8	1	4	6	7

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

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- 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, 628 households (438 families & 190 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th April 2025. (247 homeless cases, 352 prevention cases to date and 29 direct provision). 159 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

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Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

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

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

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Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

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

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

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

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

Awaiting press release to issue from Department of Rural & Community Development for list of successful applications.

Community Awards Scheme 2025

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Awards Scheme.

The fund for 2025 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

Maximum grant amount of €500 per organisation for small projects and group running costs.

Applications for funding is closed. The assessment process is now underway.

Community Safety Fund

The Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan opened the nationwide funding call for the Community Safety Fund 2025 on Monday 7th April.

The annual fund allows for the proceeds of crime, seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána, to be directed into local projects to support and enhance community safety. The Community Safety Fund will be managed by the newly established National Office for Community Safety within the Department of Justice.

This year, €4 million is available nationally, which is double the original allocation of €2 million when the fund first opened for applications in 2022, and grants range from €20,000 to €150,000.

Applications are invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice.

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Applications are to be made directly to the Department of Justice by **Friday 16th May 2025**. Forms and further information can be found on www.gov.ie/communitysafety.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

***CRF 2024 Phase 1 Approved Projects**

Wicklow	Carnew	Old Coolattin County Club CLG and Wicklow County Council	Carnew Community Land Development	€150,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Dunlavin GAA Club	Development of multi-use games area	€144,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Imaal Hall Committee	Facilities Upgrade	€60,800
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy	Newtown GAA	Development of a Walkway	€100,000
Wicklow	Arklow	Arklow Town Team	Upgrade to St. Peter's Place Playground	€135,000

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Wicklow	Bray	Bray Area Partnership	Purchase of new vehicle	€50,000
Wicklow	Rathdrum	Rathdrum Playground Committee	Park Placemaking Project	€54,500
Wicklow Total				€694,300

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

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

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

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

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County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

[County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27](#)

Action 3.8 Appoint Healthy Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator & Rollout Wicklow Programme

Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme is a support coordination programme that aims to enable older people to age in place and reduce the need to transfer to long-term residential care. The Programme is a collaboration between the Department of Health and the Department of Housing and Local Government. It is funded by the Department of Health and operated by Meath County Council, on behalf of all Local Authorities.

The service is designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer. The local coordinator undertakes home visits to older people living in the community, where a needs assessment is carried out, looking at four key areas of supports: housing, health, community/social supports, and technology. Home visits from the local co-ordinator are available to anyone aged 65+ years. The rollout of the programme will commence in January 2024.

Meanwhile referrals for the service can be registered with National Office at 046 924 8899 or via email: healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

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

The Older Peoples Council next meeting is the 15th May 2025.

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

OPC Convention was held in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on the 8th and 9th of May 2025. OPCs from all over the Country attended this event and the theme this year was "Wisdom of Years". It focussed a lot on the health of the elderly and how to keep healthy and active.

Regional Programme Managers and OPC members training was held in the Woodford Hotel, Carlow on the 28th of March 2025.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

The next Alliance meeting is the 6th of May 2025. Each stakeholder will give an update on their Programmes.

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

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

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Age Friendly Ireland Committee

Regional Programme Managers and Age Friendly Programme Managers meeting took place in the Seven Oaks Hotel in Carlow.

The Programme Manager met with Aishling Kirwan, Bray Food Poverty to discuss food poverty that some of the elderly are facing in the County of Wicklow. It was suggested to hold an information day so that people can come along and find out where to get help from various organisations within the County.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group

The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. Members of the Customer Care Unit currently wear these Lanyards so that a person with a hidden disability can identify which member of staff they need to talk too.

The programme was launched in Arklow in March 2025 and there was a great turnout for the event.

Communication Boards for the Playgrounds in Arklow have been sent to the manufacturer. It is hoped that they will be ready in the next few weeks.

The newly formed Newtown Community Forum committee have run a successful awareness campaign in the town, which all members of the community could get behind.

In December 2024 they launched their campaign to make Newtown a with local businesses, schools and community groups to raise awareness and they have distributed Sunflower Lanyards throughout the town so members of the community, who feel that they would benefit from wearing a lanyard, could have access to them, free of charge.

Sunflower lanyards are worn by people who have a disability that you might not be able to see. They are worn by people who want to let you know that they might need some extra help.

This could be, for example:

- sensory loss, including difficulty seeing or hearing
- a physical disability that may not be obvious
- Autism
- a learning disability
- anxiety or any other mental health condition.

There is no qualifying list of hidden disabilities. If a person has a hidden disability and feel that they would benefit from wearing a sunflower lanyard, they can in the knowledge that their local community that they live in and work in understands this and supports them.

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People with hidden disabilities can contribute enormously to their local community and if they feel they are supported by their community around them, this can have an immensely positive impact on their lives too.

When the Forum launched their campaign, they estimated that less than 10% of the community were aware of the existence of the Sunflower Lanyard, let alone what it stood for. Now a mere six months later, due to the work of the group and the buy-in from the businesses, community groups and the community in general, the Forum estimate that over 90% of the town understand what the Lanyard stands for now and would support its users.

The Sunflower Lanyards are now available in several prominent locations spread across the town free of charge, should anyone feel they could benefit from wearing one. The list of locations are The Post Office, Fishers, Red Eye Coffee, The Parkview Hotel, Adrian Dunne Pharmacy, The Pilates Studio, Dunnes Stores, The Primary Care Centre, Newtown Area Sports Development, Newtown Primary School, Woodstock Educate Together School, Cali Special Class, Eugene's Food Store and the Wicklow Wolf Taproom.

The Newtown Community Forum Committee ran their campaign in conjunction with the Community Section in Wicklow County Council and Triple A Wicklow. They would like to thank Máire Halvey from Wicklow County Council and Ann-Marie Kelly from Triple A Wicklow for their support.

Access Officer

Training for Access Officer commenced in October 2024.

Comhairle na nÓg

The position has been filled and meetings are currently underway to get more membership for the group and to discuss topics that are important to the youth.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

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

The Programme accepts referrals from a variety of sources including from:

- The older person themselves
- Family and friends
- Elected Representatives
- Local Authority Staff
- Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
- Community Organisations

Please note, consent from the older person (verbal) must be obtained before the referral is submitted. Once the referral is received, the Local Coordinator will be in-touch with the older person to arrange a free home visit.

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Referrals to the programme can be made via phone or email:



046-924 8899 (Head Office)



healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

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

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

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

After a concerted level of stakeholder engagement and programme promotion early in 2024, the number of referrals to the programme in Wicklow reached peak demand. A decision was then made to curtail programme promotion in order to stabilise programme demand. Consequently, demand for the programme in Wicklow has stabilised in recent months, and more sustainable pattern of referrals are now emerging.

Scheduled Event for May

HAFH coordinator will be in attendance at the Café Bealtaine event in Wicklow Library on Wednesday 28th May to provide information about the service.

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (up to 30th April 2025):

Total Initial Visits	68
Total Additional Visits	49
Total Visits Overall	117
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	51



Healthy
Wicklow



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Healthy Ireland - Healthy Wicklow

Active Communities

Signage for a FitStick trail in Coolafancy Community Field and Shillelagh GAA is being processed by Signiatec Ltd and will be in situ in the next couple of weeks. Appraisal has also been completed on the 2nd April by FitWalk Ireland to include a FitStick trail in Carnew GAA. Funding has also been allocated to facilitate an 8-week couch to parkrun programme which commenced on the 29th April in Shillelagh.

Food Poverty

The West Wicklow Food for Thought Event was held in Donard Community Café on the 2nd April which will provide an opportunity for collaboration, interaction and information sharing between voluntary groups and community organisations directly/indirectly supporting families and individuals experiencing food poverty in the West Wicklow area. This is the third and final in the series of Food for Thought Events and a West Wicklow Food Partnership will be formed.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Physical Activity for Health Hub

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Bray is pleased to confirm its collaboration with Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership on the development of a new Physical Activity for Health (PAfH) Hub in Ballywaltrim. Led by Denise O'Shea, PAfH Officer with the Local Sports Partnership, this initiative will serve as a dedicated community-based resource promoting preventative health, physical activity, and chronic disease management. With an initial investment of €15,000 from SHC, the Ballywaltrim hub will support individuals across all life stages to engage in accessible, evidence-based physical activity programmes, aligned with SHC's commitment to reducing health inequalities and addressing the social determinants of health in Bray.

Bray Children's Wellness Hub

A Family Engagement Officer has now been hired for the Bray Family Resource and Development Project, with their role commencing in mid-April. This position is focused on supporting families engaging with the Bray Children's Wellness Hub, helping to strengthen links between families and local services, and ensuring that parents and guardians are actively involved in their children's wellbeing journey. The Family Engagement Officer will work closely with the Play Therapist, the Traveller Primary Health Care Team, the Marian Centre, and wider community-based supports to ensure that families are supported holistically, particularly those experiencing challenges related to mental health, housing, or social isolation. The role is designed to build trust, promote inclusive access to services, and support positive family dynamics through regular outreach, group work, and one-to-one support.

Community Safety Fund 2025

Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) is in the process of applying for funding under the Community Safety Fund 2025 to support the installation of improved street lighting in key areas of Fassaroe and Little Bray. This application is being submitted in collaboration with the Bray Family Resource and Development Project. The need for enhanced lighting was clearly identified in the SHC Feasibility Study, which highlighted specific hotspots where poor visibility has contributed to increased anti-social behaviour and

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community safety concerns. By addressing these infrastructural gaps, the project aims to create safer, more welcoming public spaces that support both physical and mental wellbeing across the community.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Annual Plans 2025 and Annual Performance Review 2024 have been approved. This has allowed Q2 funding to be disseminated to both Programme Implementers namely, Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership.

Wicklow LCDC approved Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership's proposal to grant €2,500 to the CARA (care and repair) project. These funds will be used for job-specific tools, PPE, business equipment, office supplies, maintenance, marketing materials and signage. This will help the CARA project continue to promote and deliver its services to support older people to living independently in their own homes.

Public Participation Network

Summer Plenary: Wicklow PPN Summer Plenary will take place Saturday 24th May 2025, Newtownmountkenedy Community Centre.

Political Advocacy and Comms Training for PPNs in collaboration with Senior Policy Officer (Oireachtas Liaison and Democratic Freedoms), Irish Council for Civil Liberties - 12th & 15th May 2025

Policing & Community Safety Authority: Attend Policing Priorities Consultation, Tullamore, 20th May 2025.

County Wicklow PPN Environmental Climate Network: Facilitate establishment of group to pool knowledge, resources and shared interest for community wellbeing.

Social Inclusion Network Group: Increase engagement and representation in West Wicklow.

Consultations: 9 National, 7 Local including: CCTV for Litter and Dumping Prevention and Enforcement; Part 8 Consultation Former Carnew Bank of Ireland Building; Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2028; Notice of proposed adoption and publication of Draft Traveller Accommodation; Affordable Housing Survey 2025; Part 8 Consultation - Vale Road Arklow; Rural Proofing Survey.

Membership: 508 groups from across the county now members of Wicklow PPN.

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

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

LOCAL PLANS

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

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024. Following the receipt of submissions a report was prepared by the CE which issued to the members on 10 January 2025.

The members considered this report at their meeting of 10 February 2025 and decided to propose amendments to the draft plan. As these amendments were 'material' (i.e. significant) they went on public display from **03-31 March 2025**.

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions was issued to the elected members in April, and the members are due to adopt the final LAP at next Monday's Council meeting **12 May 2025**.

