

**Wicklow County Council
Chief Executive's Monthly Report – September 2024**



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow County Council

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This month:

WICKLOW FEATURED ON FRANCE'S MOST POPULAR TV NEWS PROGRAMME

County Wicklow enjoyed an extensive five minute feature on French TV during the '20h de TF1' show, France's most popular news programme. The featured was aired on Thursday 5th September, to an estimated audience of more than 5 million viewers throughout France.

The programme was shot in May of this year, when Wicklow enjoyed a lovely sunny spell. Organised through Tourism Ireland's office in Paris, and with the support of Wicklow County Council, TF1 Journalists experienced a two day itinerary of Wicklow that included locations such as Bray seafront, Powerscourt Gardens and Distillery, Wicklow National Park, Lough Tay, Beyond the Trees at Avondale and Mickey Finns Pub.

The programme is available online through TF1's videos on demand platform, which can be accessed via <https://www.tf1info.fr/voyages/videos/video-irlande-l-echappee-verte-1048-2318176.html>

WICKLOW BUSINESSES GET CHANCE TO SHINE AT PLOUGHING 2024

Three of Wicklow's best small businesses exhibited their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, County Laois in September, as part of the Local Enterprise Village.

The Local Enterprise Village, an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, will house over 30 small businesses and will be located at the heart of this year's National Ploughing Championships.

A selection of businesses from across the country helped launch the Local Enterprise Village for 2024 at Airfield Estate in Dublin. These included Leah Cleary of Fore Distillery (supported by LEO Westmeath), Dublin fashion designer Jennifer Rothwell (supported by LEO Dublin City), Anouk O'Connell of natural wool company Olanmhor (supported by LEO Wicklow), Aymar Gourdet of Le Skinny Chef (supported by LEO Laois), Joanne Doyle of Enchanted Castle Melts (supported by LEO Carlow), Aoife Potie of Nuasan (supported by LEO Galway) and Mildred Tang of canvas tote company Chic Tote (supported by LEO Dun Laoghaire Rathdown).

The Local Enterprise Village is just one of a number of initiatives that the Local Enterprise Offices run, to foster entrepreneurship across the country. Others include Local Enterprise Week, the National Enterprise Awards, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Showcase. The Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland.

Established in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices are the essential resource for any entrepreneur looking to start a business or any small business that is looking for support or advice to help them grow. Since their inception ten years ago, the Local Enterprise Offices have helped create over 70,000 jobs across the country. The LEOs work with thousands of client companies across Ireland in a diverse range of sectors offering mentoring, training, expert advice and financial supports to small businesses. For more information see www.LocalEnterprise.ie

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	August 2024	August 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	105	159
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1372	1569
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	23
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	22	29

Allocation of Social Housing

	August 2024	August 2023
Wicklow County Council	15	19
Approved Housing Bodies	2	15

Social Housing Stock

	August 2024	August 2023
Tenancies Occupied	4973	4843
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€333,665.49	€319,070.26
Arrears	€3,236,355.20	€3,112,553.74

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/08/2024
Arklow	931
Ashford	394
Aughrim	43
Avoca	39
Ballinaclash	7
Ballyconnell	5
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	109
Barndarrig	12
Blessington	247
Bray	1110
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	79
Conary	4
Coolboy	6
Delgany	224
Donard	17
Dunlavin	27

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Enniskerry	50
Glenealy	13
Greystones	328
Kilcoole	52
Kilmacanogue	11
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	1
Knockananna	5
Laken	1
Laragh	11
Newcastle	10
Ntrmk	62
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	63
Rathnew	131
Redcross	5
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	30
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	7
Tinahely	30
Wicklow	256
TOTAL	4364

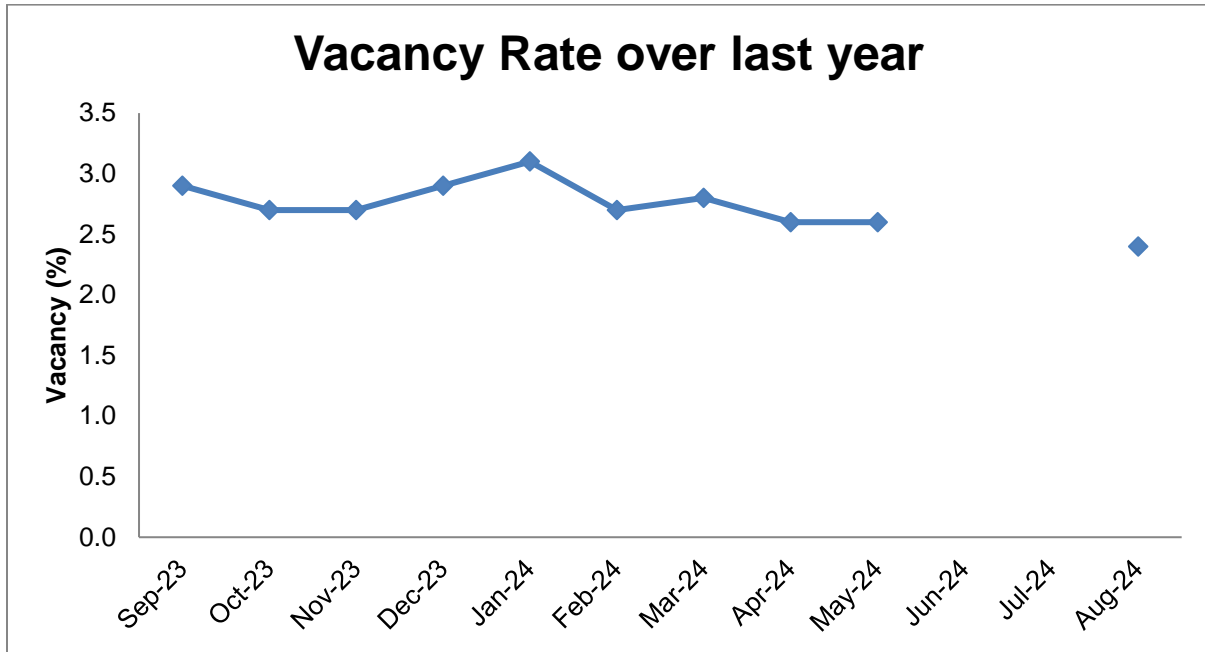
Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	17 (+1)	3 (0)	8 (0)	3 (-1)	14 (-1)
Baltinglass	22 (+1)	5 (+2)	2 (-3)	12 (0)	19 (-1)
Bray	32 (+1)	20 (+20)	5 (-17)	12 (+2)	37(+5)
Greystones	1 (0)	7 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0)
Wicklow	16 (+0)	19 (+1)	23 (-2)	2 (0)	44 (-1)
2024 Totals	88 (+12)	54 (+24)	39 (-22)	29 (-1)	122 (+2)
2023 Totals	140				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	Occupied tenancies Data unavailable	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

Availability of contractors to carry out re-let refurbishment work continues to be the major limiting factor in turning around Voids/Re-lets. The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the

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Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.



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

According to CSO Census 2022 data:

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

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

Housing Maintenance

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

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

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 approx. 1500 properties in Co. Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out last month (August)
Targeted and complaint inspections	46

So far in 2024, 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 2024 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	32 (+2)
Prohibition Notice	8 (0)

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust, HAIL etc. Nine units were delivered in 2023.

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	1	Delivered February 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS

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

	2024 Budget	Amount Spent as of August 2024
Grant Funding for Private Housing	€2,728,709.00	€1,528,806.00
Grant Funding for Social Housing	€913,457.00	€834,461.00

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Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	366

Local Authority Home Loans up to May 2024

Received	Approved in Principle
53	20

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	May 2024
Applications Received	442	4
Completed	109	0
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22nd June and workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by The Housing Agency regarding the implementation plan. This workshop took place at the January meeting of the HDSG. A schedule of meetings for the group has been set for 2024 in order to implement the plan's targets and goals.

Homeless Figures for August 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/08/2024	Year To Date	As at 31/08/2023
No of New Presentations	16	232	18
No. of Repeat Presentations	1	3	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	4	68	9
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	17	199	20
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	19	1
No. of Children	4	113	20
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	48	4
Family Circumstances	4	91	4
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	15	0
Mental Health	2	15	0
Risk of Homelessness	4	114	3

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Arrears/Loss of Income	0	9	0
Addiction Issues	1	29	2
DV/DA	0	6	1
Medical Issues	2	9	0
Overcrowding	1	34	3
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	4	38	0
ASB:	0	7	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	16	0
Sofa Surfing*	0	20	2
Staying with Family*	4	59	4
Staying with Friends*	0	19	2

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/08/24	
Families	13
Adults	27
Children	41
Single individual	8

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	26	30	7	5	1	5	4

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	49	58	45	6	8	1	3	7

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

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

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- To date, 570 households (394 families & 170 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st August 2024. (227 homeless cases, 318 prevention cases to date and 24 direct provision). 143 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

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.

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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

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of August 2024, there are 1,702 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 is as follows:

- Arklow MD: 228
- Baltinglass MD: 359
- Bray MD: 756
- Greystones MD: 178
- Wicklow MD: 181

Wicklow County Council is currently assessing all displaced Ukrainians in the county to determine their accommodation needs and to connect them with relevant community services and supports.

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Wicklow County Council is also working through a list of pledged properties within the county to match families with appropriate housing. To date, Wicklow County Council has housed 289 displaced Ukrainian individuals in pledged stand-alone 'Offer a Home' properties within the county.

Additionally, larger buildings and vacant units are being identified and explored as potential medium to long-term accommodation options.

Community

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced on Friday, August 2nd, 2024, €16.5 million to deliver 185 community projects across the country. The major investment will support a diverse range of projects such as upgrades to sports facilities, community centres, parks, walking trails and playgrounds. As part of the initiative, funding is provided to support the purchase of buildings and vehicles for community use.

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The Fund, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development, follows an extensive consultation process with local authorities who submitted their individual list of projects for approval.

Wicklow is set to receive funding for the below projects in this phase:

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

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The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the full details of the scheme (including funding allocations). For further information please see gov.ie

There will be a further call for the next phase applications in late 2024.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

The projects below are underway, with estimated completion dates in Quarter 3 of 2024.

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

Pride of Place 2024

The Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2024 opened for nominations in May 2024. The purpose of the competition is to acknowledge the work being done every day by communities all over Ireland.

This year, Wicklow County Council has entered 3 nominations:

ENTRY	CATEGORY

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Wicklow Town Team- Murals Project	Community Tourism Initiative
Tinahely Community Recycling Centre	Creative Communities
Tearmann Gardens, Baltinglass	Inclusive Communities

Over two days at the end of August, each entrant will have the opportunity to make a full presentation on their category to the Pride of Place Judges Panel.

The winners of the National Pride of Place Competition will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in Monaghan on Saturday 2nd November 2024.



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-coordinator 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 People's Council (OPC) met on the 5th of September 2024 in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh where issues such as Health, Transport and Technology were discussed.

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

The Wicklow AGM will be held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 1st November 2024. Various stands providing information to older persons will be provided.

Clinics for the Greystones area and Blessington area will be scheduled for later in the year.

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Age Friendly Programme Manager and KWETB are organising a coffee morning regarding literacy inclusion. Date to be confirmed.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

An Alliance meeting was held on the 9th of September 2024 where issues of Health, Transport, Housing and Socialisation were discussed. Each member of the Older Persons Council discussed the issues facing their own areas. Visits will be carried out to various clubs around the county. For example, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and Active Retirement groups.

"Care and Repair" for the Arklow Area – This is a programme aimed at helping older persons in the community to 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.

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

Wicklow Station has been nominated as the first train station within the County to receive Age Friendly Status. A Committee has been formed and the next stage of the project will be a walkability which is due to take place in October 2024.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group

A "Make Way Day" meeting was held on the 4th of July 2024. "Make way Day" is a programme that will be piloted to make people aware of the difficulties people with disabilities face when people park their cars on footpaths obstructing people with disabilities to pass by freely. It is hoped that this programme will be launched by the end of the year.

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.