The LAP will take effect 6 weeks after the date it is made.

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

Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024. Following the receipt of submissions a report was prepared by the CE which issued to the members on 31 January 2025.

The members considered this report at their meeting of 03 March 2025 and decided to propose amendments to the draft plan. As these amendments were 'material' (i.e. significant) they went on public display from 24 March – 23 April 2025.

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions will be issued to the elected members next week and the members are due to adopt the final LAP at the Council meeting of **16 June 2025**.

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

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Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 (Variation 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan) – this is the new form of LAP

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which includes the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 will be going on display **09 May 2025**. Copies of the Proposed Variation including the draft LPF will be available to view at the following locations, during their normal opening hours, from **Friday 09 May 2025 to Friday 20 June 2025** inclusive:

- Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town
- Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones
- Greystones Library
- Copies of the Proposed Variation will be available to download and view on the Council's website www.wicklow.ie through an **online consultation portal**.

Public information days in Greystones and Kilcoole will be held during the fortnight starting 26 May 2025. Further public notification shall be issued in this regard in due course.

Submissions or observations regarding the Proposed Variation and the associated reports are hereby invited - written submissions or observations made before **midnight on 20 June 2025** will be taken into consideration before the making of the Proposed Variation.

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

1. Write to 'Variation No.4, Administrative Officer, Planning Section, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town.
2. Through the **online consultation portal** at www.wicklow.ie or scan the QR code on this notice.

Other local plans

Arklow and Environs & Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Frameworks

The pre-draft public consultation for both of these LPFs has been completed and we are now working on preparing draft LPFs. We don't have dates fixed yet but will keep you updated.

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No 2

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the

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Proposed Variation. The members are due to adopt the Variation at next Monday's Council meeting 12 May 2025.

Proposed Variation No 3

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. The members are due to adopt the final Variation at the Council meeting of 16th June 2025.

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

FYI submissions closed on the RZLT on 01 April 2025. Anyone that made a submission will be receiving a response by 30 June 2025.

VACANT SITE LEVY

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

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

Irish Community Archive Wicklow Network Meeting scheduled for 30th April in Blessington.

County Heritage Plan (CHP): Heritage Council funding allocations announced under County Heritage Plan Fund of €37,500 and Community Archaeology Service €20,000.

New Publication: A Hillfort Through Time excavations at Rathgall Co. Wicklow by Barry Rafferty and Katharina Becker, launched on 25th March. This landmark production represents the results of decades of archaeological research and is supported by Wicklow County Council Heritage Office.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025- an allocation of €175,635 was confirmed for county Wicklow for 17 projects
- Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025: six project applications were prepared and submitted from County Wicklow to Historic Structure Fund. One allocation of €170,000 secures for Russborough House under HSF.

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Historic Town Initiative (HTI) Funding: An application under HTI submitted in partnership with Greystones Town Team for 'Retracing Greystones' – A Heritage led Regeneration study. A funding allocation of €50,000 secured from The Heritage Council under HTI.

Community Monuments Fund - CMF. Applications under The Community Monuments Fund 2025 were prepared by Heritage Officer. Five projects were submitted to National Monuments Service, awaiting outcome.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th April 2024	To 30 th April 2025
Received (Valid)	262	243

A total of 127 valid applications were received during April as follows:

Type of Development	30 th April 2025
Individual Houses	23(22 Rural)
Housing Developments*	00
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	11
Other Developments**	91
Total	127

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

Decisions issued in respect of 79 applications in April 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	00

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Other Developments	79
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	79

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

	30/04/2024	30/04/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	300	288
Total Number of decisions to grant	257	241
% Grant Rate	86%	84%
No of applications withdrawn		08 (5 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at **Fassaroe and Monastery**, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE forwarded 07/06/2022 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe.

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former **Heiton Buckley** site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022

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

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**

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Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to long term grassland/scrub habitat: establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at **Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow** – Decision, refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 27/09/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at **Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow** – ABP approved proposed development subject to 15 conditions 30/11/2023.

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

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

Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on **lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow** - ABP-312283-21 refers. Granted by ABP 16/8/2024 subject to 16 conditions.

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

E-Planning

The eplanning has now been in place for just over two years, going live on 17th April 2023.

For the **month of April 2025**, a total of 107 planning applications were received of which 24.30% were hard copy applications and 75.70% **were received online**.

From **1st January 2025 to 30th April 2025** a total of 334 applications were received of which 23.35% were hard copy applications and 76.65% **were received online**.

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

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county e.g. change of use from a Stair Core to a Veterinary Practice in Greystones
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Internal alterations to provide 6 additional bedrooms at first floor level. 2. Minor alterations to front and side elevations in Bray
- Subdivision of existing site, erection of a new fully serviced two-storey dwelling house, new connection to public mains sewer, and all associated site works in Arklow
- Retention of an outdoor classroom as constructed to the side of existing Crèche & Pre-school building, in Baltinglass
- Reinstatement of an abandoned building back to residential use, new vehicular access road and provision of a new slate roof Delgan

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- Construction of a Solar PV development, a Battery Energy Storage System facility (BESS) and all ancillary works in Mullycagh Upper

Planning Enforcement

New Files	3
Advisory Letters	7
Warning Letters	0
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	1
Closed	2

Vacant Sites

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

01 site on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

1.0 Town Regeneration

1.1 Town Centre First Masterplans

1.1.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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

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

1.1.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

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

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, drafted and issued a tender document for the development of the Town Centre First (TCF) Plan. The contract was awarded to ACT (Accelerating Change Together), and the process of compiling the TCF Plan is now underway.

1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1

Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole have been approved for €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding is aimed at establishing or further developing town teams in areas where they are either not yet established or in the early stages of development. These teams will play a crucial role in driving the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centres.

The original deadline for drawing down the funding was set for 15th November 2024. However, an application for an extension was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and subsequently approved. The revised deadline is now 8th May 2025, providing additional time for these towns to finalise their plans and support the successful formation of their Town Teams. This extension offers a valuable opportunity for further planning and preparation within the communities.

Queen's University Belfast has been awarded the contract to carry out the Health Checks and has commenced work on compiling the reports. Two public consultations were held in April 2025, with the final

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consultation scheduled for May 2025. The Health Check reports are expected to be completed by late May or early June 2025.

1.2.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

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

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

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16th September 2024. The *Town Centre First Measure 3* projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 30th September 2025. The Town Regeneration Officer has been actively collaborating with the respective Town Teams to prepare tenders for the associated works. The tender for Blessington Market Square was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. The tender for the Wicklow Town Black Castle Public Grounds is scheduled to be issued in April 2025. The appointment of consultants for both projects is expected to be completed in May 2025.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) on 16th September 2024. Under the Town Centre First Measure 3 initiative, all projects must be completed, with associated claims submitted to the DRCD, by 30th September 2025.

The Town Regeneration Officer worked closely with the respective Town Teams to prepare tenders for the associated works. The tender for Blessington Market Square was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. Tenders have been received and evaluated, with the appointment of the successful tenderer expected to be completed in May 2025.

The tender for the Wicklow Town Black Castle Public Grounds was issued in April 2025, and the appointment of the successful tenderer is also scheduled for May 2025.

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1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The selected projects are as follows:

- a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. The consultant originally appointed by the community group to oversee the project has been removed due to a lack of engagement. A new tender to appoint replacement consultants was issued early April and the appointment of the successful tenderer expected to be completed in May 2025.
- b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed. Coordination meetings between the community group and consultants are ongoing to prepare a tender for the works.
- c) **Wicklow Town – Murrough BMX Pump Track** - This project involves the development of a best-in-class, asphalt-covered pump track suitable for all ages and abilities. Acceptance agreements have been signed, and the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team and community. The tender was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. The appointment of the successful tenderer expected to be completed in May 2025

All three projects must be completed, with all associated claims submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, by 31st October 2025.

1.4 Town Teams

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

The Town Regeneration Team is currently forming Town Teams in Rathdrum, Kilcoole, and Baltinglass, with teams in Bray, Carnew, and Newcastle to be formed next.

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1.5 Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

1.5.1 Blessington RRDF

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

1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF

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

1.5.3 Newtownmountkennedy RRDF

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

1.5.4 Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

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

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

1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004

A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs,

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environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. A WCC project team are meeting monthly to track progress of the project.

TOURISM

1. TOURISM NETWORKING AND WORKSHOP EVENT

On Tuesday 29th April, Wicklow County Council welcomed over 100 participants to its second annual networking and workshop event at Tulfarris Resort in West Wicklow. The event was attended by representatives of the various tourism trade and key organisations in Wicklow.

Part of the event included an extensive presentation on Screen Tourism in Northern Ireland by Liz Steele, Tourism Manager with Tourism Northern Ireland. Her presentation focussed on how Northern Ireland maximised the tourism opportunity behind film productions in the area, including 'Game of Thrones' and 'Derry Girls'.

Tourism updates were provided by Wicklow County Council, Fáilte Ireland and County Wicklow Partnership. Following all presentations, participants were invited to take part in a workshop themed around Screen Tourism. After lunch, participants were invited to a guided tour of Russborough House and the newly re-opened West Wing.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

GoodAsGold Company have been engaged to deliver a social media campaign through the Visit Wicklow channels. The April report included the performances of the various social media accounts with top performing posts. All accounts are showing strong increase in reach and engagement. The report includes an audience study which should help improve targeting when creating content. The Golf and Outdoors videos campaigns are ongoing and are proving very popular.

3. WICKLOW PASSPORT

Two new Wicklow Passport itineraries are being finalised with dedicated mini/free passports. The Wicklow Way itinerary will invite walkers along the trail to collect stamps on a specially branded passport. The Wicklow Town itinerary includes the various key historical locations featured on the Heritage Trail with a series of new stamps with dedicated designs. The alternate passport will initially be available at various Wicklow libraries.

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4. KNITTED MAP OF IRELAND – CARNEW

The newly knitted map of Ireland created by Carnew Community Centre, as seen on Nationwide, has the potential to become a popular tourism attraction. Wicklow County Council is engaging with the Community Centre to explore options to keep the map within County Wicklow, protect it, and find a suitable place to have it on display.

5. WICKLOW GAOL

The Conservation Management Plan for Wicklow Gaol is underway and is expected to be completed by the middle of June.

Wicklow County Council upgraded some key catering equipment to allow for the Jailer's Rest café reopening.

6. WICKLOW HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL APPLICATION

Wicklow County Council was unsuccessful in their bid to secure funding under the 'Ireland, Home of Halloween Destination Development (Pilot) Scheme'. There may be additional funding available in 2026.

7. GLENDALOUGH AND WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND MANAGEMENT MASTERPLAN (VEMMP)

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

- Fáilte Ireland has appointed DESIGN ID as consultants to design an All Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. They will carry out full consultation with all stakeholders, local community and landowners, in conjunction with the Local Advisory Group.
- Fáilte Ireland has also appointed KSN Project Management to provide key Project Management Services to assist in the delivery of Phase 1 of the VEMMP over the next two years. These consultants will work closely with the Glendalough Partnership partners and the Local Advisory Group, to provide additional support, and consistency across actions being delivered.
- The National Monuments Service and the OPW have collaborated in preparing a brief for a Conservation Management Plan to advise on the delivery of the VEMMP. A consultant has been appointed and preparatory work has commenced.
- All consultants will meet to co-ordinate aspects of their work which impact on others and will provide an update to the Glendalough Partnership in May.

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- Wicklow County Council have arranged for traffic management, additional temporary parking and VMS signage for Summer 2025 in order to maintain a flow of traffic through Laragh and to the various car parks. This will be supplemented by a social media campaign encouraging drivers to park responsibly and respectfully.
- NPWS, working with Coillte, have secured funding for phase 3 of the Spinc upgrade. This will build on the improvements made in 2024 in removing boardwalk and replacing with aggregate trails.

Economic Development

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds continues to move forward, with completion anticipated later this year.

Special Projects

AVONDALE: The response to expressions of interest in sites at Avondale has been positive. Progress is being made with regard to site 19, which was considered at the Council meeting on the 7th of April.

The GRID: Office space is filling up in the Greystones Regional Innovation District (GRID), and the first floor is almost full. Fit-out works for remaining office space are ongoing, including the installation of digital conferencing equipment which is currently in progress. A comprehensive marketing strategy will be rolled out shortly to promote vacant spaces.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones: Awaiting PRA confirmation of site registration.

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Consultation for Part 8 planning approval has now closed with two submissions received. The CE report is currently being prepared for presentation to Baltinglass MD. An expression of interest in respect of the mainstream funding measure under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme has been submitted. A request for quotation for the next phase of works has been published on eTenders with noted expressions of interest received.

Marketing Plan: The #ChooseWicklow campaign which ran from October 2024 until April 2025 has now concluded. Overall, the campaign was successful and generated significant engagement and a notable increase in our social media following.

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Offshore Renewable Energy

The ORE Network is maintaining its regular schedule of meetings to foster engagement and networking among offshore renewable energy companies and to conduct annual planning. The next in person meeting is scheduled for September with online meetings taking place throughout the summer.

Skills Strategy

The skills taskforce continues its active work on implementing the Wicklow Skills Strategy. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in June.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Work is progressing on various events and festivals for Wicklow Naturally, which include the Tinahely Show on August Bank Holiday, Vision for Venison and October Feast. Wicklow Naturally is also working on welcoming the Irish Food Writers Guild in Wicklow from the 25th to the 27th of August. The Guild consists of food writers and journalists from across Ireland, many from traditional media such as The Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, RTE Guide, Food and Wine magazine and many from digital media such as Char Magazine, Lovin Dublin, and podcasters. This is a unique opportunity to promote Wicklow Naturally and the vast array of food and beverage producers in our County on a national stage.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO):

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by: <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
	2024	2025	2025
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 TAME Is discontinued. New support: Market	6 €103984.50

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		Explorer Grant	
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NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 - AOMDP
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	65
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	354
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	13

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	291
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	170

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

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Number of transfers	6	5	4

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

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025

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No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	15	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	6
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	19
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	0
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	1
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	10
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	0

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Various events which took place in April 2025:

- **14th April - Food Academy**
Food Academy is aimed at those in the early to mid-stages of developing a food or drink business, who have already developed a product, trialled it in the marketplace & are looking to scale up and grow their business.
- **25th April - National Ploughing Championship**
The Network of Local Enterprise Offices are now inviting any clients interested in availing of the opportunity to display their business in the National Ploughing Championship stand to apply by 25th of April.

Various events taking place in May 2025:

- **Blas na hÉireann supported by Wicklow LEO.**
Entries for Blas na hÉireann 2025, the Irish Food Awards are open. Blas na hÉireann is the largest blind-tasted food awards on the island of Ireland, designed to recognise and celebrate the very best Irish food and drink. Entries are open to producers across all categories of food and drink with the deadline of 15th May.
- **16nd & 23rd May - Tariffs, Trade & Tactics: What Every Business Needs to Know About Mitigating Risk – One to One Mentoring.**
Fully booked one to one session for clients with global trade expert Brian Murphy, following our successful breakfast briefing on May 2nd.
- **22nd May – National Enterprise Awards, Mansion House Dublin**
JTM Energy of Rathnew will represent LEO Wicklow at the National Enterprise Awards, at the Mansion House Dublin on the evening of 22nd May at a black-tie event. The Chief Executive, Director of Services for Planning, Economic and Rural Development and LEO staff will attend, along with the management team of the company.
- **26th May - Strategic Retail Masterclass: Wicklow Retail Leaders – Unlocking Growth Together**
The aim of the course is to empower local retailers with the tools, strategies, and collaborative mind set needed to grow stronger together, through unified branding, smart digital marketing, and data-driven decision making.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme; The training programme for Spring/Summer 2025 is open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Training which took place in April:

- 16th April: A Layman's Guide to VAT and Income Tax (1)
- 23rd April: A Layman's Guide to VAT and Income Tax (2)
- 28th April: Chat GPT/AI Training for marketing
- 30th April: Start Your Own Business

Upcoming May Events:

- 20th May: Digital Marketing Advice (1)
- 22nd May: Digital Marketing Advice (2)

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Harbours and Ports

1) Infrastructural Development

Under the 2025 Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme, Wicklow County Council has been awarded grant aid in respect of the projects listed below. The co-funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will be 75% of the total approved project cost while Wicklow County Council will co-fund the remaining costs of the project.

Project title	Eligible project costs	Maximum funding conferred
Wicklow and Arklow Harbour (CCTV & Access)	249,700.00	187,275.00
Arklow Harbour (Roller Gate Infrastructure)	35,000.00	26,250.00
Wicklow Port (Main Entrance Works)	60,000.00	45,000.00
East Pier in Wicklow Harbour (Underwater Concrete Repair)	250,000.00	187,500.00

2) Harbour Stats Wicklow Harbour:

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	3	3	0	3	2	1
Feb-24	7	7	0	7	5	2
Mar-24	9	9	0	9	6	3
Apr-24	7	7	0	7	2	5

Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project: The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. The Tender process to secure outlets for the excavated material from the site and also for the main contractor are ongoing.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project: The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigrone sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues. **Works were carried out by** Priority Construction Ltd. to make safe an opening to a mine shaft safe, which was discovered in the area of the Ballymurtagh Landfill.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme: Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design is ongoing. Site Investigation has been carried out and awaiting final report. Archaeological Investigations in the river channel will be carried out in 2025. This will inform the process of removing old wrecks from the riverbed in advance of dredging.

Climate & Biodiversity Action and Environment Awareness

Biodiversity Week

Our Biodiversity officer successfully implemented five events for biodiversity week, in addition to providing support for plus support for one full day of events 'From Dawn till Dusk':

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- 16th & 17th May: 24 Hours, BioBlitz at the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh.
- 2nd May: 'Beyond the Bloom', battling invasive species in upland Ecosystems.
- 24th May: Dawn Chorus Walk at Brittas Bay.
- 24th May: Connect to the Season: A Botanical Walk with Foraging, Folklore & Forest Bathing, St. Patrick's Missionary Society
- 25th May: Connect to the Season: A Botanical Walk with Foraging, Folklore & Forest Bathing, Clermont House.



Forrest bathing and foraging workshop

Environmental Awareness

- Two funded textile upcycling workshops delivered to the Youth Group at CEART, Wicklow Town
- One uniform swap event held at Blessington Community College.
- Colm O'Callaghan Chartered Horticulturist completed a site visit in Clermont Orchard with John Powderly and Wayne Byrne.
- Contract with Rite View Solutions has been renewed for 2025 - 2026. Contract is to maintain and install audio devices at various locations with suitable messaging.

Litter/Waste Management

Funding

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications has awarded Wicklow County Council several grants to carry out remediation works at legacy landfills in 2025, including €30,000 for ground water analysis at Aughrim and €26,301 to continue ground water monitoring and surface water ad Leachate at Fassaroe.

Litter/Waste Statistics up to end of April 2025

No. of Complaints Created	127
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	141
No of Litter Fines Issued	13
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	6
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	14
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	4
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	13

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No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	2
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	18
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	3
Income - Litter	€1,075.00
Income- Waste Management	€2,100.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Ambient Air Monitoring

- 1 Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station

Private Water Supplies

- 56 Regulated Private Water Supplies scheduled in Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.
- 56 Private Water Supplies were monitored.
- 31 Private Water Supplies with available results were compliant.
- 3 Private Water Supplies with available results were non-compliant for coliform bacteria and 1 enterococci.
- 3 Private Water Supplies were requested to take remedial actions.

Bathing Water

- 7 Bathing Waters were identified as per Bathing Regulations and monitoring calendar for the bathing season prepared:
Bray South, Greystones Cove, Greystones South, Silver Strand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga.
- 7 Other bathing waters will also be monitored:
South of Bray Harbour (Bray North), Kilcoole, Wicklow Harbour, Murrough, Travalahawk, Arklow South and Arklow Cove.
- Public consultation on the identification (designation) of existing and new bathing waters in County Wicklow and length of the bathing season is now opened until September via www.wicklow.ie

Bathing Water Quality in Ireland Report 2024 (May 2025)

- 96% of 151 Identified Bathing Waters nationwide met or exceeded the minimum standard of sufficient.
- 100% of 6 Identified Bathing Waters in Co. Wicklow met or exceeded the minimum standard of sufficient.
- 122 (81%) Identified Bathing Waters nationwide were excellent quality
- 4 (66%) Identified Bathing Waters in Co. Wicklow were excellent quality (34% good).
- 4 Identified Bathing Waters classified excellent: Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga.
- 2 Identified Bathing Waters classified good: Bray South and Silver strand.
- 2 Identified Bathing Waters nationwide were identified and awaiting classification
- 1 Identified Bathing Waters in Co. Wicklow was identified and awaiting classification

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- Urban wastewater reported as most likely cause of incidents in 2024.
- Other causes included agricultural runoff, contamination from birds/animals and pollution entering surface water collection systems.
- Protecting our bathing waters:
- Heavy rainfall can result in wastewater overflows, runoff from agricultural and urban areas which can cause short term deterioration in water quality. A drier year in 2024 lead to less than half the number of incidents compared to 2023.
- Uisce Eireann needs to continue to improve the operation, management and maintenance of treatment plant and networks.
- Measures like Sustainable Urban Drainage can help reduce pressure on surface water collection system and combined sewer collection systems.
- Measures in agricultural catchment can to reduce ruff off.
- Local Authorities need to increase number of bathing waters at excellent or good quality.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 1 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- 6 Investigative river samples taken

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared.
- 4 Engagement activities undertaken.
- 5 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out.
- 4 domestic waste water treatment systems were found compliant.
- 6 domestic waste water treatment systems were found non-compliant and were issued advisory notices.
- 3 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems and were found compliant with advisory notice.

EPA Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Inspections Report (May 2025)

- 58 of the 55 allocated inspections in County Wicklow were completed in 2024.
- 33% systems failed the inspection compared to the national average of 56%.
- 98% of the systems which failed in the period of 2013-2024 were fixed compared to the national average of 82%.
- A faulty system present risks to human health and the environment.
- Advisory Notices were issued to address the fault/risk.
- Failure reasons – operational (de-sludging and maintenance) and structural defects (illegal discharges to ditches/stream, leaks, ponding and rainwater ingress).

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

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

Well Grants

- 9 New Water Grant application received
- 2 New Well granted
- 19 New Pumps granted

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- 19 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 29 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

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

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Dry cleaner installations inspected.
- 1 inspection of vehicle refinishers carried out.
- 4 Letters issued to vehicle refinishers.
- 0 Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 3 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 2 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Planning & Development

- 2 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 11 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 2 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning quarry development.
- 1 environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

Outdoor Recreation

1) Launch of Great Sugar Loaf Restoration Project and Wicklow Trails Ap.