Access Officer

Training for Access Officer will commence in October 2024



Healthy Wicklow

Period Poverty Project

Healthy Wicklow, in collaboration with The Colour Club, will provide a second workshop "All About Periods" on Saturday 21st September targeting 13–17-year-olds and their mothers under the educational piece of the Period Poverty initiative.

Drumming Workshop

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Nationwide visited Carnew Community Care Centre on 4th September and as part of this, the transition year intergenerational drumming project was showcased and filmed which was funded by Healthy Wicklow earlier in the year.

Active Communities Carnew

In partnership with the Healthy Clubs initiative, a 6-week beginner Yoga programme commenced on the 12th of September and a 6-week Zumba programme commenced on the 17th of September.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Pre and Post Evaluation

Sláintecare Bray is currently completing a procurement process via RFQ in to seek a third level institution to conduct a 6–9-month pre and post evaluation of our 'Theraplay' project in the Bray Family Resource Development Project. E-Tendering will start in October with hopes that researchers will begin in November/December.

Little Garden

The Bray Family Resource Development Project is beginning construction on their new 'Little Garden'. This will enhance the garden that is currently there allowing all those in this community to avail of a communal space to grow their own fruits and vegetables, have a new space to sit and walk, and give the children in the crèche a new, safe area to play.

Feasibility Study

Final Draft has been completed of the Bray Community Centre Feasibility Study. This study highlights the needs of those in this disadvantaged community, how to appropriately use the common spaces and green areas, and utilising current funds. This will be shared and disseminated once the final version is back with plans and drawings.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Meeting

BAP and Sláintecare Healthy Communities are currently preparing for the upcoming Health and Wellbeing Fair in Little Bray, which will take place on Tuesday, 22nd October. The event will feature guest speakers and interactive sessions with more details to be announced.



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Local Authority Integration Team

Statistical Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1469
Of which are children	427

WCC LAIT Activity to date for 2024	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	50
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	383
Total number of sessions with single adults	203
Total number of sessions with families	177

LAIT Integration Support Data for August 2024

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	11
No of information and advice emails sent to clients	217
No. of adults (total from singles, couples, and families)	84
No. of singles	36
No. of families	32
No. of couples	3
No. of IPA's	78
No. with Refugee Status	2
No. with Subsidiary Protection	2
No. with Leave to Remain	2
Less than 3 months in Ireland	18
1-3 months in Ireland	20
3-6 months in Ireland	33
6 months – 1 year in Ireland	3
1-2 years in Ireland	3
Over 2 years in Ireland	5

Areas of Support

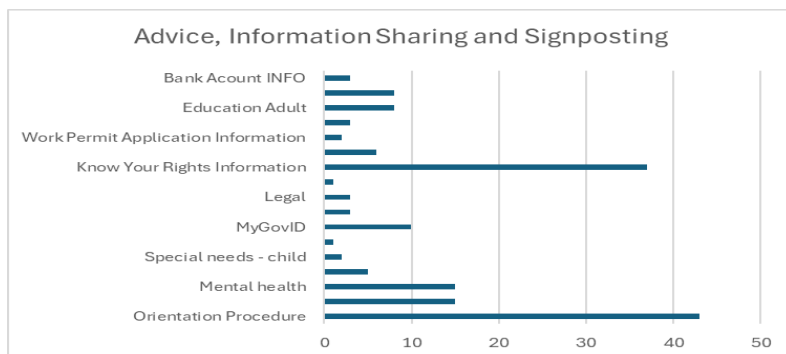
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Main Theme	Incidence
Health - adult	10
Health - child	1
Mental health	3
Medical Card	12
Education & Training - Adult	16
Education - child	6
Special needs - child	0
English	8
MyGovID	1
Employment	7
Volunteering	1
Legal	0
Housing/accommodation	1
Transport	0
Childcare	1
Family support	1
Orientation to Ireland	2
Financial Supports	9
Other	1

In-Session Categories of Support	Incidence
Advice, Information and Signposting	165
Practical Support	38
Referral and advocacy	45

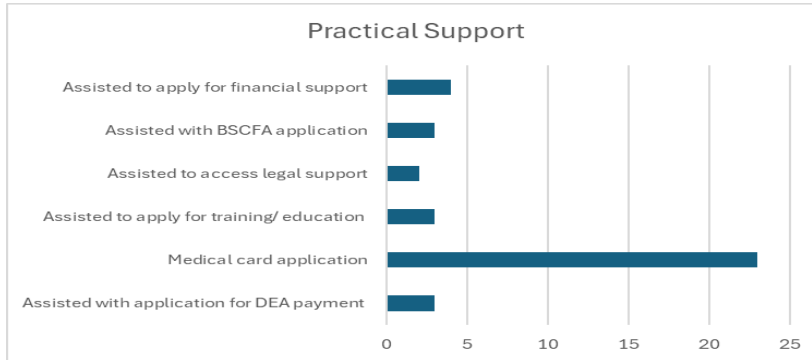
In-Session Support: Detailed Breakdown

- **Advice, Information and Signposting**

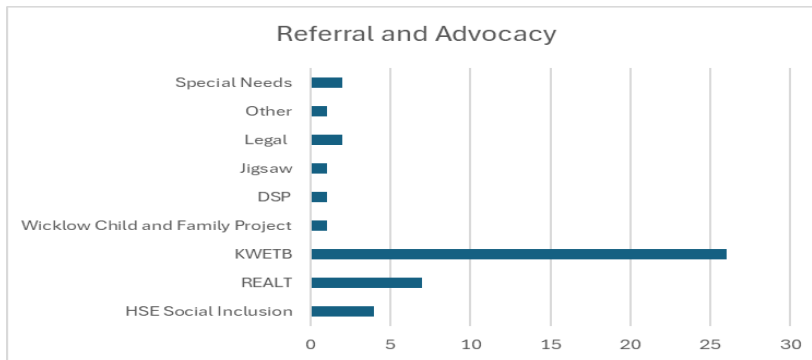


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- Practical Support**



- Referral and Advocacy**



Post-Session Categories of Support	
Advocacy and Referral	20
Follow up Contact with Client	3

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Food Poverty Partnership: Funding secured to engage a Coordinator to progress actions in report “An Exploration of Food Poverty in Co Wicklow.” Awareness campaign will commence in October.

Social Inclusion Week 2024: This will run from 13th to 19th October. Please contact PPN with details of local events being planned.

Consultations: Local Property Tax in Co. Wicklow; Department of Rural & Community Development Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Guidelines Review.

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Training event: How to file Annual Return to Charities Regulator.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Additional New Arrivals Funding: Bray Area Partnership have been awarded €14,348 and will allocate it to resourcing the Ukrainian Community Office and providing recreational activities, family support, well-being, art therapy and skills based economic progression programmes.

Co. Wicklow Partnership have been awarded €18,508 and will allocate it to supporting new arrivals in accessing facilities and activities focused on improving physical and mental health and wider integration with local communities. The funding will also support the rolling out of additional English language classes and economic progression programmes such as Safe Pass.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028

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

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

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

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 2 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation.

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

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 3 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation and the initial stages of the SEA screening is currently being carried out.

Local Area Plans

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

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan closed on 28 September 2023 with 84 submissions received. A well-attended public information day was held on 14 September 2023. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. Once the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q4 2024.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are finalising the work on the draft LAP SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time have been carried out in-house.

The Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan pre-draft process is available to view here -

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

Blessington Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan process ran from 21 February 2024 to 03 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 128 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 1 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q4 2024.

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

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Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Local Area Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. Once the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q4 2024.

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

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

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

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)

Work has commenced on the review of the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan. We are currently preparing an online consultation portal and are aiming to commence the pre-draft consultation in Q4 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP for these Bray is available to view here

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The Government's [Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland](#) has introduced a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the 'Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply'. The draft RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 was published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to **01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received**. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land were invited up to 31 May 2024 and no submissions were received. Determinations on the 9 submissions were issued by 01 July. Landowners had until 01 August to appeal the decision to ABP in the determination and 3 appeals were made. To view the draft RZLT maps click on the link below.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2024>

Vacant Site Levy

This programme is still ongoing and is affected by the proposed deferral of the RZLT. As liability to the RZLT is now proposed to be deferred for one year, it is considered appropriate to maintain provisions in legislation for the management and continued charging of the vacant site levy in respect of land which is identified on the register. This will continue to facilitate imminent placements on the register, conclusion of appeals and to facilitate the issuing of demands in relation to the levy for the period to the end of 2024. This will ensure that the use of the levy as an active land management measure will continue until the RZLT is in effect.

More information can be found online at the following link

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

Heritage Office

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Heritage Week in Wicklow:

National Heritage Week took place 17-25th August. Co-ordinated for County Wicklow by the Heritage Office. 80 + events took place over the nine days and widely dispersed throughout the county, the majority free of charge and family friendly.

County Heritage Plan Review: The next Heritage Forum meeting is scheduled for 24th Sept. The issues raised during the public consultation phase of the Heritage Plan along with suggestions for incorporating these into the emerging draft plan will be discussed and agreed.

County Heritage Plan (CHP): The Heritage Council have approved a funding allocation of €57,000 for projects under the County Heritage Plan Fund 2024. The following projects are ongoing; County Heritage Plan Review, Glendalough Community Archaeology Project and Wicklow Community Archaeology Service.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) – Five new community groups have signed up to the *Our Wicklow Heritage* network and are currently receiving training in setting up their digital archives. New websites due to be launched Oct/Nov.

Archaeology: Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2024. Six projects have been a successful in receiving funding allocations as per project applications prepared by the Heritage Office and submitted to National Monuments Service. All grants accepted and projects are in early stages of commencement.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): A funding allocation of €101,000 has been received in respect of 16 projects shortlisted for county Wicklow under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). Additionally, four projects have been successful under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) as follows; Coolattin House €171,000; Clermont House €171,000; Former Post Office, Shillelagh €20,000 and Vernacular house at Rosebank, Avoca €10,000. Third progress report made to Dept on 13th Sept.

Planning and Development

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Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 st August 2023	To 31 st August 2024	% difference
Received (Valid)	743	715	-4%

A total of 72 valid applications were received during August as follows:

Type of Development	31 st August 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	15 (11 Rural)
Housing Developments*	03
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	00
Other Developments**	52
Total	72

**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 76 applications in August 2024

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	01
Other Developments	75
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	76

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

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	31/08/2023	31/08/2024
Total Number of decisions issued	699	616
Total Number of decisions to grant	587	520
% Grant Rate	84%	84%
No of applications withdrawn		15 (6 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at **Fassaroe and Monastery**, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE 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 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 Pleanala has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill

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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 Pleanala 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 Pleanala 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.

Substitute Consent

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

An Bord Pleanala 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

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(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 Project

The eplanning has now been in place for just over one year, it went live on 17th April 2023 and for the year up to 16th April 2024, we received a total of 1,437 applications of which 744 were received through the eplanning portal and 693 were received in hard copy, 51.8% in the first year were received online.

For the **month of August**, a total of 90 planning applications were received of which 24.4% were hard copy applications and **75.6% were received online**.

From **1st January 2024 to 31st August 2024** a total of 867 applications were received of which 38.64% were hard copy applications and **61.36% 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 August 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
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Housing development of 13 dwellings in Blessington.
- Construction of 7 no. detached dwellings in Coolboy.
- Construction of 4 no. dwellings in Ashford

Planning Enforcement

New Files	23
Advisory Letters	16
Warning Letters	8
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	4
Closed	17

Short Term Letting – 01/08/2024 - 31/08/2024

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Applications received for Registration in August 2024	5
Complaints received in August 2024	0
Warning Letters issued in August 2024	3
Enforcement Notices issued in August 2024	0
Legal proceedings in August 2024	0
Files under investigation as of 31/08/2024	70

Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

Town Regeneration

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. The masterplan will provide Blessington with a clear framework to positively develop the town now and into the future. The implementation of the TCF plan is at the planning stage. RRDF funding will fund the redesign of the Main Street and Market Square and bring those projects to a shovel ready stage where they can be submitted for funding for Category 1 RRDF.