On Wednesday, 21st May, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Paul O'Brien officially opened the Great Sugarloaf Restoration Project. He was joined by the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr. Dermot O'Brien, Director of Services for Wicklow County Council's CERA department Theresa O'Brien, Bray Municipal District Manager Lorraine Gallagher, CEO of County Wicklow Partnership Brian Carty, elected members, stakeholders and members of the public.

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Over time, erosion and overuse had damaged the popular trail on the mountain and its surrounding habitat. Path restoration works, which commenced in early 2024 have now been completed. These works included screening reports, helicopter airlifts of materials, hand-pitched path restoration, drainage improvements and replanting of the lower section of the mountain. These efforts will now encourage habitat development and recovery, providing a stepped trail and a designated safer route for users ascending and descending the mountain.

Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), with Matching Funds from Wicklow County Council. The Sugarloaf Mountain lies along the route of the Sugarloaf Way, which will eventually connect Bray Head to the Wicklow Way and other trails in the Wicklow Mountains.

On the same date, the Wicklow Trails Ap was officially launched. The Ap has already had 11,000 visits since the soft launch earlier this year. The Ap showcases 50 trails across the county, with details regarding level of difficulty, distance etc. Users of the Ap can track the number of trails they have completed and receive interim awards for completing 5/10/15 trails etc. A key priority of the Ap is to promote outdoor activity tourism as part of a long-term vision for sustainable rural development in Ireland.



2) Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS being completed during 2025:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR320WW01	Wicklow Coast Project	Project infrastructure completed. Ramp repair works at the Cove, Arklow and project signage being installed during May.	31/05/2025
OR221WW02	Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	Established Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Task Force. Substantial work needed to repair sections of the original route and alternative routes need to be assessed. A tender process is underway to contract consultants on a feasibility study and advise on short, medium and long term solutions. Timelines depend on the solutions proposed and the co-operation of relevant stakeholders, including	Extension granted by DRCD.

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		landowners. Funding will be required to complete all works.	
OR221WW01	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Meeting on site (8/5/25) to find route in for piling equipment – last piece for input to new tender	In progress. Extension granted.
OR321WW01	The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)	Interpretative signage installed and a newly constructed baby Sugarloaf at the start of the walk to showcase the upgrade trail works. New fencing installed at the entrance and gates moved. Car park upgrade works nearing completion with final sign being installed before end of May.	31/05/2025
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process, which is not resolved yet.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	Roundwood Recreation Area	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play equipment installed, surface works completed. Resurface of main trails in progress with emergency repair works completed after extensive storm damage and rerouting signage in place. Tender for bike area ready. Running routes planned.	31/05/2025

3) ORIS 2023 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1 and Measure 2

The total funding awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to 2023 ORIS Measures 1, 2 and Project Development Measure projects in Wicklow amounts to **€858,780**.

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation Plan for the area. Final Plan draft under review at present.	30/06/2025
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Feasibility project to provide a work plan to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Bray MD Engineer currently compiling tender documentation.	30/06/2025
OR123WW01- CC791	Hollywood Natural Play Area	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment area works due to commence. Play area at design stage. Specification ready, being signed off before publication.	31/10/2025
OR123WW02 - CC792	Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing. Final works to be completed before end of May.	31/05/2025
OR123WW03 - CC793	Knockree Bridge	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge. Completed.	31/05/2025
OR123WW04 - CC794	Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Contractors on site, to be completed during May.	31/10/2025

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OR123WW05 CC795	- Three Wells and Cushbawn Link	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Completed. Signage installation due.	31/05/2025
OR123WW06 CC796	- Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Discussions ongoing with WUC and Roundwood community group. Project planning ongoing.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 CC903	- Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Enhancing parking, trail specification underway with RFQ in progress. Tenders received and awarded. Delay caused by anti-social behaviour in the area. Local focus groups meeting organised at the end of May.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 CC904	- Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. Greystones MD Engineer to manage this project.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 CC905	- Tinahely New Loop Trail	Additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Design and landowner agreement in progress. Tinahely walking group in discussions with landowner regarding access to trail crossing land. Alternative routes being identified.	30/06/2026

4) ORIS 2024 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1, Measure 2 and Measure 3

Applications for DRCD's 2024 ORIS funding round were submitted during March 2025. Funding allocations for this period have increased for Measure 1 projects, now up to €40,000 each.

Wicklow Co Co have applied for 2 Project Development Measures, 6 x Measure 1, 3 x Measure 2, 1x Measure 3 projects with a total funding application of **€1,355,740** for the 2024 ORIS funding round. We understand that the Dept. will issue the first confirmations of approved PDM and M1 projects at the end of May.

5) Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee

WORC is comprised of members from Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership and Wicklow Uplands Council and is an information sharing forum of parties most involved in planning, development and management of recreation in Wicklow.

The draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025-2029 has now been reviewed by the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee. This will inform the development and management of outdoor recreation in the County.

The May WORC meeting took place on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at NPWS headquarters in Laragh.

6) Photographs

- **ORIS 2023 – Measure 1 Project - OR123WW05 - Three Wells and Cushbawn Link – Completed**

Upper section from the Sean Lenihan Walk in Aughrim to Cushbawn summit.

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- ORIS 2023 – Measure 1 Project - OR123WW04 - Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges –

Installation nearing completion.



Before



After

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

1) Training and Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	14th May 2025
Safeguarding 2	Online	27th May 2025
Autism in Sport	Online	19 th May 2025

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2) Learn to Cycle 6-week programme

A 6 week learn to cycle programme started in Shoreline Sports park Greystones on Tuesday 6th May. There were two 45-minute sessions with 8 participants in each.

3) Disability Sports Club Grants

The applications closed for the Disability Sports Club grants on 1st May. This funding is to support clubs in making their activities more inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities. Clubs can apply for funding of up to €1,000 to help remove barriers and create a more inclusive environment for all participants.

4) Chronic Condition Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Strength & Balance	Coral Leisure, Arklow	12 th May	8	10	HSE Seed Funding

5) HSE Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Walk & Talk with Activator Poles	Blessington	7 th May	15	8	HSE Grant Aid Funding

6) Older Adults

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Walking Football Blitz	Shoreline Sport Park, Charlesland	14 th May	1 Day	9 teams registered	Age & Opportunity Funding

BikeWeek
MAY 10TH TO MAY 18TH
Schedule

Saturday, May 10th
GROUP MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR
BALLINASTOE

Sunday, May 11th
FREE BIKE HERE AT THE AVON
PAMPER & PEDAL

Monday, May 12th
BIKE MAINTAINENCE

Tuesday, May 13th
BIKE MAINTAINENCE

Wednesday, May 14th
BIKE MAINTAINENCE
GROUP MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR BALLINASTOE
CYCLE AND KAYAK (CLOSED GROUP)

Thursday, May 15th
BIKE MAINTAINENCE
STREET VELODROME
OUTDOOR SPIN
PIMP MY BIKE
JUGGLERS
FACE PAINTERS
LEARN TO CYCLE
PIMP MY BIKE
Bike Week Festival

Saturday, May 17th
FREE BIKE HERE AT THE AVON
PAMPER & PEDAL
GUIDED CYCLE OF BLESSINGTON
LAKES

Sunday, May 18th
FREE BIKE HERE AT THE AVON
PAMPER & PEDAL

Wicklow
County Council
SPORT IRELAND

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7) Bike Week

Bike Week 2025 took place from Saturday, 10th May to Sunday, 18th May, with a full schedule of inclusive, community-focused cycling events planned across County Wicklow. The centrepiece of the week was the **Wicklow Town Bike Week Festival**, scheduled for Thursday, 15th May from 4pm to 7pm in the Murrough Carpark. This free event included a full-sized Street Velodrome, Learn to Cycle sessions, outdoor spin classes, bike maintenance workshop, facepainters, funky disco yoga and a “Pimp My Bike” station. A new addition to this year’s line-up was the Singles Tandem Love Cycle, delivered in collaboration with influencer The Dating Orange, aimed at engaging adults aged 18–80+ in a social tandem cycling experience followed by a casual pizza meet-up.

Events also took place throughout the county, with mountain biking sessions in Ballinastoe Woods, a Cycle and Sauna activity in Blessington, guided tours for IPAS centres and at risk groups and Learn to Cycle and Bike Maintenance Workshops available in multiple locations.

Wicklow County Library Service

1) Library Statistics January to April 2025

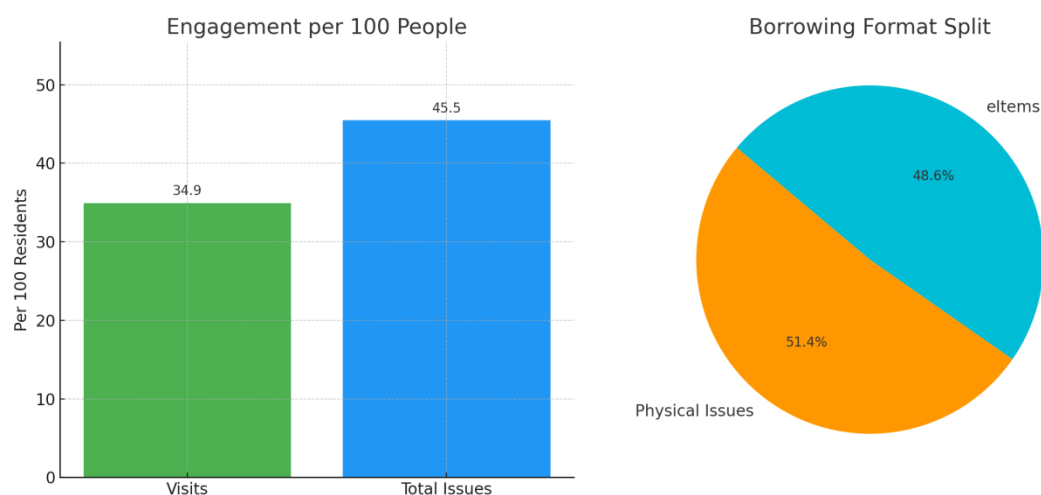
Library statistics reveal that from January to April 2025:

The first four months of the year have shown strong engagement across our library services. Visitor numbers, event participation, and borrowing figures all reflect the continued value and relevance of the library to our community. From early literacy programmes and adult workshops to digital resource use and public access services, activity has been consistently high across all branches.

These statistics not only highlight the vital role libraries play in everyday life but also underscore the impact of our staff's commitment and the public's enthusiasm for learning, creativity, and connection.

With nearly 1 in 3 Wicklow County residents visiting a library at least once in April and a comparable level of borrowing, the figures demonstrate that the library service plays a vital role in community life across Wicklow.

Wicklow Library Snapshot – April



2) Healthy Ireland at Your Library

In April and May, Wicklow Town Library hosted a series of four Pilates classes as part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme. This initiative supports the national Healthy Ireland framework, which aims to improve the health and

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wellbeing of people across Ireland by promoting healthy lifestyle choices and mental wellbeing through accessible, community-based services.

Pilates, as a low-impact form of exercise, is particularly well-suited to people of all ages and fitness levels. It focuses on building core strength, flexibility, balance, and posture — all of which are key to maintaining physical health and preventing injury. By hosting these classes in the library, participants benefited from a safe, inclusive, and familiar space to engage in gentle physical activity.

Blessington Library held a special event on pregnancy and early parenthood on Saturday 17th of May. Dr. William Kinsella, General Practitioner was joined by a public health nurse, a sleep consultant, and an IBCLC lactation consultant. Together, they shared helpful advice and support for parents and parents-to-be.