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Newtownmountkennedy has been announced under Phase 2 as one of the next 26 towns approved to develop Town Centre First Plans. Funding support of €30,000.00 will be given to the project.

Funding Schemes

Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

Newtownmountkennedy have recently been approved for funding of € 30,000.00 under **Town Centre First Measure 2** Suite of Supports. This Town Centre First Plan must be completed and reports submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

Baltinglass, Rathdrum and Kilcoole have been selected for funding of €10,000.00 for each of these towns under the **Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1**. This funding can be used to establish town teams where they are already not established or at an early stage of development. The deadline for the drawdown of funding is 15/11/2024.

Town Centre First Measure 3.

Two applications have been approved for this project funding;

1. Blessington – measures to include enhancement to the Square with tree planting and rain garden, spaces for dining and fixed seating.
2. Wicklow Town – Further enhancement at the Black Castle area to encourage more tourism and attractions for locals with installation of picnic tables, seating and a sculpture park.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16th September 2024. The projects must be completed and all grant claims submitted to the DRCD by 30th September 2025.

Thrive

Under the new Thrive Town Centre First Heritage Revival Strand 2 for Bray Courthouse and Heritage Centre an application was submitted to Thrive on the 3rd May. News was received from the Southern Regional Assembly via letter dated 1st August 2024 with the letter advising that our application was not recommended for funding by the THRIVE Evaluation Committee. The senior management team have concluded that an application will not be made for the next stream of funding available under THRIVE.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and

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

Town Teams

We currently have four Town Teams, Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones and Blessington. Discussions are continuing on the future establishment of a Bray Town Team.

The process will commence for the formation of four new Town Teams, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Kilcoole and Baltinglass in October & November 2024. The first Public meetings will start in early October with the aim of having the four new teams in place by December 2024.

The teams work closely with Town Regeneration, attending meetings and giving information on funding and grants available to Town Teams

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects

The Chief Executive has established an interdisciplinary team for the progression of Wicklow County Councils URDF (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) and RRDF (Rural Regeneration and Development Fund) projects. The group meet monthly to streamline the advancement of RRDF and URDF projects along with a sub-group that will meet fortnightly and report to the steering group. This is a significant step in setting up the structures for town regeneration in the County.

Blessington RRDF: Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes Greenway.

Baltinglass RRDF: The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are underway. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7th February 2024. However, the submission was not successful.

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

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

URDF Call 3: The URDF announced recently that 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) and the process has commenced in acquiring these properties. An information gathering notice has been published on a number of the properties seeking information to be directed to the Council.

Another property has been identified in Arklow and we are now awaiting approval from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

Bray Harbour Improvements: A tender will be issued when the URDF funding has been confirmed for the next phase of the project. A business case has been sent to DHL&H and a tender brief is being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works.

Tourism

Wicklow County Council Tourism Office continues to promote County Wicklow as a destination not only to domestic visitors but also on the international market using a range of tools and activities. See below some of the actions delivered on and also some upcoming events:

PR Campaign: The extensive PR campaign being run by Wicklow County Council in partnership with Wicklow Tourism is ongoing. The campaign has secured 45 pieces on various media including print, digital, radio and TV. The advertising value is estimated at €268,712, while the PR value is estimated at €806,136. The traditional media reach is estimated at 8,798,980 while the digital is thought to be around 176 million. The focus for September is on EcoTrail Wicklow while the Halloween Campaign will start in early October

Wicklow Passport: Seasonal Stamps: The Halloween Stamp will be introduced this year. The special design featuring iconic Wicklow landmarks with Halloween elements will be available through a network of participating businesses that are organising Halloween events. An extensive campaign is scheduled for the end of September or early October to promote the stamp and events.

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Mini Passport: Plans to introduce a two page passport are being finalised. This 'mini' passport is a free option of the Wicklow Passport and will be introduced for collection through the network of Wicklow Libraries as well as participating stamping locations. The objective of the mini passport is to increase awareness of the Wicklow Passport project. It will also help develop short, themed itineraries.

Wicklow Outdoor Promotional Videos: The Wicklow Outdoor project is well underway with very few videos and photos left to shoot. Activities covered so far is Mountain Biking, Hiking, Trail Running, Stand Up Paddling and Road Cycling. Plans have been made to shoot Kayaking, Equestrian and Sea Swimming. Completion of the project is expected for the end of October or early November. Once completed, all content will be used for promotion and will be available for anyone to use from the WCC Tourism online media library.

Best Nine Golf Holes in Wicklow: Shooting of the first nine featured holes is being finalised. The first part of this project includes the following golf clubs: The European, Woodenbridge Golf Club, Macreddin Golf Club, Blainroe Golf Club, Druids Glen Golf Club, Wicklow Town Golf Club, Powerscourt Golf Club, Tulfarris Golf Club and Rathsallagh Golf Club. All content with edits should be finalised by the end of October or early November, and again, all will be available on the WCC Tourism online

Accessible Webinar: Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee, DISC, is organising a free online information session on Thursday October 3rd from 2-3pm. The session will include information on the following topics:

- Available Council Funding to make businesses or visitor attractions more accessible and inclusive.
- The Sunflower Lanyard Scheme for hidden disabilities
- The benefits of creating Social Stories and Sensory Maps
- Changing Places toilet facilities

EcoTrail Wicklow: The annual international trail running race is taking place over the last weekend in September. Extensive domestic and international promotion has taken place and around 1500 participants are expected. New this year is a dedicated mini exhibition area where participants and visitors will get an opportunity to learn about trail running, gear products and destination Wicklow.

Through EcoTrail and with the support of Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, videographer and influencer Jeff Pelletier is participating at the event. Jeff has more than 110k followers on YouTube and 40k on Instagram. The visit includes participation at EcoTrail Wicklow and a three day run along the Wicklow Way.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Work is progressing on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds.

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Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Following from the launch of the Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan, work has begun on the implementation of the Plan. A Steering Group has been established, which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council.

A Working Group comprising representatives from all stakeholders has also been formed and has commenced work on short term actions for 2024, along with longer term actions. As community consultation and participation is a central tenet of the masterplan, a Local Advisory Group has been established to keep the local community informed and ensure their input to the process.

Directional signage and extra parking will continue to be provided until the end of September, along with a social media campaign to highlight responsible parking in the area.

Expression of Interest will be sought from local landowners in the coming weeks to provide land for parking as part of the masterplan.

Special Projects

Greystones Enterprise Hub: Work is continuing for the fit-out of the hub. It is expected to be ready for launch in the 3rd quarter.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones: Progress on the Mill Road sites is on hold pending PRA confirmation of site registration.

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Drawings have been received and a meeting has been scheduled to plan next steps. Where Part VIII planning permission is required, an application will be made before the end of the year.

Marketing Plan: MarketingCoach continue to work on promotional materials for the Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points under the campaign idea "Choose Wicklow". The marketing campaign will begin in the coming weeks.

Offshore Renewable Energy

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow. A plan for 2024 based around three work-streams (skills, ports/harbours, and supply chain) has been agreed. A

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networking/information event for suppliers and other interested parties will be held in the 3rd quarter of this year.

Skills Strategy

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow has been adopted and is available on the website to read. A meeting of the Skills Taskforce has been scheduled to discuss implementation of the actions contained within the Skills Strategy.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally – October Feast

This year's event will kick off on the 12th of October and showcase a series of events spread throughout the month of October. Those will include two flagship events: The first event will be held at Daisy Cottage Farm in West Wicklow with cooking demo, tasting with a tour for media and press. The second event will be in partnership with the Climate Action office in Wicklow County Council and with focus on Venison cooking demo.

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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
	2023	2024	2024
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	13 €357,202 7 €12,500
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
	2023	2024	2024
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	40	60	26
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	91
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	540
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	17
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	581	500	348

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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2023	2023/2024	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1028	1100	1358

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Number of transfers	5	5	3

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	47

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	16
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	16
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	3
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	5
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-

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August 2024 Activities:

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.

September 2024 Activities:

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The training programme for Autumn/Winter 2024 is open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Training scheduled for September:

- Small Business Accounts 05/09/2024 and 12/09/2024
- Start Your Own Business Course 05/09/2024
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 12/09/2024
- Digital Marketing Advice 13/09/2024 at 09:00
- Selling on Amazon 17/09/2024
- A Layman's Guide to VAT and Income Tax 26/09/2024

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

SDG (20th – 29th September) and Climate Action Week (14th – 20th October):

A series of events been organised for these two weeks, including:

- WCC Tidy Towns Education Event
- Greystones Climate Actions Work Community Sustainability Event
- Biodiversity Issues Paper Drop in Clinics
- Gardening for BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE ACTION Courses
- Two Climate Action Workshops in Clermont House featuring various topics
- Bike Repair Workshops

Climate Actions Focus:

- **Climate Action Committee** established and first meeting is expected in September
- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme**
Expression of interest for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow issued and two submissions received. Bolt and Moby have expressed an interest.
Letters have issued.
During the standstill period, we received a query from one of the parties which we are reviewing.
- **Coastal Erosion**
 1. The ECRIPP consultant engineers are reducing their design life, which will see less Rock Revetments. Public Consultation could commence early 2025.
 2. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly and have commenced a condition survey.
 3. RPS Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study and have submitted an Inception report.
 4. Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)
- **Glyphosate Policy** – Wicklow County Council has joined a Service Level Agreement for the Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces project with various third level institutions (such as Maynooth University and Trinity), agencies, and ten other local authorities (some with large park departments). This SLA commenced in 2020 and there is already some findings which will be shared with Wicklow County Council very shortly.
- **Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete** gone for public consultation in September.
- Bottle Fill Stations – 6 number ordered to be implemented in four MD's
- **Greystones MD - Active Travel Scheme with NB SuDS Rainwater Garden scheme taking place**– Part Funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Rainwater Management Plan drafted** for area in Redford Park. An initial design has been completed, Detailed design to be completed.
- CCTV survey to be scheduled for drains.

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- **Arklow MD Office, Civic Centre and Depot**– Solar PV to be added and funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Bray MD EV Mower demonstration Day** – The District reviewed EV mowers with the Climate Action Team – A mower is tendered on etenders and will be funded for the Bray MD from the Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Wicklow MD - Brittas Bay** – 1000m of Chestnut Fencing, To be erected by Wicklow MD funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Baltinglass MD** – Community Notice Board to be trialled in Blessington.
The option of a shared mobility scheme for Blessington will be reviewed.

Climate Action Officer Update:

- Community Gardening Expression of interest received 39 to date with a good graphical spread with Wicklow Town with highest demand.
- Currently investigating Available Sites.
- Working on Green Events Policy

Biodiversity Officer Update

- Biodiversity Forum and Working Group to be established as part of development of WCC Biodiversity Plan Review.
- Council Staff: Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer & Climate Action Coordinator.
- Public Engagement with a discussion paper with meetings to invite submissions on WCC Biodiversity Plan Review to be launched in September.
- Brittas Bay Behind the Beach various programme events taking place from July to November.
- Worked with Forward Planning on Blessington Green Infrastructure for LAP.

Community Climate Action Programme

- Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow.
- WCC will complete press release shortly.
- There will be information workshops in September providing Feedback to interested groups.
- It is intended to launch before first SPC

Project Scale	Wicklow	Baltinglass	Greystones	Bray	Arklow
Large	2	1	1	0	1
Medium	3	2	1	1	2
Small	1	3	1	0	1

Environmental Awareness

- Tidy Towns & Sustainable Development Awards 2024 application process closed, break down as follows:

Award	Bray MD	Greystones MD	Wicklow MD	Arklow MD	Baltinglass MD
SD Award	3	3	4	2	11
Estates	6	4	4	4	9
Main St	1	1	3	1	8

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- EAO is currently judging Tidy Estates & Main Streets and doing site visits for a number of the SD Awards. There is an increase in number of entries
- Composting workshop for Greystones MD delivered 13th September.
- Composting & Recycling for Schools Workshops, ReLove Fashion programme delivered by the Rediscovery Centre, Rubbish Film Festival (9) delivered by Create School.
- Bike repair workshops during SDG & Climate Action week being finalised

Climate Networking

- Bioeconomy Forum member (Two LA's represented Tipperary (Enterprise) and Wicklow (Climate Team)).
- SDG Forum
- Biodiversity Officers Network
- Community Climate Actions Officers network
- LA Climate Action Forum
- Revised Climate Action Charter Workshop
- Rainwater Management Plan template workshop
- Currently organising workshops for SDG and Climate Action Week.

Wicklow County SEC's

- Carnew Community Care Energy Master Plan is now completed

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour

The swimmers raft and platform have been removed from the water for the winter and will return in June 2025.

CCTV and Access Control

Tender documents are being drawn up for improved CCTV and access control systems in Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

Arklow Harbour

Works continue on the completion of the 14 Fishers storage huts in Arklow. These will be advertised by way of request for expressions of interest.

Expressions of interest have been advertised for the operation and repair of the bait/fish storage fridge in Arklow Harbour.

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	7	5	2	9	7	2
Feb-24	6	5	1	7	5	2
Mar-24	8	7	1	9	7	2
Apr-24	10	9	1	11	9	2

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May-24	8	8	0	8	6	2
Jun-24	8	8	2	10	6	4
Jul-24	8	6	2	10	7	3
Aug-24	5	4	1	6	4	2

Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	148
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	104
No of Litter Fines Issued	6
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	6
No. of Warning Letters Issued	13
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	5
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	4
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	19
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	0
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	0
Income - Litter	€530.00
Income- Waste Management	€3,400.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 117 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
- 4 Private Water Supplies Monitored.
- 2 Private Water Supplies were compliant with drinking water parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with pH parametric limit values.
- 1 Boil Water Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to microbial failures.
- 1 Boil Water Restrictions lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results.
- 1 Do Not Consume Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to chemical failures.

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- 3 Do Not Consume Restriction lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results

Bathing Waters

- Excellent: Identified bathing waters:
 - Bray South, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Silver strand, Clogga and Greystones Cove.
 - 21 bathing water samples taken
 - 10 river/stream samples taken
- Highest quality: Other monitored waters:
 - Arklow South, Kilcoole, Murrough, South of Bray The Cove Arklow and Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area Harbour
- Good quality: Other monitored waters:
 - Arklow South
 - 13 other bathing waters samples taken
- The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2025 season.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 3 Catchment engagement activities was undertaken
- 0 Catchment assessment carried to assess risk and impact.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 0 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 1 Inspections of farm carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.

Well Grants

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

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 1 Petrol filling station Stage Ib Installation (Petrol Delivery) assessed.
- 2 Petrol filling station Stage Ib Installation (Petrol Delivery) inspected.
- 1 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing) issued certificate of testing.

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- 3 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing)

Solid Fuel Regulations

- 5 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
- 1 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers follow-up inspections.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 1 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 2 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and licensees were requested to take corrective action.
- 0 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters was inspected.
- 0 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters was assessed.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Planning & Development

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

Control of Dogs

311 renewal reminders were sent out during the month of August 2024. Licences renewed in August include 407 annual licences and 17 lifetime licences. 47% of licences purchased were purchased on-line. A total of 309 licences were purchased for the same month in 2023.

Blue Flags & Green Coast Awards

The Blue Flag and Green Flag season ended on 15th September. It was a successful season, with An Taisce confirming all our beaches were compliant with the stringent conditions of the Award. The rules of the Blue Flag beaches are relaxed out of season. For example, responsible dog walkers are welcomed back onto the beaches during the winter.

Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project

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

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require

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sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

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

Wicklow Arts Office

Strategic Project Award Scheme 2025

The deadline for receipt of applications for the 12th edition of its Strategic Projects Award Scheme closed at 4pm 13th September 2024. Fourteen applications were received under Stream A of the Scheme and four applications under Stream B. An external panel of adjudicators will commence the applications assessment process on 20th September.

Recipient of a Strategic Project Award 2024, Grace O'Malley, presented her project titled 'The Bricklayer' with a reading at the Glenree Centre of Peace and Reconciliation on 14th September. The event was well attended and Graces' presentation was received with wholehearted admiration.

Culture Night 2024

Thanks to the continued support of the Arts Council and Creative Ireland, Wicklow County Arts Office have commissioned, collaborated, and supported an exciting and diverse programme of free events and activities purposefully selected to open up pathways to creativity in 14 locations across County Wicklow. Locations for Culture Night events in County Wicklow include: Bray, Greystones, Rathdrum, Wicklow Town, Arklow, Carnew, Tinahely, Aughrim, Calary, Blessington, Dunlavin and Baltinglass. In Baltinglass, a packed programme of events includes headliner Róisín O, along with local musicians/ singers Sam Ali, Amy Barret, Taylor Haze and Kendal Moody; An Artisan Craft Market showcasing artists and crafts people from across the county; science and technology are incorporated into the programme with Virtual Reality Workshops; and Secret Sonic Cinémathèque host Silent films, live contemporary scores. For a full list of Culture Night 2024 events in Co. Wicklow see:

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

Artists 1 to 1 Coaching Programme

Wicklow Arts Office artist coaching programme for 2024 has been completed. Fourteen artists were selected to receive individual one to one coaching sessions from professional experts in the arts field. The personalised coaching sessions offered artists a unique opportunity to engage in a profound process rooted in deep listening and active reflection. Designed to foster personal, professional, and artistic growth, the sessions provide a secure and open environment for

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artists to explore their experiences, aspirations, and potential areas for development. Through this collaborative journey, participants could identify goals, create informed and sustainable plans, and gain the confidence to realise their strategies. The programme was open to artists at any career level; the initiative aims to provide direction, energy, and creative resilience for those seeking positive change and growth in their artistic journey.

Wicklow Artists Salon

Wicklow Arts Office set up The Artist Salon programme in 2022. This is an artist-led initiative by County Wicklow artists for Wicklow artists and cultural practitioners. It is peer support and takes the form of a series of evening events bringing together artists in person with both a social and professional purpose, to seed learning, support interactions and encourage collaborations.

Each Salon focuses on a particular topic and features invited artists to explore important themes affecting the arts in Wicklow and beyond. Salon number 8 entitled 'Resilience' took place on the 14th September 2024 in the Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre. Participants engaged in two.

Creative Places Baltinglass

Rathcoran Residency – Phase 2: Wicklow Arts Office has contracted Siobhan Madden T/A The Natural School of Art to provide services to establish a Garden Club at Rathcoran Housing Estate, Baltinglass. This is an extension of phase 1 of the residency by Suzi Cahn of Carraig Dulra at this location. This project will run on various dates for a period of 6 months. The primary focus of the residency work is community inclusion and the means to engage with the community is through the arts. Growing and developing community participation will be prioritised and maximised at all times through engagement with the residents to better understand their needs and encourage their participation in the project.

Creative Ireland

Wicklow Arts Office has received additional funding from Creative Ireland for 2024 projects. €15,000 will be invested in an integration and placemaking project in Rathdrum primary schools. In partnership with Wicklow Music Generation, the school students will engage in workshops with poet and spoken word creative, Colm Keegan. A composer and musician will also be engaged in the project which will culminate in a grand performance by the students at Cruinniú na nÓg 2025.

The second project for funding investment in the amount of €30,000 will focus on Creative Climate Actions and Nature.

Music Teaching Programme for over 55s

Wicklow Arts Office in partnership with Music Network are in the process of rolling out phase 4 of our music programme for persons over 55 years of age from Co. Wicklow. The Music Teaching Residency is designed to assist non-professional musician's resident in a specific county and aged over 55 to return to playing music. The programme provides participants with a course of one-to-one lessons, followed by a series of larger ensemble opportunities, all delivered by a core group of professional performing and teaching musicians. The residency will provide a quality learning experience to help people rediscover their love of playing music, learn new skills and make new connections. With a view to being as inclusive as possible, musical instruments will be provided where participants do not have access to suitable instruments themselves.

Arts Festivals

Support of Wicklow Arts Office festival award funding, West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival launched its winter concert programme of events in September. The programme features celebrated violinist, Tamsin Waley-Cohen, clarinettist Carol McGonnell, Wicklow's leading pianist Fiachra Garvey, rising music stars including violinist Jisun Min, pianist Didzis Kalniņš and many more.

Supported by Wicklow Arts Office festival award funding, The Shaking Bog Festival took place on the 14th and 15th of September. The Shaking Bog focused on stepping away from everyday life to deepen our appreciation of the natural world so that we may move forwards, together, in hope. Festival attendees were delighted with the wide range of events made available which included a 'Moth Magic' workshop, Bird & Bat Box Building; The Secret Life of Trees workshop with Lelia Henry; a short film by Alan Gilsenan titled In the Valley of The Shaking Bog; Nature Connection Workshop; Why Should I Care About Nature with Professor Jane Stout.

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Wicklow County Library Service

Summer Stars Conclusion

As the Summer Stars reading initiative draws to a close, we're thrilled to celebrate the incredible participation and enthusiasm shown by children across the county. With **3,363** young readers registered and a staggering **53,214** items borrowed since June, it's clear that our libraries have been buzzing with activity. The joy of reading has truly taken hold, with children eagerly visiting our branches, engaging in events, and tracking their progress on their reading cards.

As we approach the final days of the program, we encourage all participants to keep those cards coming in and continue to enjoy the magic of reading. Thank you to everyone who made this year's Summer Stars a resounding success!

Summer Stars celebrations!



Carnew Library



Wicklow Library

Summer Stars finale events in West Wicklow libraries (Baltinglass, Blessington & Dunlavin)

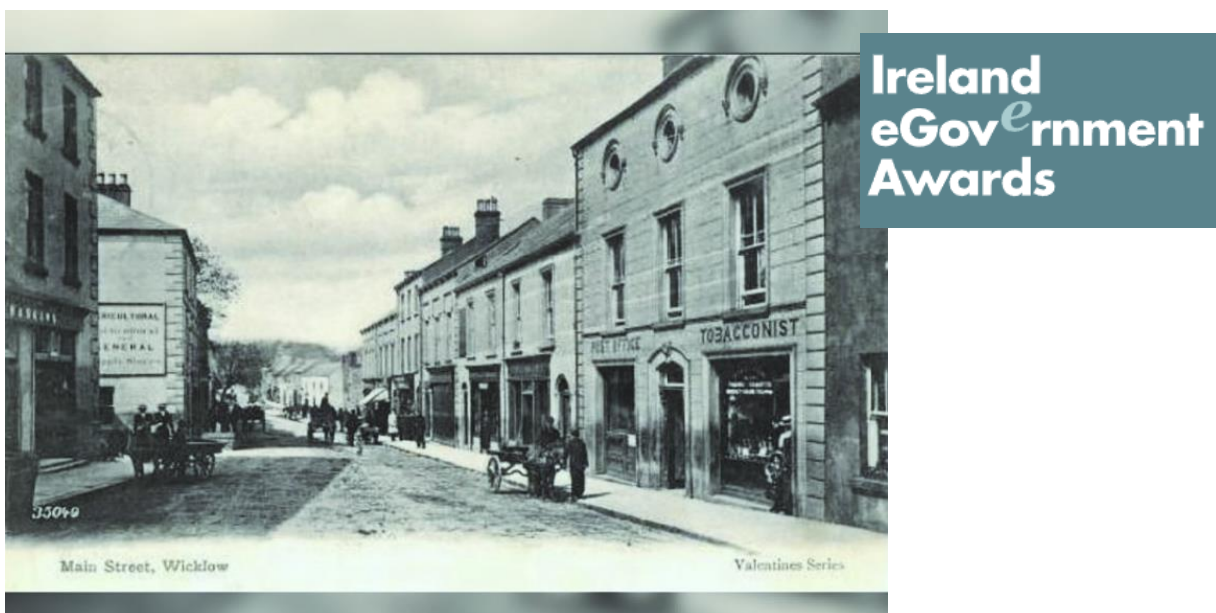
End of Summer Stars Celebration with Storyteller Niall de Búrca

We're excited to welcome renowned storyteller Niall de Búrca to Baltinglass, Blessington, and Dunlavin Libraries on Saturday, September 21st, to celebrate the end of our Summer Stars program. These events promise to be great fun for all ages, offering a wonderful way to conclude the summer with captivating stories that will delight and entertain the whole community.