3) Biodiversity Week at Wicklow's Libraries

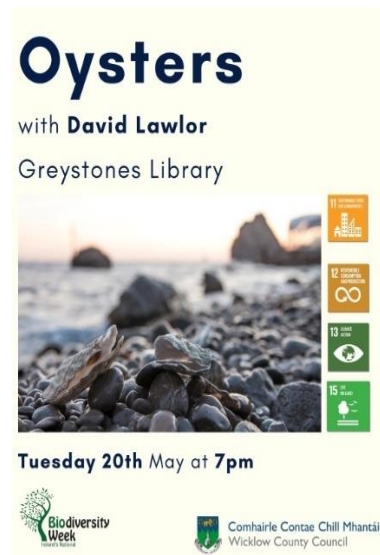
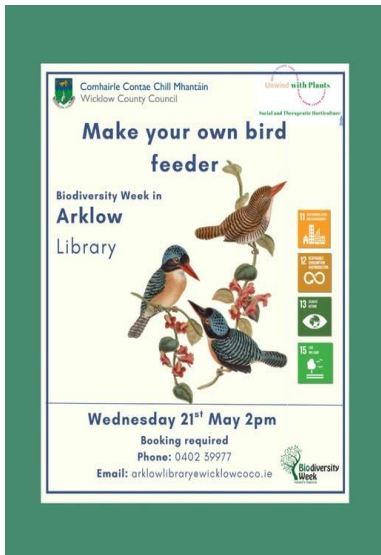
Wicklow Libraries marked National Biodiversity Week with a rich and varied programme of events across the county, aimed at fostering awareness, engagement, and action on environmental issues. The week featured a range of expert-led talks, hands-on workshops, and community initiatives designed to appeal to all ages, highlighting the crucial role biodiversity plays in climate resilience and community wellbeing.

- At Greystones Library, David Lawlor delivered an insightful talk on the role of oysters in marine biodiversity, sustainability, and climate action. Later in the week, the library hosted an evening session on bats and gardening for biodiversity, exploring how these often-overlooked mammals contribute to healthy ecosystems and how gardening practices can support local wildlife. Greystones Library also unveiled a new Little Free Seed Library, designed to encourage seed sharing and sustainable gardening. The seed library, constructed by a local volunteer and installed by the library's Wednesday team, includes a selection of vegetable and pollinator-friendly flower seeds, along with a planting calendar developed by the Greystones Kilcoole Community Garden. Topped with a green roof of herbs available for public use, the seed library reflects a true community effort and a commitment to growing local biodiversity.
- Ballywaltrim Library contributed to the week's programme with a talk by Declan Murphy on biodiversity loss and climate change. The session provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the links between these global challenges and offered practical suggestions for local action.
- Blessington Library welcomed Patrick Hunt for a session on gardening for biodiversity. Participants learned how to create supportive habitats for wildlife in gardens of all sizes, reinforcing the message that biodiversity can be nurtured in even the smallest green spaces.
- Tinahely Library hosted a lively seed swap and sow event, welcoming all ages to exchange seeds and share gardening knowledge. Guest gardener Tina Mouritzen joined the event for a Q&A session offering expert advice and inspiring attendees to take biodiversity-friendly approaches to planting.

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- Bray Library wrapped up its seed swap season with a final session focused on seed preservation and community conversation. The informal gathering allowed participants to exchange seeds and stories, reinforcing the value of shared learning and community-led environmental action.
- Arklow Library hosted a creative, hands-on workshop for adults on making bird feeders. The session highlighted how small, everyday actions can contribute to local biodiversity, while also offering a relaxing and engaging activity within the library setting.



4) Skills for Life

Rooted in *The Library is the Place* strategy and aligned with the Adult Literacy for Life strategy, Skills for life is a nationwide initiative aimed at equipping individuals with essential skills to navigate modern life. Available across all 30 local authority library services in Ireland the programme will offer support in 6 key areas:

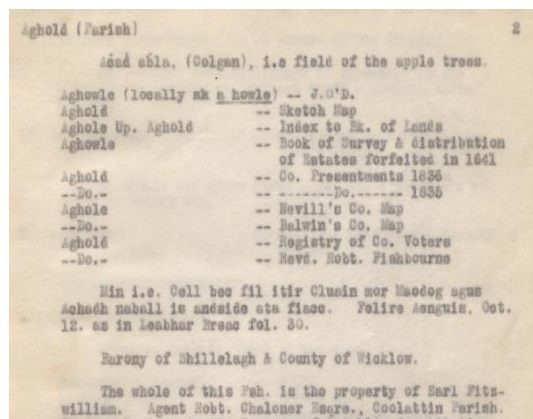
1. Basic Digital skills,
2. Financial literacy
3. Media Literacy,
4. Business and Employment skills
5. Health awareness
6. Sustainable lifestyles and environmental awareness.

Wicklow County Council has received funding to provide workshops and events in these areas and is delighted to announce the first event will take place in late June in Arklow library "Sustainable Gardening and Environmental Awareness demonstration" by Marie Hirst.

5) Local Studies News

The Ordnance Survey Name Books for County Wicklow, dating from c.1838, have been digitised and are now available on Wicklow.ie. These books offer detailed information on place names and topographical features—both natural and man-made—as recorded on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch maps. Providing a snapshot of every townland in County Wicklow before the Great Famine, they are a key information source for anyone interested in Wicklow's folklore, social history, archaeology, or genealogy. They can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Local-Studies/Digital-Resources/Ordnance-Survey-Place-Name-Books-County-Wicklow>

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6) Little Library Bag Initiative 2025

We are absolutely delighted that the My Little Library initiative has been funded once again this year. It has been such a success in previous years, offering a wonderful way to support children as they take their first big step into primary school.

Children starting school this year can now collect a My Little Library book bag from any of the 13 public libraries in Wicklow. Any child finishing preschool can pick up their free book bag and sign up for their very first library card—a special milestone for every young reader. Each bag includes a carefully chosen book about starting school, another about making friends or feeling confident, a special library card and wallet, and useful resources for both children and parents to help ease the transition into primary school.



7) The Road to the Fleadh 2025!

Following the success of the Road to the Fleadh 2024, this year's Road to the Wicklow Fleadh 2025 once again celebrates traditional Irish music and culture across County Wicklow. In the lead-up to the Wicklow County Fleadh, a series of free public performances has been held in local libraries. These events feature musicians from various Comhaltas branches throughout the county, including many talented young performers, offering audiences a vibrant taste of the musical heritage the Fleadh embodies.

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The series not only builds anticipation for the main event but also fosters community engagement and promotes lifelong learning in the arts. This year, we were even delighted to schedule a performance at Donard during a Mobile Library visit—bringing the celebration right to the heart of a rural community.

Arklow Library hosted a fantastic “Try an Instrument” session and live performance as part of the series. The event drew a great crowd, with people of all ages coming along to explore traditional instruments and enjoy excellent live music.



Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



8) Bealtaine 2025

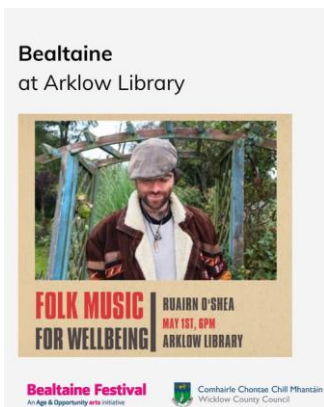
Throughout May, Wicklow Libraries have been proud to celebrate Bealtaine, Ireland's national festival honouring creativity in older age. With a wide range of events, the month has brought communities together through music, movement, art, and conversation.

- At Arklow Library, the festivities began with an uplifting evening of folk music and wellbeing. Musician Ruairí O'Shea performed on Thursday, 1st May, offering a joyful and engaging session of traditional music.
- Bray Library has already welcomed attendees to a creative jewellery-making workshop with Deirdre Maher Ridgeway, which was warmly received. Later in the month, Bray will also host An Evening of Readings and Songs featuring the musicians, singers, and songwriters of Rambling House, Little Bray — a celebration of local voices and shared stories.
- Blessington Library held a lively Social Dance Evening with Sinéad O'Brien on Tuesday, 6th May. Participants enjoyed an evening of music, dancing, and great craic, capturing the spirit of Bealtaine in full.

Wicklow County Council

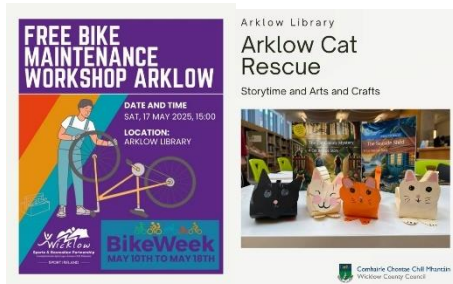
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- In Wicklow Town Library, Beginners Zumba classes ran each Thursday morning in May (remaining dates: 22nd and 29th) from 10.30 to 11.15 AM. These fun, low-impact sessions are open to all and have already proved popular with attendees. Later this month, the library will also host Café Bealtaine on Wednesday, 28th May — an afternoon tea event for those aged 55 and over, celebrating creativity, connection, and community.
- In Enniskerry Library, Qigong – Mindful Movement sessions with instructor Aedín have taken place each Tuesday morning throughout May. These gentle, meditative classes focus on connecting body, breath, and mind, and have been a calming and rewarding part of the Bealtaine programme.



9) Arklow Library

- On 1st May Folk Music for Wellbeing with Ruairí O'Shea provided welcoming music lovers of all ages. The rhythm continued with the initial 'Road to the Wicklow Fleadh on Saturday, May 10th, and a live performance from The Wicklow Miners CCÉ Avoca.
- A hands-on Bike Maintenance Workshop for cyclists took place on Saturday 17th May. Just a few days later, on Wednesday, May 21st at 2pm, nature lovers were invited to Make Your Own Birdfeeder with Unwind with Plants, part of Biodiversity Week celebrations.
- On 28th May, the inclusive event All Kinds of Amazing session brought people together to honour individuality and diversity.
- Throughout May, adults could also enjoy regular weekly book clubs, knitting circles, chess, and both Irish and English conversation groups, while the Writers' Group gathers on May 13th and 27th.
- For children and families, weekly Baby Sing-Along Sessions and Toddler Storytime & Craft took place every Wednesdays morning while the Arts and Crafts Activity Station welcomes young makers for drop-in fun every Saturday.
- Lego Club returned on Saturday, May 10th followed by the Saturday Chess Club.



10) Baltinglass Library

- The KARE Centre in Baltinglass was very appreciative of the opportunity to use the library as a venue for their learners to complete a QQI course during the spring term. The group attended weekly sessions and found the library to be a welcoming and supportive environment for learning. Following the success of this collaboration, the KARE Centre expressed interest in returning to the library for their next course in the autumn.

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- Baltinglass Film Club has recently been set up in the Hillfort Room at the Library.



- The weekly English Conversation Group meets every Tuesday, providing a welcoming space for people to practise spoken English in a friendly and supportive setting. On Tuesday the 20th May, the group was joined by a member of An Garda Síochána, who gave an informative talk on personal safety, emergency contacts, and how to seek help when needed.
- The monthly Creative Writing Group met on 24th May offering a space for aspiring writers to share ideas and develop their craft. On the same day, and as part of the Cruinniú na Nóg festival, Baltinglass Library hosted a workshop focused on learning how to make a short film on a mobile phone.

11) Blessington Library

- As part of the Bedtime Story Time initiative, two special sessions were hosted with Rachel Drew and Katie Fu, encouraging early literacy and a love of stories among young families.
- To celebrate the Bealtaine Festival, the library brought people together with a joyful Social Dancing session and a Safety Talk & Coffee Evening led by Eoin from Wicklow Fire Brigade.
- The library's support group for parents of neurodivergent children continued to offer a safe and welcoming space for connection and discussion. Alongside this, the adult and children's book clubs, as well as the poetry and writing groups, remain active and growing, with new members joining in May.
- Biodiversity Week was marked with a lively children's storytime and an informative Gardening for Biodiversity talk by Patrick Hunt, helping to inspire both curiosity and care for the natural world
- As always, the library welcomed students from nearby primary schools, offering library tours and introducing children to the world of books and discovery. This month also saw a special visit from first-year students at the local secondary school, along with a lovely Storytime and library tour for the children and teachers from Sakura, a local early learning centre.



12) Bray Library

- Two seaglass jewellery-making workshops led by local artist Deirdre Maher-Ridgeway took place at the beginning of May, these hands-on sessions were a great success, with participants drilling, threading, hammering, and gluing to create unique brooches, pendants, and earrings.
- Bray Library partnered with Bray Tidy Towns to host Birds, Bees and Bats, an engaging environmental talk by Aoife Munn.
- On 17th May, the library filled with music as our local Comhaltas players performed for The Road to the Fleadh, with traditional Irish tunes.

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- As part of Biodiversity Week, students from St. Andrew's Junior School visited the library for a special talk focused on robins. To close the month, Carmel Cullen treated library users and visitors to a musical evening on May 27th, followed by the final Seed Swap of the season in partnership with Edible Bray.
- Amidst these special events, the Bray library maintained a busy regular schedule, including four monthly book clubs, two weekly comic clubs, five weekly class visits, two weekly story times, and our always-popular weekly STEAM Saturday sessions.



13) Greystones Library

- During May 2025, Greystones Library hosted a variety of engaging events as part of both the Bealtaine Festival and Biodiversity Week. Aside from the many regular activities that continue to draw audiences, on 22nd May the library presented an informative evening titled "Bats & Gardening for Biodiversity." This event offered attendees insights into the vital role bats play in local ecosystems and provided practical advice on creating bat-friendly gardens.
- Also on 22nd May, Greystones Library introduced the "CleverCogs" initiative. This program is designed to enhance digital literacy among older adults, offering hands-on experience with user-friendly technology to promote independence and confidence in the digital age.

14) Wicklow town Library

- The month began with the opening of "The African Wildlife" exhibition by artist Robert Teeling on 8th May. Teeling's collection, created using a mix of oils and acrylics, captures African wildlife with remarkable detail.

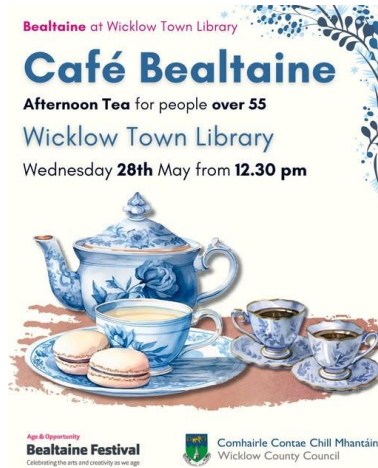


- The Dance the Night Away Book Club, which caters to adults with Down Syndrome, held another lively meeting. This month's theme focused on a shared love of cooking, as members brought along their favourite cookbooks, discussed recipes they had tried, and proudly shared photographs of their completed recipes.
- Beginner's Zumba, part of the library's Bealtaine Festival celebrations, has proven once again to be a firm favourite. Each session has been full to capacity, with participants praising the sessions for being so enjoyable that they forget they're exercising!

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- Café Bealtaine took place on 28th May. Building on the success of last year's event, attendees enjoyed a light lunch, sweet treats, and performances from two very special guests: the Wicklow Community Choir and the Wicklow & Arklow Ukulele Group.
- On 29th May, the Young Adult Cosplay Club will host a special session dedicated to wig styling — a creative and hands-on opportunity for young cosplay enthusiasts to learn new techniques and share their passion for Cosplay design.



Archives & Genealogy Service

- **Outreach activities:** The Archives has submitted an article on the archival collection John Tate's Charity to *History Ireland* magazine. The Archives and Local Studies welcomed the students of 2nd class, Holy Rosary Primary School Wicklow for a tour and talk. A history event of the Wicklow groups of the Irish Community Archives Network (ICAN) was kindly hosted by Blessington History Group. The annual meeting of all county networks of ICAN will take place in Galway in May.

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Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (19/05/2025) outstanding stands at **318 – 2.01%** of total stock of 15,813.

Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair, a number of these faults are currently in progress.

140 lighting faults were attended in April, while 105 faults were logged during the same period.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
No Supply		1	2	1		4
Access Issues (Attend)	2	1	9	1	1	14
Cable Fault (Attend)			2			2
Civils	17		8	1	4	30
Council Approval	12			2		14
ESB Interface required	1		6			7
ESB Notified	2	24	23	12	16	77
ESB Required	6	11	5	4	11	37
Knock Down (Attended)	3		3	4	1	11
Materials required						0
On Hold	1	2	6	2	5	16
Submitted	16	23	8		15	62
TMR	4		20	3	7	34
Tree Cutting Required			8	1	1	10
Grand Total	64	62	100	31	61	318
Percentage Not Working	1.92%	2.31%	2.98%	1.23%	1.71%	2.01%
No. of Lamps	2.01%	2.56%	2.94%	1.05%	1.58%	2.01%
Percentage of Total Lamps	3181	2424	3400	2943	3865	15813
Faults Reported (April)	16	26	28	07	28	105
Faults Attended (April)	15	33	46	10	36	140

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

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

Road Schedule

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

Speed Limits

A review of urban speed limits is due to commence shortly.

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Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	March 2025	April 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	351	82	90
Road closure applications	42	50	26	4	4
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	578	157	165
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	16	4	3

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 is provided. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #7 on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie on 10 April 2025. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in September 2023. This review resulted in a revisit of the preferred option that now includes additional major road improvement features, such as: -

- A major upgrade at Junction 7 Bray South to a full grade separated junction
- A northbound Service Road at Junction 8 Kilmacanogue.
- A northbound Service Road linking Junction 7 Bray South to Junction 6 Fassaroe

The Phase 2 (Options Selection) preferred option will be used at Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) as the basis on which the project design will be developed. The design will be subject to further and more detailed analysis including more detailed traffic analysis. An environmental evaluation will also be completed. This design and analysis will ensure that the project progressed through to the Statutory Approval submission is fully appraised and all implications are known and addressed. Wicklow County Council anticipates that following the publication of the Phase 2 Options Selection Report that the Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation will be progressed, with the statutory approval phase following thereafter

The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with stakeholders any interested parties.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have directly appointed the contractor for the construction of the Noise mitigation fence. TII have advised that their contractor is expected to commence works in June 2025. Wicklow County Council is continuing to liaise with residents as required.

N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Feasibility and Options report has been submitted to TII for a proposed scheme to improve the southbound diverge ramp at the Garden Village / Newtownmountkennedy exit.

N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme

A Feasibility and Options Report has been approved by TII. Design and documents to support proposed statutory approvals process are currently being prepared.

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

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

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

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

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28th March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14th May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) were completed in advance of the publication of a Tender in March 2025 for the procurement of a contractor for construction. Tenders were received on 17th April 2025. Following the tender assessment process, a Tender Award Request was issued to TII on 16th May 2025. TII's approval is required in advance of awarding the contract.

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

A feasibility report, funded by the Baltinglass Municipal District was prepared and submitted to TII in Oct 2021. This report considered an option for parking accessed from the N81. TII subsequently provided funding to further examine the feasibility and options.

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project

The construction of the roundabout by the developer (Aldborough Manor), under the auspices of WCC, is nearing completion. Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) has been submitted to TII for a proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation. A meeting was held in April with NPWS on site to review the impacts of the scheme on Tomnafinnoge Wood which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Blessington Inner Relief Road

As of September 9th, 2024, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) have granted permission for the northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road as a partial approval for a planning development. The residential development (330 units) has been

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refused permission by ABP. A preplanning LRD application was submitted in November 2024 based on the current Draft Blessington LAP.

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

The main construction contract works are currently under way with Coffey Ltd the main contractor. A road closure is currently underway on Phase 1 of the works. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023 and Notice of Entry issued in November 2024 with the CPO fully confirmed in January 2025. Discussions between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners are ongoing. A Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Phase 2 Route Options are currently being developed by Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis within the preferred coastal route corridor. Site visits to review options for an inland route, to avoid the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), were completed in March and April and will be included in the Route Options.

Blessington eGreenway

Wicklow County Council were notified by letter dated 02/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway.

Wicklow County Council has examined the decision by An Bord Pleanála. In consideration of the time and resources that would be necessary to prepare a new and/or revised submission and the uncertainty regarding the potential for a successful outcome, Wicklow County Council is not currently in a position to dedicate resources to the progression of a greenway scheme at this location.

Wicklow County Council's priority in the short term is to consider opportunities to progress with shorter locally based trails to extend on the existing routes. These trail schemes can build on and benefit from the work completed to date for the Blessington Greenway. However, these trails would not meet the criteria for TII Greenway Schemes and therefore are unlikely to attract TII funding. Accordingly, any such trails will need to be progressed at Municipal District level.

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

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

The appointment technical consultants are necessary to undertake an EIAR for the scheme for submission to An Bord Pleanála. The tender was published on e-tenders on 22 April 2025.

Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is complete, along with the drainage and public lighting works.

Remaining accommodation works have commenced and a contractor has been appointed to complete the stonework wall at a residential property. The remaining work is scheduled to be completed in May.



Ballyguilemore



Arklow South

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Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Construction works have been completed on this project. A Consultant has been appointed to complete a Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit, and this is scheduled to be completed in April.

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

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

New pedestrian crossing and footpath civil upgrade works are completed on Church Lane. Construction completed including new boundary lines and treatments, lighting, automated gates, ramp, cycle parking, retaining wall and CCTV. The permeability link was opened to students on Friday 28th March. The Official Opening will take place on the 17th June 2025.



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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. The front of schoolworks, for the school zone, have been completed and works on permeability link are also complete. Public lighting is scheduled to be installed, date to be agreed with contractor. Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit completed. The Official Opening will take place on the 23rd June 2025.

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Construction works have been completed on the new boundary wall at Barna Cottage. Contractor has been appointed for the footpath resurfacing works. The works are scheduled to be completed in May.

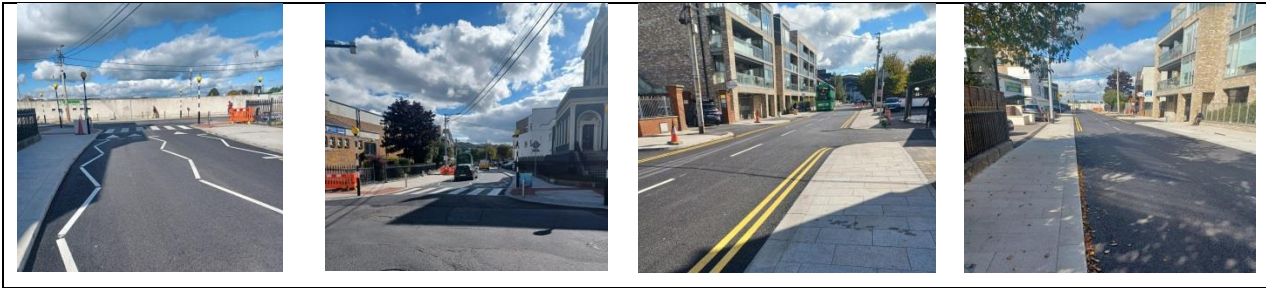
Project Updates

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Works are substantially complete apart from ESB undergrounding works and paving in front of McEleney site on Station Road. Station Road is now fully operational with buses returned to the station forecourt. Station Road was declared a public road at the Council Meeting held on 7th April.