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Wicklow County Council Archives Service: Finalist in Ireland eGovernment Awards



Ireland
eGov^ernment
Awards

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We are thrilled to announce that the Wicklow County Council Archives Service has been named a finalist in the Ireland eGovernment Awards under the Open Data category for our archives digitisation programme. This prestigious recognition highlights our commitment to making historical records accessible to the public. A big congratulations to Catherine in Archives for this outstanding achievement!

We are honored to be in such esteemed company in this category, alongside POBAL, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, and the Digital Repository of Ireland. Our digitised collections can be explored here: [Wicklow Archives Digitised Collections](#).

Arklow Library

Arklow Library's Monthly LEGO Club: A Space for All Children

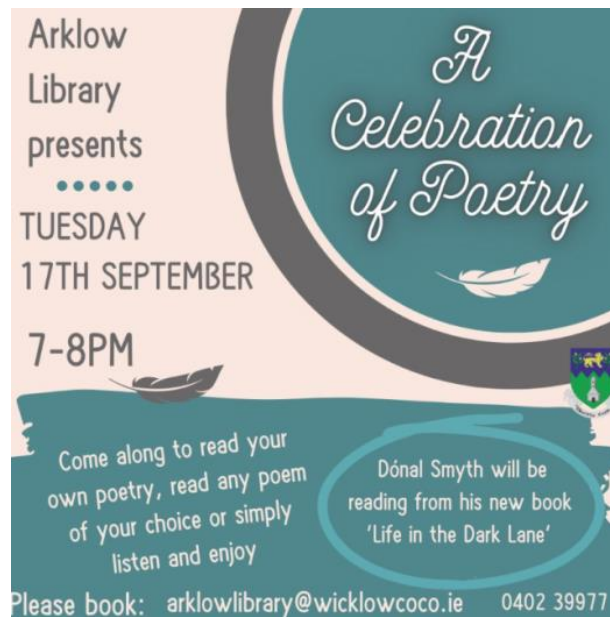
Every month, Arklow Library proudly hosts an all-inclusive LEGO Club, facilitated by our dedicated library staff. This engaging and creative environment is open to children of all abilities, fostering creativity, collaboration, and fun. Our LEGO Club not only provides an opportunity for imaginative play but also reinforces the library's commitment to inclusivity and community engagement.



Celebrating Poetry at Arklow Library

Join Arklow Library for an evening of poetry celebration! They are inviting everyone to read their own poetry, to share a favourite poem, or to simply relax and enjoy the experience. The event will feature a special reading by Dónal Smyth from his new book, *Life in the Dark Lane*. This evening is scheduled for Tuesday, 17th September, from 7 to 8 PM.

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Ballywaltrim Library

Author visit: Sheila O' Flanagan

Join us at Ballywaltrim Library on Wednesday, September 25th at 7pm for a special evening with bestselling author Sheila O'Flanagan, as she discusses her latest novel, *The Honeymoon Affair*. Known for her gripping storytelling and emotionally rich characters, Sheila is the author of several No. 1 bestsellers, including *What Happened That Night*, *The Missing Wife*, and *Her Husband's Mistake*.



STEM session at Ballywaltrim Library

On Saturday, September 7th, Ballywaltrim Library held a lively STEM session for young kids. The event included fun activities with Duplo Lego, Magformers, Jamanga, and Giant Connect-4. Children aged 18 months to 4 years had a great time playing and developing their logical thinking skills in a playful setting.

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Childrens **STEM** Morning
for children aged 18m - 4 years

Sat, Sept 7th
from 10 am

Ballywaltrim
Library

Blessington Library

Join the brick.ie team at Blessington Library on Saturday, September 7, 2024, for a lively local LEGO event! Starting at 10 am, the event will feature an exciting display of LEGO models and a brick pit where both children and adults can unleash their creativity by building their own LEGO creations. It's a fantastic opportunity for LEGO enthusiasts of all ages to come together and enjoy a fun-filled day.

LEGO® Exhibition
with brick.ie

Sat, Sept 7th
from 10 am

Blessington
Library

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Exhibition: Don Patricio, the Irishman Who Saved FC Barcelona

Discover the remarkable story of Patrick O'Connell, a Dubliner from Fitzroy Avenue who made significant contributions to football history. As the first Irishman to captain Manchester United, win La Liga with Real Betis, and lead Ireland to their first British Home Championship in 1914, O'Connell's achievements are legendary. In 1937, he famously rescued FC Barcelona from financial ruin during the Spanish Civil War by organizing the "Tour of Salvation" in Mexico and the USA, ensuring the club's survival. Despite his extraordinary accomplishments, O'Connell passed away penniless and spent 57 years in an unmarked grave in London. This exhibition, running from Tuesday, September 10th to Saturday, October 19th, celebrates his journey from the streets of Ireland to global football success.

Don Patricio, The Irishman who
Saved Barcelona FC
an exhibition

Sept 10th to Oct 9th
Library hours

 Blessington
Library

Join us at Blessington Library on September 27th for a Biodiversity Workshop where children aged 8 and up can build their own bug hotels! This fun, hands-on activity supports local biodiversity and teaches kids the importance of protecting our ecosystems.

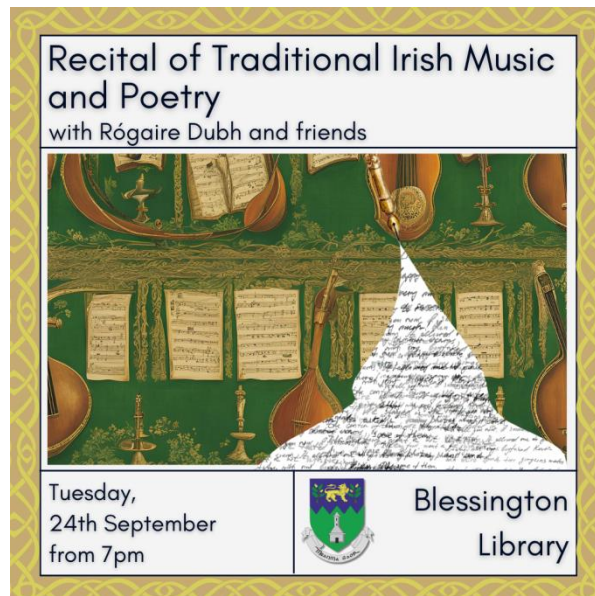
Biodiversity Workshop 
Build a bug hotel for children 8yrs +

Friday,
September **27th**
from **3.30 pm**

 Blessington
Library

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Come along to [#Blessington](#) Library on Tuesday, the 24th of September, from 7pm for a traditional music and poetry recital session with Rógaire Dubh and friends. All are welcome; no need to book!



****Autism Parent Support Group**** on the third Friday of each month at 10am, starting September 20th. This group is a welcoming space for parents of autistic children to connect, share experiences, and support one another. No booking is required —just come as you are and find community with others who understand your journey.



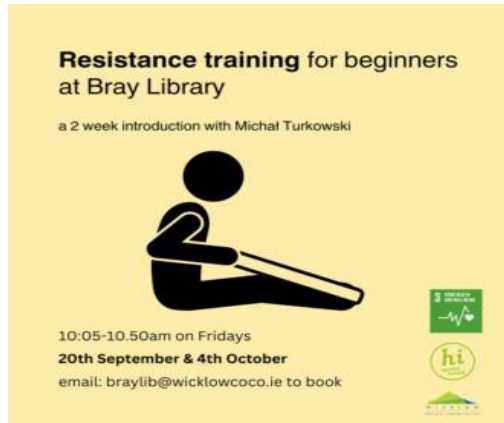
Healthy Ireland at Your Library – Bray Library (Eglinton Road)

Bray Library are hosting a Resistance Training introduction at Bray Library, perfect for beginners looking to get fit and have fun!

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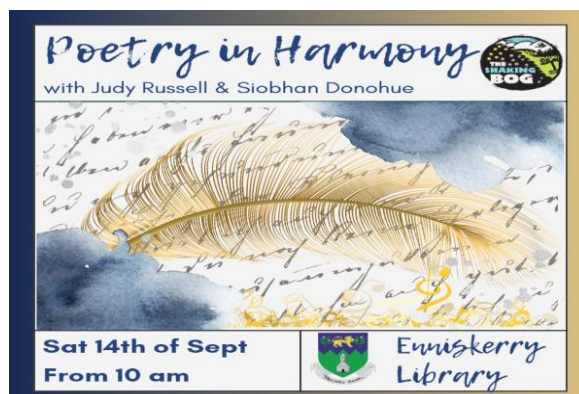
These adult classes will take place on Friday, September 20th, and Friday, October 4th, from 10:05 AM to 10:50 AM.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn the basics of strength training in a supportive environment.



Enniskerry Library

Enniskerry Library hosted an enchanting evening of poetry and music with Judy Russell and Siobhán Donohue. Judy Russell, a published poet from Glenree Valley, she draws much of her inspiration from the natural beauty around her. She was joined by musician Siobhán Donohue, who performed a new composition created specifically to accompany one of Judy's poems.



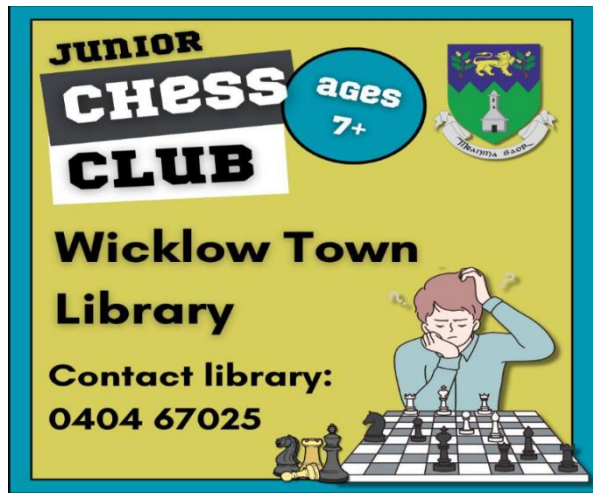
Wicklow Town

Library

Looking for a fun and educational activity for your child? Join our Junior Chess Club at Wicklow Town Library! Learn the classic game of chess, develop critical thinking skills, and make new friends. This club is perfect for children ages 7 and up.

Contact Wicklow Town Library for more information, spaces are limited. ☎0404 67025
✉wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie

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Citizens Information Service is offering free information and advice appointments remotely through a computer in [#WicklowTown](#) library. These appointments are Online but don't worry! The library staff will help you to connect with the Information Officer on the computer in a private space, to guide you with information and advice on rights and entitlements:



Access Citizens Information through the library



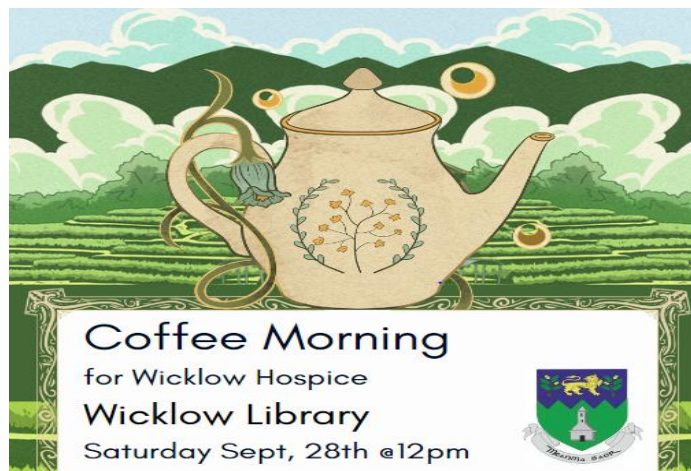
Know your rights.

Coffee Morning at Wicklow Town Library in aid of Wicklow Hospice

Legendary actor Brendan Gleeson is encouraging people across Wicklow to get behind a €2.4million national fundraising drive for 24 hospice and specialist palliative homecare providers that make up Together For Hospice, The National Hospice Movement, including Wicklow Hospice at Magheramore.