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Bray Transport Interchange

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Work has commenced on Detail Design Stage and APIS application for the bridge has been submitted to Irish Rail.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The project scope has been revised. Design to focus on pedestrian and cycle improvements between the town centre and Train Station. Preliminary Design issued to NTA and comments received. Traffic modelling of the 3 junctions completed. Tender advertised for Consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 to 7. Tenders have been assessed and Letters of Notification issued.

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

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

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. The tender period has concluded for the appointment of a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 2 to 4. A total of 5 tender submissions were received. The Tender Assessment has been completed and it is intended to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer, Atkins, subject to NTA approval.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre

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

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

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

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

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

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. Tender advertised for Consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 to 7. Tenders have been assessed and a Letters of Notification issued.

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

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

Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)

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

2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects

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

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

Meeting with School and District Engineer has taken place. An Taisce have arranged a further meeting with the School in April. The school zone (NTA Project) is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant is currently being appointed. The project will be managed by the Wicklow Municipal District for now as the footpath is their project.

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. An Taisce to provide delivery plans and surveys. Traffic surveys have been undertaken.

- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. A topographical survey is to be carried out to help determine the extent of works required.

- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**

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

- **Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass**

New Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed.

Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow

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

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Grangecon) in April.

Work completed at Georges Bridge.

Winter Maintenance

Season ended on 30th April.

48 nights salting out of 198 calendar nights.

426 operations carried out over 9 routes.

2,330 tonnes of salt used during season.

Machinery Yard

Surface dressing plant prepared for new season in May.

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Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	330,497.32
Greystones Municipal District	112,142.36
Wicklow Municipal District	63,483.40
Arklow Municipal District	89,554.85
Parking Permits	47,093.33
Parking Fines	207,374.50
Wicklow County Council Total	850,145.76

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing information as at the 30th April 2025

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

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

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 11 Houses - All sales completed

- 11 accepted
- All sales closed as at 31/03/2025

Rathnew – 44 dwellings

All offers accepted, Sales expected to close Quarter 2 2025

- 28 sales closed as at 30/04/2025

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeting Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
1A Mill Road	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road	1	Completion expected March 2025

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Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Tender assessment underway, contractor expected to be appointed March 2025
Fassaroe, Bray	13	Contractor commenced on site.
Burgage More Blessington PPP	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Site clearance commenced
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor commenced on site.
Rehills, Bray	193	PPP dropped the scheme due to high projected costs, WCC reconsidering the viability of this scheme
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 1 funding application received
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	14	Design Stage
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

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

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

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

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

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

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed complies with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area. Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year.

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Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q2 to Q4 2025	WCC
Delgany	10	6 Delivered Q2, remainder due Q2 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Roundwood	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC

Potential units

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

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

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

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

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

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Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

A grant of up to €70,000.00 is available, if the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000.00; a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000.00 is available.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

Have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant.

- Live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent.
- Have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007.

Number of Applications	216
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	19
Applications Approved in Principle	109
Number of Applications paid.	45
Value of 41 Grants paid out.	€2,944,847.70
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment.	8
Applications withdrawn/Rejected.	46

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Emergency Response

Fire Service

There were **135 incidents** attended during the month of April 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **165 occasions** including **8** mobilisations in other counties. On two occasions an incident commander requested additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance, a difficult fire in a forest and an industrial fire.

Operational activity for the month of April 2025 **increased by 7% (+11 mobilisations) on the preceding month March 2025 (154 mobilisations)**. There was an increase in RTCs (+15 mobilisations) and an increase in alarm activations (+7)

Operational activity for the month of April 2025 **increased by 32% (plus 40 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (April 2024, 125 mobilisations). There was an increase in RTCs (+16 mobilisations), an increase in gorse fires (+19 mobilisations), small malicious fires in urban areas (+7 incidents).

Incidents in County Kildare (4-incidents total):

- 03/04/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Newbridge at a domestic fire at Gormanstown.
- 10/04/2025 Dunlavin crew responded to an Ambulance Assist call at Ballytore.
- 14/04/2025 Baltinglass crew supported a crew from Carlow Town at an RTC involving a single vehicle at Palatine.
- 27/04/2025 Blessington crew attended an alarm activation on the Eadestown road.

Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents total):

- 10/04/2025 Carnew crew attended a hedge on fire at Clonegal.
- 11/04/2025 Carnew crew supported the Gorey crew at an RTC at Askamore.
- 11/04/2025 Carnew crew attended a car fire at Craanford.
- 12/04/2025 Carnew crew attended a carbon monoxide alarm activation at Askamore.

Training

- 46 firefighters attended 1-Day Emergency Traffic Management Training.
- 28 firefighters attended 2-Day Breathing Apparatus Refresher training in Dundalk.

Fire Prevention Statistics April 2025

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	11	2	3	0	9
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	1	0	0	0	0

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Regularisation FSCs	1	0	0	0	0
DACs	13	0	5	0	5
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

Building Control

Commencement Notices for April 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 27

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

Submission Statistics

- 51 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 70 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 19 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 3 with Compliance Documentation (15%)
 - 12 are Opt Out (63%)
 - 4 Without Compliance Documentation (21%)
 - 1 Seven Day Notice (1%)
- 22 Valid Commencement Notices
- 27 new build residential Units and additional 13 Extensions
- 2 Non Res new builds
- 1 Invalidated CNs from April

• **Certificates of Completion processed in April 2025**

- 9 New No. of CCC submitted
- 7 Required Revised Information
- 15 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 51 new Residential units and 6 additional apartments
- 2 Non Res. Builds

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Submission Statistics

15 No. Validated CCCs related to;

9 no. CCCs submitted in April 2025

6 no. CCCs submitted in March 2025

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

27 new residential houses and 13 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 51 newly completed residential units with an additional 6 apartment were submitted, assessed and validated in April. In April, 1 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

Building Control continued with site inspections in April to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 4 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in April for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 70% of Commencement Notice submissions & 77% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

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

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

Civil Defence

Volunteers from Civil Defence and Dublin, Wicklow Mountain Rescue teams came together in a joint training exercise. Both teams often get tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist with missing or injured persons. Training day like this are vitally important to ensure familiarisation and demonstrates great teamwork.

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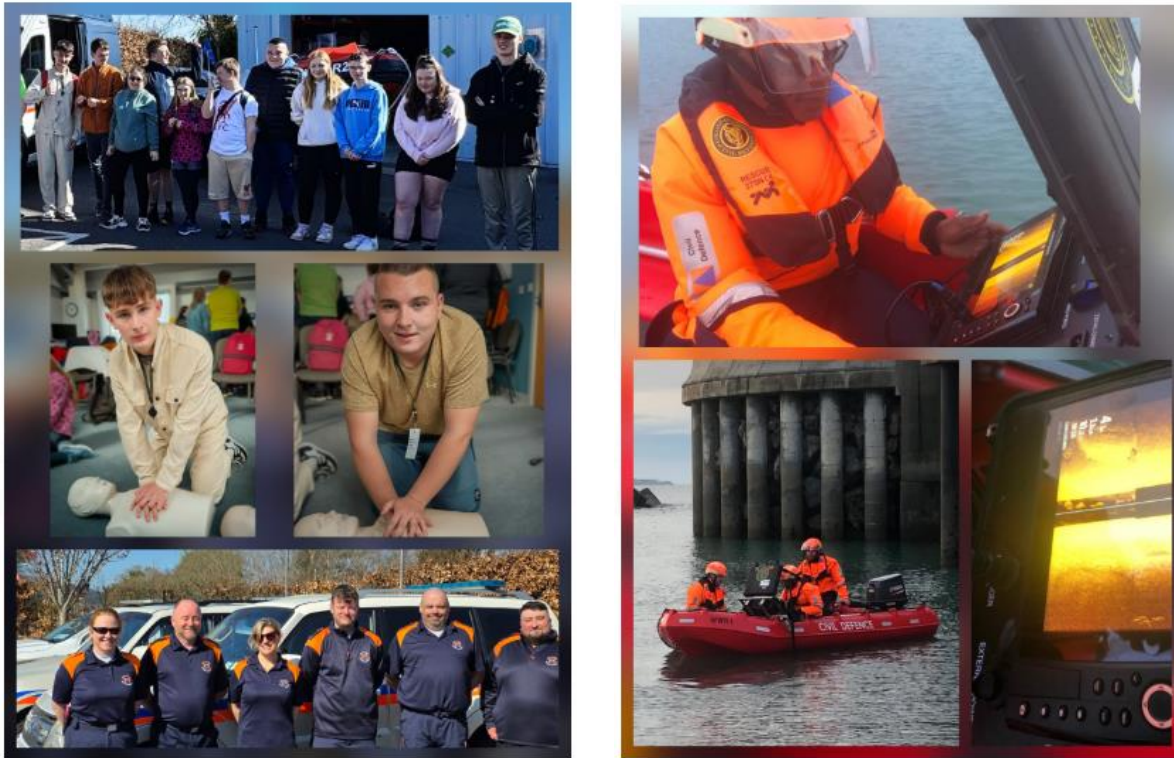


An Garda Síochána requested assistance in locating a missing child 13-04-2025 in the Bray area, Civil defence deployed search teams and drone teams to assist. Missing person was located by family members safe and well.

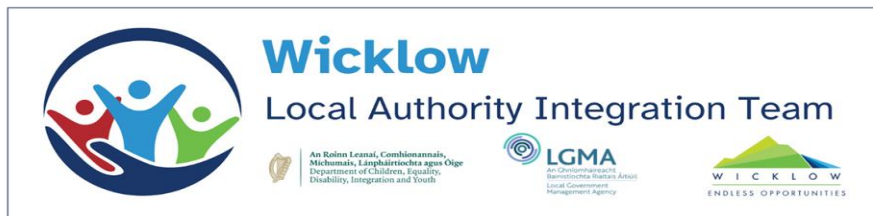
An Garda Síochána requested assistance in location a high priority missing child 03-04-2025 in the Greystones area, drone teams and driving patrols were deployed to search the last known area. child was located by a family member safe and well.

We were delighted to welcome Newcourt School senior cycle school tour visit to our Civil Defence Training Centre. Our volunteers are always happy to pass on life saving skills to school students.

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Our boat crew completed field testing of the PUWMA Sonar system, this recent upgrade is an additional resource to our missing person searching capabilities, One we hope we won't have to use too often.



Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	11
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1442
Of which are children	440

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	28
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	183
Total number of sessions with single adults	91
Total number of sessions with couples	3
Total number of sessions with families	79

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LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for April

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	6
No. of Individuals	38
No. of Couples	0
No. of Families	15
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	1
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	10
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	3
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	19
No. of International Protection Applicants	29
No. Persons with Status	7
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	3

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	4
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	2
Employment/Enterprise	8
Events	9
Finance/Welfare	5
Health/Wellbeing	13
Language/Communication	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	1
Transportation	0
Other	0

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	30
Culture/Religion	1
Education/Training	17
Employment/Enterprise	14

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Events	0
Finance/Welfare	14
Health/Wellbeing	7
Language/Communication	10
Legal/Justice/Civic	31
Transportation	0
Other	0

Overall Support April	
Emails sent for Clinic work	131
Emails Received	233
Emails Sent	211
Contacts with stakeholders	22
Referrals	3

Other Activity

- KWETB Career Guidance event in Kippure on 11th April
- Manual Handling Training, two sessions delivered on 8th May in Dunlavin and scheduled for 22nd May also in Dunlavin, in collaboration with County Wicklow Partnership

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of April 2025, there are 914 Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

The breakdown of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from DCEDIY is as follows:

- Arklow MD: 52
- Baltinglass MD: 130
- Bray MD: 542
- Greystones MD: 98
- Wicklow MD: 92

Note: These figures do not contain details of BOTP clients placed in accommodation providers by any other bodies separate to DCEDIY. Therefore, the total in any accommodation provider may not reflect the total number of BOTP clients in that establishment.