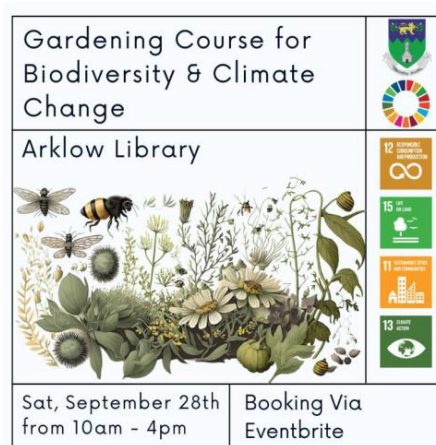
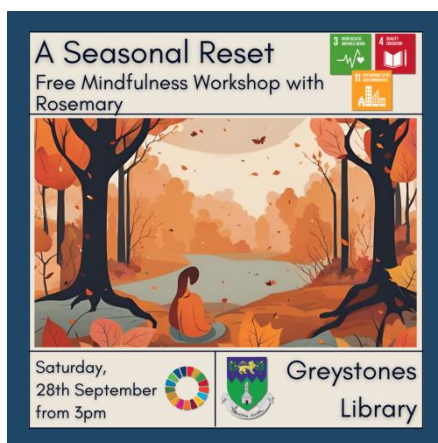
This year's Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice takes place on September 26th at Wicklow Library from 2-4 pm. Tea and Coffee sponsored by Bewleys and staff and local shops providing cakes etc. Classical Guitarist, Chien Buggle will provide some lovely tunes to while away the afternoon. All welcome.

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SDG Week 2024

As part of **SDG Week 2024**, Wicklow County Council Libraries hosted a series of community-focused events that highlighted sustainable practices and environmental awareness. Key activities included **Gardening for Biodiversity workshop** with horticulturist Aoife Munn, **Sustainable Sewing workshops** across eight libraries with Tamara Fiabane, and a lively **Line Dancing event** at Wicklow Town Library promoting health and well-being. At Blessington Library, children built their own bug hotels in a **Biodiversity Workshop**, learning about the importance of protecting ecosystems. These events have been featured on the **ESDN.eu events map**, which showcases SDG-related activities across Europe. Ireland has performed exceptionally well in terms of representation, with Wicklow County Council standing out as a key contributor. The events have helped raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals within the local community, engaging all age groups in fun and educational ways.



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Biodiversity Workshop 
Build a bug hotel for children **8yrs +**



Friday,
September **27th**
from **3.30 pm**



Blessington
Library


Bees for Beginners 
 with **Brian Murray** from **Bees of Ireland**





Saturday,
September **21st**
from **3 - 4 pm**



Wicklow Town
Library

Sustainable Sewing & Life Hacks 
 with **Tamara Fiabane**

REPAIR AND REWEAR 



Monday,
September **23rd**
from 10.30 am



Wicklow Town
Library

Line Dancing for Beginners 
 Exhibition for **Heritage Week**



Tuesdays,
Sept **17th, 24th** &
Oct **1st** from **11 -12 pm**




Wicklow Town
Library

Culture Night 2024



As part of Culture Night 2024, our libraries will be hosting a range of exciting events to celebrate and showcase the vibrant cultural scene in Wicklow. From engaging workshops and interactive exhibits to special performances, each library will offer unique experiences for visitors of all ages. Join us on this culture night to explore and enjoy the diverse cultural offerings in our communities.

For more details and a full schedule of events, visit [Culture Night Wicklow](https://www.wicklow.gov.ie/culture-night).


Arklow Portrait Marathon
 with artist **Conor Walton**




Fri, Sept 20th
from 10am - 10pm





Arklow
Library

Poetry from the Edge 
 from poets **Sean Borodale, Jane Clarke**
 and **Viviana Fiorentino**.



Fri, Sept 20th
from 7.30pm



Greystones
Library

Boots & Strings 
 An evening with **Kendal Moody**

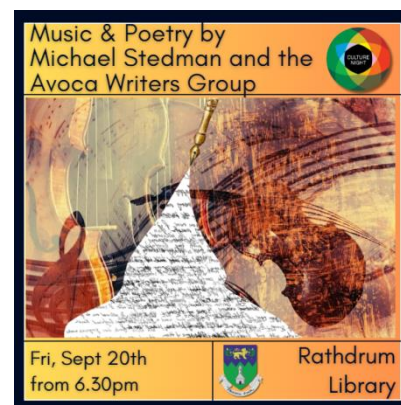
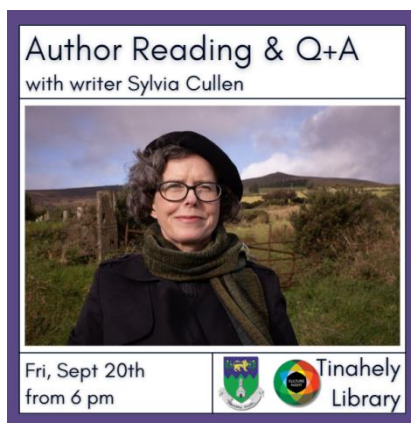
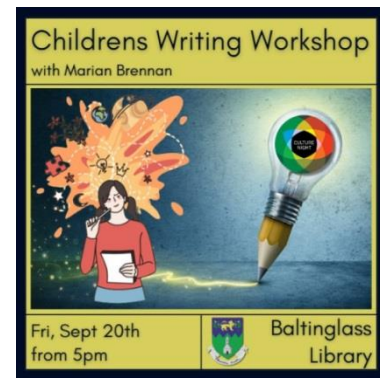
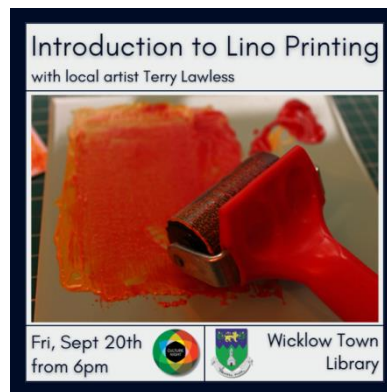
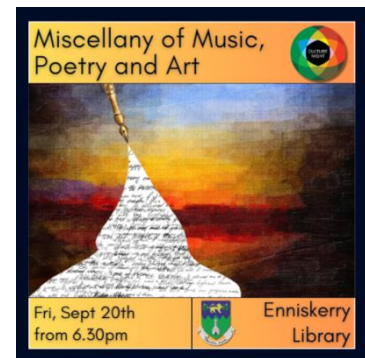


Fri, Sept 20th
from 6.30pm



Dunlavin
Library

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DigiLit: Unlocking Digital Skills at Your Library

We are excited to introduce our new DigiLit Digital Skills 1-to-1 Clinics across participating libraries! Whether you're thinking of buying a smartphone, need help with apps like BorrowBox, or want to learn how to access online services such as healthcare, welfare, or motor tax, our clinics are here to help. Open to adults over 18 and completely free of charge, these personalised sessions are designed to meet a wide range of digital needs. Participating libraries include Arklow, Blessington, Greystones, and Wicklow Town. Whatever digital skill you want to master, we've got the answer!

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Blessington Library
Mondays, between 12.30pm and 4.30pm
Thursdays, between 4pm and 7pm
Free 1 to 1 sessions (45 mins)
at your own pace with a qualified tutor
Open to adults age 18+

Arklow Library
Mondays, between 9.30pm and 11.30pm
Wednesdays, between 1.45pm and 3.45pm
Thursdays, between 1pm and 4pm
Free 1 to 1 sessions (45 mins)
Open to adults age 18+

Greystones Library
Mondays, between 10am and 12pm
Tuesdays, between 1pm and 4pm
Free 1 to 1 sessions (45 mins)
at your own pace with a qualified tutor
Open to adults age 18+

Wicklow Town Library
Wednesdays, between 10am and 2pm
Fridays, between 2pm and 5pm
Free 1 to 1 sessions (45 mins)
at your own pace with a qualified tutor
Open to adults age 18+



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Archives & Genealogy Service

Schools programme

The County Archives schools programme commences again this year with the distribution of schools resource packs to each secondary school in County Wicklow. The pack consists of a special guide produced by the Archives to support Leaving Certificate history students with their Research Study Report, as well as links to digital resources for students on Wicklow.ie. The pack also contains County Archives publications. School visits by the archivist will follow, beginning with a visit to Glenart College in September, where a presentation will be given on the collections in the Archives and how they can be used by students. County Archives schools resources are at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections/Educational-Resources>

Historical Societies

Wicklow County Archives welcomes visits from historical societies, as one of our key user groups. The West Wicklow Historical Society visited in September, where they explored our collections as well as receiving a presentation from the archivist on County Archives collections and projects.

eGovernment Awards

Wicklow County Archives is a finalist in the Ireland eGovernment Awards for our archives digitisation programme on Wicklow.ie. We are in good company in the Open Data category with Pobal, Department of Public Expenditure and the Digital Repository of Ireland.

Outdoor Recreation

Wicklow Coast Blueway

The Wicklow Coast Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities. Blueway promotion and links has commenced with a timetable of events and providers listed. Project completion is due in March 2025, with signage installation a priority and works currently at various stages of completion on the selected Blueway Nodes:

Greystones – Accessible boardwalk installed at South Beach. Works completed.

Brittas Bay – Accessible toilet, upgraded toilets, new larger water tank and new outdoor shower facilities. Car parking painting and tidy up. Works completed.

Wicklow Town – New outdoor showers, upgraded toilet facilities and path upgrading at Harbour area. Works are in progress during September.

Arklow – New path completed replacing the old boardwalk at South Beach. Licence Agreement and MOU finalised with Roadstone, landowner, with new facility works at the Cove to commence after the summer season, consisting of: installation of changing screens with seating area and a bike stand rack.

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS host

The next meeting will be held on the 17th October 2024.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS:

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ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	The TIDES Project team are providing support to Greystones MD with the preparation of CPO maps for the Cliff Walk realignment. The CPO process is progressing with the landowners, to be finalised before the end of 2025, with some works able to commence before then on sections of the trail.	Extension requested to DRCD
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Alter structure of tender to include specifics around access, materials and any other areas. New tender in progress.	In progress. Extension granted to August 2024.
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images below)</i>	Pitching from shoulder to bottom of Gully 90% complete. Improved drainage below the shoulder. Multiple Braid blockers added from Shoulder to lower section. Stone Pitching by hand, waterbars and crossdrains constructed. Helicopter airlift of materials to sections of the mountain booked for September, with closure of route during that time.	In progress. Extension to Oct'24
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment contractor appointed with delivery due in November.	In progress.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Russborough Parklands & House Trail</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter being installed at the end of the trail and new finger signage and plaque.	Trail completed.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	<i>Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area</i>	Upgrade of existing trail, boardwalk replacement with a path. Contractor works commencing in September. Play Equipment contractor appointed with installation due in November.	In progress.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners due.	In progress.
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play Equipment contractor appointed with installation due in November.	In progress

ORIS 2021- M3 – The Sugarloaf Repair Project – Images:



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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	Date for Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation plan for the area to include biodiversity and habitat screening, visitor number measurement, route identification and upgrade. Feasibility study during October.	30/06/2025
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Feasibility project to provide a realistic work plan with budget and time frame designed to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Tender and environmental consultation being completed.	30/06/2025
OR123WW01- CC791	Hollywood Natural Play Area	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment RFQ sent and contract appointment due shortly.	31/10/2025
OR123WW02 - CC792	Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing.	Completed
OR123WW03 - CC793	Knockree Bridge	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge.	Completed
OR123WW04 - CC794	Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between the bridges over a track of some 200m.	31/10/2025
OR123WW05 - CC795	Three Wells and Cushbawn Link	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail.	31/10/2025
OR123WW06 - CC796	Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route is in progress.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 - CC903	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Enhancing parking, repair to trail surfaces, new trailheads.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 - CC904	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. In progress with Greystones MD Engineer.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 - CC905	Tinahely New Loop Trail	Additional spur to loop walks linking Coolafunshogue, Curravanish and Ballyshonog. 10km route to Tinahely village.	30/06/2026

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Funding

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has been awarded the following funding by Sport Ireland under the Dormant Account scheme:

Funding Measure	Total	Reference
Community Sports Hub	€47,500	Rathdrum - €35,000 activity spend & €12,500

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		This funding is towards activating Rathdrum as an Outdoor Recreation Hub in accordance with the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy
Her Moves	€6,000	This allocation is to activate Teenage Girls into becoming physically active
Volunteer Supports	€20,000	This fund is for the Training and Education of Volunteers in Sport in Wicklow
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	€25,000	This fund is to expand a Trail Running Programme called Trail Crú that is currently running in West Wicklow. This programme will deliver running and trail running activities and navigation training in the Ipas and Ukrainian centres in Wicklow

Staffing

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is now recruiting for the following positions:

- Programme Manager at Grade 6
- European Fund Officer at Grade 5

Full details are available at [Home - Wicklow Local Sports Partnership \(wicklowlsp.ie\)](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie)

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has recruited a new Sports Inclusion Disability Officer who took up post on Monday 9th of September.