UCTAT (*Ukrainian Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team*) | DCEDIY (*Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*) stated the relocation of BOTPs from all state contracted accommodation has been temporarily paused.

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Organisational Development (H.R. & Corporate)

The following interviews were held in April 2025:

- Interviews Business Advisor
- Shortlisting Community Safety Coordinator
- Interviews Community Safety Coordinator
- Interviews Executive Accountant
- Shortlisting Senior Staff Officer
- Interviews Information Security Analyst
- Interviews Information Systems Project Leader (Cyber & Information Security)
- Interviews Executive Scientist
- Shortlisting Assistant Scientist

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
Managerial/Administrative	337	334	333	343
Professional/Technical	146	146	146	147
Outdoor	259	255	252	250
Temporary/Seasonal	87	91	68	66
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	2
Total	834	831	804	808

* Decrease in Non DoHPLG as Veterinary function has transferred to the Department of Agriculture

Freedom of Information

April 2025: 15	April 2024: 10
January – April 2025: 30	January – April 2024: 60

Ombudsman Requests

April 2025: 5	April 2024: 0
January – April 2025: 15	January – April 2024: 6

Press Releases

April 2025 – 13

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Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily. The franchise team continue to process applications which were minor in nature such as updating contact details etc. and any applications received after the closing date. A large amount of returned polling cards were received after the General Election and work is commencing in establishing to contact these electors to ascertain if they are still resident or if they wish to register at a new address.

Work is ongoing on the Electoral Registration Project and the first phase of works is 85% complete on the migration to a national database of Register of Electors.

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2025 – April			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	7,971	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,868
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,481	Revenue Transactions	1,590
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	73	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

Energy

Projects Completed in 2024:

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

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

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

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

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

- Arklow MD / Library (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
 - Tender published through supplygov
- Blessington MD office (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)

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- Tender published through supplygov
- Greystones MD (TBC following survey and cost review)
- Shoreline Leisure Centre Energy Performance Contract (Preparatory Work)

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

Mid-East Energy Unit

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
- First EPC project for Kildare CoCo gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Installing sub heat meters in leisure centres to inform EPC process

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH APRIL 2025							
	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	21,048,885	56,316,634	37%	(21,994,867)	(59,446,038)	37%	(945,982)
Road Transport & Safety	5,923,283	26,329,169	22%	(3,413,978)	(18,925,016)	18%	2,509,304
Water Services	1,655,581	4,633,084	36%	(1,867,326)	(5,554,021)	34%	(211,745)
Development Management	4,749,878	16,414,646	29%	(2,707,083)	(9,859,576)	27%	2,042,795
Environmental Services	5,714,274	17,038,883	34%	(1,246,965)	(5,011,509)	25%	4,467,310
Recreation and Amenity	3,164,223	10,003,906	32%	(311,644)	(1,151,712)	27%	2,852,579
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	834,315	2,393,346	35%	(301,603)	(1,103,228)	27%	532,712
Miscellaneous Services	2,808,715	9,487,115	30%	(5,420,462)	(16,490,485)	33%	(2,611,747)
Central Management Charges	8,297,655	25,473,897	33%	(305,156)	(1,050,000)	29%	7,992,500
Local Government Fund				(5,733,490)	(17,200,469)	33%	(5,733,490)
Commercial Rates				(10,899,456)	(32,448,626)	34%	(10,899,456)
	54,196,810	168,090,680	32%	(54,202,031)	(168,240,680)	32%	(5,221)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily, and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st April 2025 to 30th April 2025.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th APRIL 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/04/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	26,182,412	(7,316,000)	(178,250)	30,898,518
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	4,578,029	(1,364,748)	(175,000)	(33,947,551)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	516,187	(251,790)	(45,000)	(6,541,397)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	10,690,832	(15,220,734)	(186,250)	(62,734,239)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	2,347,204	(1,731,479)	(205,000)	4,671,605
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	1,861,870	(1,276,768)	(47,000)	2,004,704
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	74,376	(380)	(161,250)	(2,157,023)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	1,426,551	(253,810)	158,012	(9,587,348)
	(96,814,747)	47,677,462	(27,415,709)	(839,738)	(77,392,732)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30th APRIL 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,694,746	0	0	0	35,758,991	(14,708,695)	21,050,296	917,056	42%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	6,393,955	0	0	0	9,704,610	(6,215,444)	3,489,167	0	64%
Housing Loans	513,181	805,990	0	0	0	1,319,171	(823,441)	495,731	0	62%

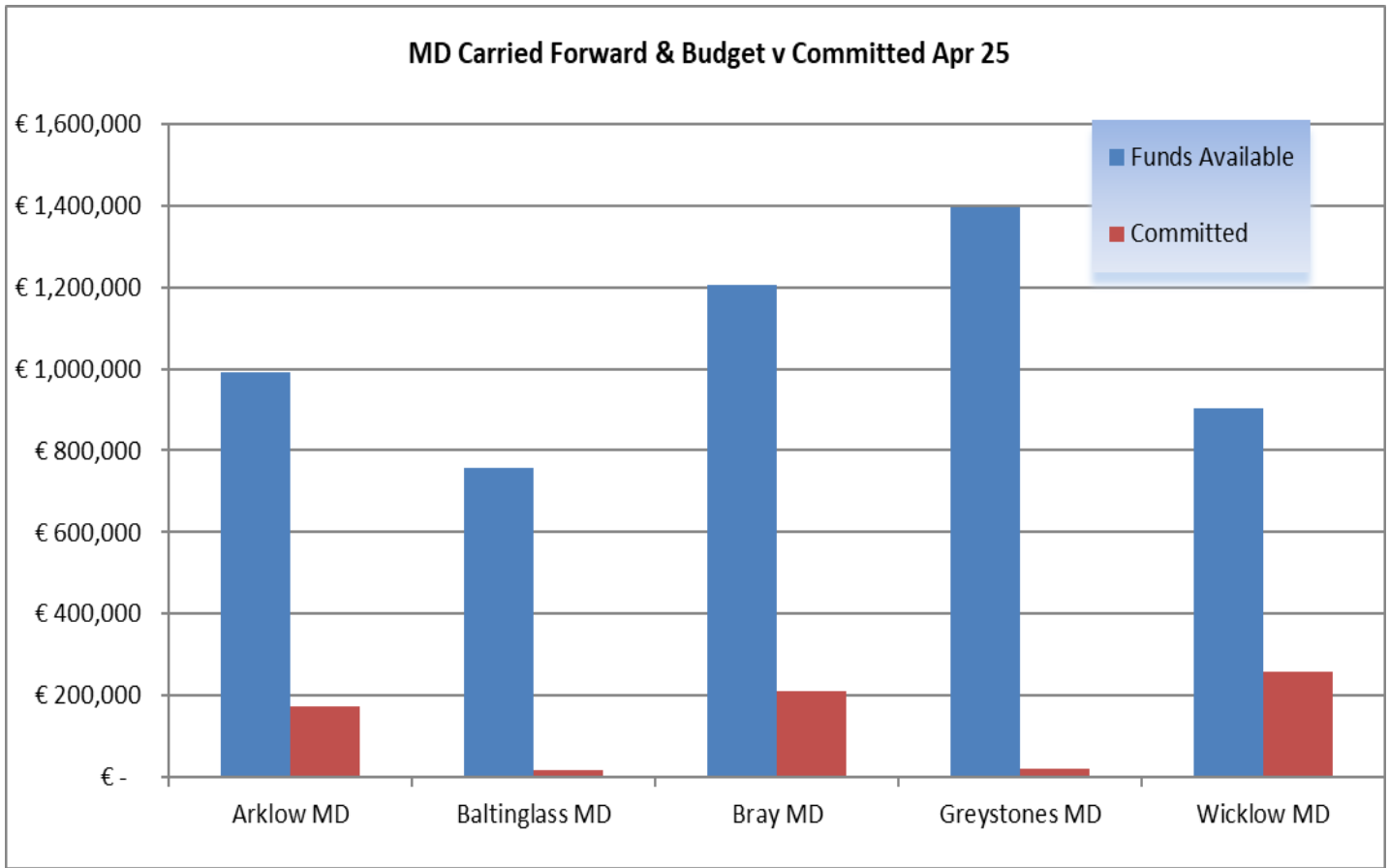
NB: The collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	174,730	816,619
Baltinglass MD	228,949	527,124	756,073	15,933	740,140
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	210,578	993,211
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	21,093	1,374,251
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	256,688	647,677
Total	2,390,043	2,860,877	5,250,921	679,022	4,571,898

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Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

The Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 7th 2025. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2025 €	2026 €	2027 €	TOTAL €	Dev Charges ¹ €	Loan €	Grant Aid ² €	Other ³ €	TOTAL €
HOUSING AND BUILDING	97,600,000	146,800,000	227,450,000	471,850,000	-	30,000,000	414,800,000	27,050,000	471,850,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	30,102,000	37,019,000	30,280,000	97,401,000	23,201,000	7,000,000	64,800,000	2,400,000	97,401,000
WATER SERVICES	255,000	140,000	140,000	535,000	-	-	535,000	-	535,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	5,889,420	6,872,557	9,747,343	22,509,320	2,466,157	-	15,470,959	4,572,204	22,509,320
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	7,920,000	23,070,000	23,687,000	54,677,000	-	-	48,377,000	6,300,000	54,677,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	7,960,000	13,875,000	21,313,572	43,148,572	13,692,072	-	25,486,500	3,970,000	43,148,572
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,700,000	16,410,000	23,500,000	45,610,000	1,759,500	-	37,175,500	6,675,000	45,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000	-	-	-	2,700,000	2,700,000
OVERALL TOTAL	156,326,420	245,086,557	337,017,915	738,430,892	41,118,729	37,000,000	606,644,959	53,667,204	738,430,892

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

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Information Systems

Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Environmental Enforcement**
Work continued on the development of inspection forms for the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA), using the Survey123 app to support standardised waste inspections.
- **Planning, Economic & Rural Development – Baltinglass RRDF**
Planning-related drawings were successfully converted into AutoCAD format to support the design phase of the Baltinglass Rural Regeneration and Development Fund project.
- **Greystones–Delgany & Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025**
The public consultation hub for the upcoming Local Planning Framework has gone live, enabling community engagement and feedback.
- **Laragh–Glendalough Tourist Walkway**
Final map updates were completed following feedback from Fáilte Ireland. A shapefile has been submitted to Land Direct to support planning and land access.
- **Severe Weather Event Management System**
Staff attended training on the Severe Weather Event Management System (SWEMS), delivered by Galway County Council, to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.
- **Hardware Shredding**
Hardware shredding has taken place with over 2000 items securely destroyed.
- **PETaL Deployment**
The GIS team resolved a scheduling issue with the PETaL system following a query from the relevant department, ensuring continued operational efficiency.

Infrastructure

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