Katie Taylor Bursary Award

The Katie Taylor bursary award is now open for applications from 1st year college students living in Wicklow.

[THIRD LEVEL KATIE TAYLOR BURSARY OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS - Wicklow Local Sports Partnership \(wicklowlsp.ie\)](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie)

Women in Sport

Kiltegan Women's Shed light exercise programme

A 6-week light exercise programme is currently being delivered to Kiltegan's women's shed in St Tegan's Hall, Kiltegan. 29 women are attending ranging from 40 to 80 years.

Pickleball for Women in Roundwood

32 women are attending a 4-week Pickleball programme in An Tochar GAA hall in Roundwood. The Pickleball coach Sinead Nolan is delivering fundamental skills and match play to the group.

Learn to Swim for Women

Coral Leisure Arklow are delivering an 8-week introductory swimming programme for women looking to improve their basic skills. 32 women are attending the learn to swim sessions building their confidence in water

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Arklow Sports Hub

Outdoor gym taster session Arklow

An introductory taster session of the outdoor gym equipment at the Arklow Duck Pond.

Gym for 55+years

A 6-week programme targeting older adults is being rolled out in Coral Leisure Arklow.

Introduction to Pilates

Jenny Fortune from Genuine Fitness is delivering a 6-week Introduction to Pilates programme. This course is designed to build a strong foundation in Pilates, helping participants improve their flexibility, strength, and overall well-being.

Rathdrum Sports Hub

Park fit Rathdrum

Rochelle Cawley is delivering a 6-week exercise programme in Parnell Park Rathdrum. 20 participants are attending. The class is a mix of strength, cardio and flexibility workouts.

HSE Grant Ais Agreement Funding:

Sheds on the Move with Kilcoole Men's Shed

An 8-week physical activity programme started Monday 2nd September with Kilcoole Men's Shed. There are 12 men taking part in this programme. This programme will help with participants overall fitness.

Chronic Condition Programmes:

Prime Time of Life Programme

Our 12-week Prime Time of Life programme finished last week. This programme helped with participants balance, strength, coordination and cardio fitness. We had 35 participants complete the programme with inspiring results.

September Chronic Condition Programmes:

- Activator Poles for Neuro Conditions, Bray
- Tai Chi for Respiratory Conditions, Bray
- Disco Yoga, Recovery Village, Newcastle Hospital

Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	13th August 2024
Safeguarding 1	Online	10th September 2024
Safeguarding 1	Online	24th September 2024

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Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (19/09/2024) outstanding stands at **450 – 2.87%** of total stock of 15,637. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults.

The former public lighting maintenance contractor has left the Irish market, with a final date of 24th July. A new contractor is expected to commence works in Wicklow imminently.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	6	1	4	16
Cable Fault (Attended)			4		1	5
ESB Interface Required			1	1		2
ESB Required (Attended)	16	15	9	15	19	74
Knock Down (Attended)	1			1		2
Materials Required		4	7	1	1	13
No Supply		1	1	1		3
On Hold	4	4	13	1	11	33
Submitted	24	49	104	30	75	282
TMR	5		7		2	14
Tree Cutting Required			5		1	6
Grand Total	52	76	157	51	114	450
Percentage Not Working	1.68%	3.13%	4.63%	1.74%	2.98%	2.87%

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.

Periodic Speed Limits

PWS Signs Ltd. has substantially completed the erection of the signage for the periodic speed limits at schools. They are currently working on a snag list.

Speed Limits

The erection of poles for the change in rural local road default limits has commenced.

Noise Action Plan

The Wicklow Noise Action Plan is currently going through public consultation.

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Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
Solicitors Queries	838	1026	699	111	132	118
Road closure applications	78	42	41	0	3	2
Road Opening licences	1414	1956	913	98	136	108
Abnormal Load applications	60	54	37	3	4	5

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred options for sections A and C took place in November 2022.

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

The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie.

Following the public consultation further environmental studies and traffic analysis have been completed on elements of the emerging preferred option. As a result, further consideration is being given to the preferred options at J8 Kilmacanogue, J7 Bray south (including Herbert Road access) and J6 Fassaroe (including the R117 access).

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed in November 2023. This information has been reviewed by the Design Team and the final design option has been prepared. Direct consultation has taken place with the affected residents/landowners. The procurement of a contractor for the construction works is currently being progressed by the project team.

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. The next steps are to further develop the options in order to establish the emerging preferred option.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Drainage works and the resurfacing of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove were completed in May 2024. Two other sections of the N81 received surfacing renewal works namely at N81 Trooperstown Blessington and N81 Mullycagh Lower. Works were fully completed by end May 2024.

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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) are being prepared in advance of tendering for a contractor for construction.

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Rides at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) and Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) are being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

N11/R772 Johnstown North/Regional Road

Road safety works involving the design and installation of a vehicle restraint system have been progressing throughout 2024, at the interface between the R772 Regional Road and the adjacent M11 motorway at Johnstown just North of Junction 20 on the M11. TII provided approval for WCC to proceed with construction contract award in August 2024. The works are programmed to mobilise to site in early October 2024 with an anticipated 8-week programme.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, was submitted this month to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for review. Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following completion of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

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 refused permission by ABP.

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

The Tender for the Chapel Road Project was issued on the 01st August 2024 with 19th September the closing date for tender submissions. On successful completion of the tender process construction is expected to start on site around the end of Q4 2024 / start of Q1 2025. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. There is active engagement between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners and a Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

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Wicklow Greystones Greenway

The Phase 2 Route Corridor Option Report is currently under review with a meeting taking place in August between Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis and Irish Rail representatives to review the greenway coastal route option and its interaction with the existing rail line. A 4-week public consultation was completed in May 2024 for the emerging route corridors. The project was presented at the April Council meeting with two public events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during April. Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project.

Blessington eGreenway

Wicklow County Council were notified in August 2024 that An Bord Pleanála has decided to determine the planning application without an oral hearing. Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we had formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála granted an extension to the submission deadline for additional information to January 29th 2024. As this information has been deemed significant additional information by ABP we were required to undertake a public consultation period taking place in May and June 2024 for a 6 week period and are currently waiting on an update from ABP.

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 works are progressing well on site, with 400m of footpath completed and public lighting has been installed. Drainage and accommodation works are ongoing.

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. Footpath and cycle track on eastern side are largely complete with kerbing and base laid for cycle track on western side. Upgrade works have commenced on Knockmore roundabout.

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. Works have commenced on the construction of the laneway linking the school to Church Lane.

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. Works have commenced on site and are ongoing.

Project Updates

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. David Walsh Civil Engineering has commenced works on site. David Walsh Civil Engineering commenced ground works in Mid-February. Main drainage works have been completed. Paving has been installed along Quinsborough Road and has commenced on Adelaide Road. Works are progressing on schedule.

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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. Discussion is ongoing with the landowner on the purchase of lands for the construction of the vehicle set down/parking on the northern side of the rail lines. A design review is currently being undertaken and Part 8 report is being prepared for submission to the Council Members.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The Preliminary Design has been prepared by DBFL Consulting Engineers and submitted to the NTA for approval, comments received from NTA. Traffic surveys have been carried out and junction modelling is underway.

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 - 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. The design has been agreed with NTA and works have commenced.
- **Phase 2 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works** - The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Tenders were invited for contractors to carry out the upgrade works. Tender assessment has commenced. It is hoped that a contractor will be appointed in September.
- **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. The preliminary design has been prepared by Arup Consulting Engineers and has been issued to the NTA for comment.

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. Preliminary Design has been prepared and issued to the NTA for approval.

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Meeting held with landowner to discuss accommodation works. A design has been prepared and issued to the landowner for agreement. A contractor has been appointed and it is hoped to begin construction in October and completion in Q4 2024.

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work on 2 new bridges (Carrigeenduff and New Bridge) was completed in August. Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Oghill) in early September.

Winter Maintenance

2025 season commences in mid-October. Draft of 2025 Winter Maintenance Plan has started.

Surface Dressing

Works completed on August 14th. Subsequently, 1 job and 1 repair completed in September. Another successful season considering the poor weather and difficulties encountered. 41 locations surfaced. 10 were double surfaced. 53 calendar days to do 37 workdays. 11 days rained off. 5 days technical issues. 68.7 km length of road covering an area of 365,000 m².

Machinery Yard

Large truck (HCV) tender for 4 vehicles was advertised in early September. Pick-up truck tender for 20 vehicles to be advertised in the coming days.

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Lease contract (various size vehicles) to be advertised in late September.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	679,096.21
Greystones Municipal District	208,506.39
Wicklow Municipal District	314,740.92
Arklow Municipal District	162,929.19
Parking Permits	62,793.66
Parking Fines	415,245.80
Wicklow County Council	1,843,312.17

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- 1 offered awaiting answer

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 22 Houses – Phase 1

- 58 applied
- 29 eligible
- 29 offered
- 6 accepted

Phase 2

The Scheme was re-advertised on Wednesday 21st February in both the Wicklow People and Irish Independent. Portal opened on the 6th March 2024 until the 17th April 2024 for applications to be submitted.

- 80 applications received
- 32 offers made (letters sent)
- 15 income too high (letters sent)
- 1 Withdrawn
- 6 accepted

All applications exhausted, no more offers to be made from this portal all applicants have been notified.

Rathnew – 44 dwellings

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- Advertised - Wicklow Times is Monday 27th May 2024 and Wicklow People is Wednesday 29th May 2024.
- Portal opened from the 10th June 12noon until the 22nd July 20024. Offers have been made. 42 accepted awaiting answers on 2. Currently notifying those that did not get an offer.

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court, Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Part 8 approved
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Contractor appointed
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor appointed
Rehills, Bray	193	Not continuing due to high estimated costs
Burnaby, Greystones	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Part 8 commenced Aug 2024.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Part 8 approved

Traveller Accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date Nov 2024
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Final discussions on design taking place with the families.

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2023 has been carried out and the 2024 have commenced.

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Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Work has commenced on 90 retrofits, programmed to be completed by the end of the year.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	3	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Rathnew	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Greystones	8	Delivery due Q4 2024	WCC
Wicklow	3	2 Delivered Q1 2024, 1 Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Rathdrum	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Delgany	8	3 Delivered Q3, 3 delivered Q3, 2 due Q1 2025	WCC
Blessington	6	4 Delivery Q2 2024, 2 Delivered Q3	WCC
Rathnew	4	Delivery due Q3 2024	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2024-2026. 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 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivery Due Q3 2024	CALF
Greystones	5	Delivered Q3 2024	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2024	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 31st July 2024.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated. Approved Housing Bodies also make applications for CALF acquisitions to address a particular housing need.

CALF Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	2	Delivered February 2024	CALF
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CALF

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

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	1	Delivery February 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible completed in April.
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Section 179A commenced 27th March 2024. Display period ended 27th May 2024.
- 1A Mill Road – renovation plus construction of 3 houses. Section 179A commenced 12th June 2024. Display period ended 12th August 2024.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Allocated
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Ready for allocation
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete – design team procured
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Contact on site - expected completion date Q2.2024

Vacant Homes Scheme

Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2024.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
2.	100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
3.	41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
4.	30 South Green, Arklow.	Tender awarded.
5.	5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
6.	6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.

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8.	53 South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
10.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
11.	108 Charnwood, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
12.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
13.	36 Wheatfield Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
14.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Compensation/Vesting Still Pending in the PRAI.
15.	27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	Negotiations under way.

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications	139
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	10
Applications Approved	68
Applications paid	16
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/payment	8
Applications withdrawn/Rejected	37

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely

Number of Sites	5
Letters of Offer Issued	6
Number of applications	7

Emergency Services

Fire Service content for Chief Executive's Report

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Operational Fire Statistics August 2024

There were **102 incidents** attended during the month of August 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **131 occasions** including **3 mobilisations** in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of August 2024 **increased by 54% (plus 46 mobilisations) on the preceding month** which had unusually low incident numbers (July 2024: 85 mobilisations). There was an increase in domestic fires (+8 mobilisations), RTCs (+11 mobilisations) and vehicle fires on motorways (+4 mobilisations). There was an increase in urban malicious fires (+7), Garda assists (+4) alarm activations (+4) and malicious rural fires (+3).

Operational activity for the month of August 2024 **decreased by 5% (minus 7 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (August 2023, 138 mobilisations). Year on year there was an increase in mobilisations to vehicle fires on motorways (+6 mobilisations) gorse fires (+6), ambulance assists (+5), false alarms good intent (+7), malicious false alarms (+5) but there was a decrease in malicious fires in urban areas (-13) and mobilisations to other counties (-7).

Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents total):

- 19/08/2024 Arklow crew attended an outdoor fire at Clones Upper, Castletown.
- 23/08/2024 Carnew crew attended an “ambulance assist” medical emergency call at Money, Askamore.

General Update

- Following the appointment of a new Assistant Chief Fire Officer in June, a second Assistant Chief Fire Officer will join in September.
- New fire stations for Baltinglass and Dunlavin have proceeded to Part 8 Planning, following a presentation to Baltinglass MD on 22nd July 2024.

Fire Prevention Statistics August 2024

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	3		2		7
Revised FSCs	2		0		3
FSC 7-Day Notice	10		2		7
Regularisation FSCs	0		2		1
DACs	10		13		7
Revised DACs	0		0		0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	1	0		0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 26 planning files during the month of August 2024.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 25 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	47	8	2	0	0
Circuit	1	0	0	0	0

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Dangerous Substances Act	0	1	1	0	0
Explosive Act	0	0	0	0	0

Building Control Statistics August 2024

Commencement Notices for August 2024:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 36

- 1 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 28 Opt Out Declarations
- 5 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 78 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 75 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 27 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
1 with Compliance Documentation (4%)

22 are Opt Out (81%)

2 Without Compliance Documentation (7%)

2 Seven Day Notice (7%)

- 28 Valid Commencement Notices
- 15 new build residential Units and additional 15 Extensions
- 3 Non Res new builds
 - 6 Invalidated CNs

- **Certificates of Completion processed in August 2024**

- 23 New No. of CCC submitted
- 19 Required Revised Information
- 25 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 127 new Residential units and additional 6 Apartments
- 2 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

25 No. Validated CCCs related to;

1 No. CCCs submitted in June 2024

5 No. CCCs submitted in July 2024

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**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

15 new residential houses and 15 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 127 newly completed residential units plus 2 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in August. There has been an increase in both Commencement Notice particularly in Opt Out Submissions and Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions compared to the same period in 2023.

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 August to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in August for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 75% of Commencement Notice submissions & 86% 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. Building Control have observed numerous Commencement Notice Submissions that are currently 'Revised Information' status on BCMS and awaiting validation.

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. 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

- Civil Defence Volunteers attended the Arklow RNLI Celebration of RNLI 200 years saving lives.
- Our Volunteers were on Hand to assist with the Fleadh Cheoil Music Festival Wexford. Musical acts, Competitions and Performances being held all over Wexford town. We provided assistance to Wexford Civil Defence in the form of medical response.
- Tinahely Agricultural Show, Wicklow County Council host the best of Wicklow Tent where local services get the opportunity to display their capabilities and interact with members of the public, our volunteers were on hand to promote the work of Civil Defence and interact with members of the public.
- Some of our volunteers were on hand to assist with the Swim Ireland Greystones Swim Event providing medical response.
- Her Outdoors Beach Festival Greystones a festival celebrating women in sport. There was taster sessions in tennis, handball, tug of war, volleyball, kayaking, SUP, rowing and rugby. There was also a water safety talk and face painting. Civil Defence assisted with medical response.
- In our training centre in Greystones, we hosted an open day for applicants and Defence Forces to converse with Civil Defence teams and learn about technology and discuss current search and rescue operations.
- Our volunteers spent 2 days providing medical cover for the Gravity Enduro mountain bike event on Carrick Mountain, Glenealy.

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- Irish Beach sprints championships consisted took place at Brittas Bay Beach where our volunteer provided medical response.
- Our instructors were on hand to run courses in manual handling and cardiac first response, maintaining essential training for our volunteers.



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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in August 2024:

- Interviews Assistant Staff Officer
- Interviews Clerical Officer
- Interviews Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
- Interviews School Warden Blessington

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
Managerial/Administrative	318	319	323	337

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Professional/Technical	143	150	150	146
Outdoor	263	265	261	259
Temporary/Seasonal	64	43	44	87
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	793	782	783	834

* Increase in Temp/Seasonal category due to lifeguards commencing (lifeguards appointment on 1st June 2024)

Freedom of Information

August 2024: 6	August 2023: 7
January – August 2024: 89	January – August 2023: 77

Ombudsman Requests

August 2024: 1	August 2023: 20
January – August 2024: 12	January – August 2023: 6

Press Releases

August 2024 – 8

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Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received. The processing of information received from electors who were written to at the start of the year requesting missing Eircodes and other relevant information is continuously ongoing on the register itself to improve and update the data sets on the Register.

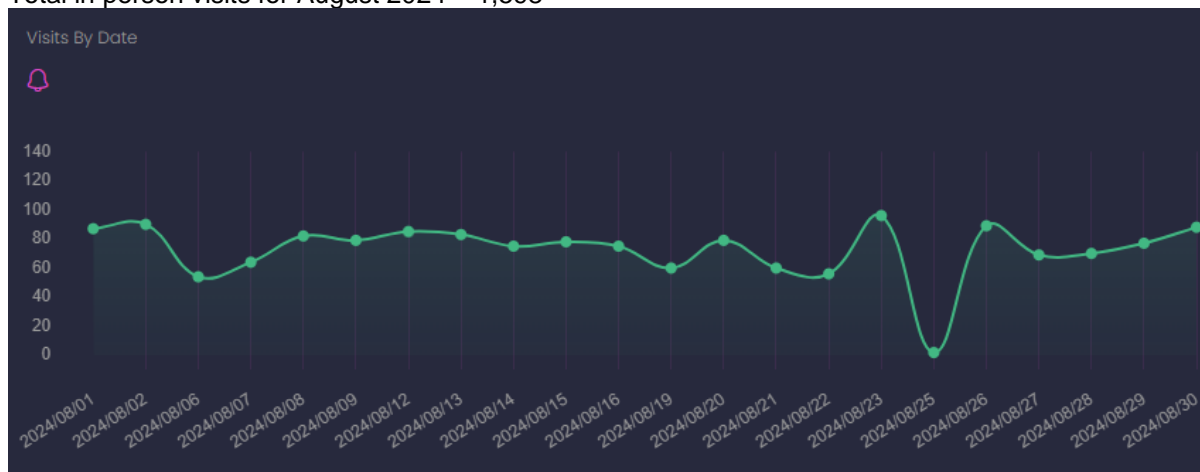
The Franchise Section is commencing work to contact ‘unable to establish’ electors, the annual contact of nursing homes and Defence Forces will commence in the coming weeks. Assistance is also being provided by the Franchise Section to the Department of HLGH and AnPost in relation to testing and updating their records, particularly in terms of Eircodes.

Wicklow County Council prepared a Draft Polling Scheme which takes into account the changes made by the Electoral Commission. The Draft Polling Scheme was on display up to the 19th August 2024 and the new Polling Scheme creating the Wicklow and Wicklow-Wexford Constituency was adopted at the Council meeting on the 2nd September 2024.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – August			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	n/a	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,813
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,238	Revenue Transactions	1,344
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	60	Housing Counter Visits	535

Total in person visits for August 2024 – 1,598



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Energy

Action	Energy Savings	Carbon Savings	Simple Payback before Grant (Years)	Project Status	Funding
	(kWh)	(T CO ₂)			
Bray Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, re-piping, replacing radiators and re-plumbing	350,000	71	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Appliance Bay Doors (5)				Works Complete	
Window Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	350,000	71	8		
County Buildings					
Air-to-water heat pump	230,000	47	10	Works Commenced	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Enabling Works				Works Commenced	
Total	230,000	47	10		
Bray Civic Offices					
Air-to-water heat pumps replacing gas boiler	120,000	24	8	Works Commenced	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Total	120,000	24	8		
Wicklow Civil Defence (Greystones)					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacng gas boiler	10,000	5	7	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	5	7		
Wicklow Town Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing electric storage heating	10,000	3	8	Works Complete	Wicklow Fire Service
Window & External Door Upgrade				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	3	8		
Blessington Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing gas boiler	24,657	5	13.5	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	

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Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Upgrade Lighting to LED				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	24,657	5	13.5		
Arklow Recycling Centre					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
Total	20,000	3	4		
Arklow Municipal District Depot					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Commenced	WCC Climate Action Fund
Total	20,000	3	4		

Wicklow County Council - Energy Office

- ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council
 - Stage 1 Certification: Complete
 - Stage 2 Certification: Complete and recommended for ISO certification
- SEAI Energy Awards 2024 – Wicklow County Council is a finalist in the Energy in Buildings category for the decarbonisation of Bray Fire Station

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST AUGUST 2024							
	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	28,882,369	53,458,479	54%	(31,713,740)	(57,560,824)	55%	(2,831,371)
Road Transport & Safety	12,849,776	25,608,536	50%	(7,786,265)	(18,366,119)	42%	5,063,510
Water Services	3,169,010	4,809,015	66%	(3,787,998)	(5,729,978)	66%	(618,988)
Development Management	17,001,356	15,877,727	107%	(13,000,553)	(10,024,717)	130%	4,000,803
Environmental Services	9,242,371	15,632,861	59%	(1,442,672)	(4,087,049)	35%	7,799,699
Recreation and Amenity	6,241,163	9,440,065	66%	(631,245)	(1,079,718)	58%	5,609,918
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,441,611	2,283,534	63%	(575,119)	(1,104,228)	52%	866,492
Miscellaneous Services	6,464,883	9,997,953	65%	(8,452,897)	(13,219,706)	64%	(1,988,015)
Central Management Charges	15,067,360	22,890,755	66%	(773,424)	(1,050,000)	74%	14,293,937
Local Government Fund				(11,253,801)	(16,880,701)	67%	(11,253,801)
Commercial Rates				(21,021,299)	(31,045,885)	68%	(21,021,299)
	100,359,898	159,998,925	63%	(100,439,012)	(160,148,925)	63%	(79,114)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st August 2024 to 31st August 2024.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST AUGUST 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/08/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	13,566,712	34,257,286	(22,254,758)	(497,959)
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	11,333,203	(3,677,881)	(363,500)	(34,259,933)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	901,868	(1,001,293)	25,000	(6,604,477)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	10,277,029	(24,530,780)	(209,000)	(46,500,580)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	2,676,629	(2,174,603)	(390,000)	(824,673)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	3,661,822	(1,104,275)	(94,000)	318,674
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	339,771	76,397	(200,067)	(1,830,511)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	(347,591)	(746,369)	(739,906)	(12,244,511)
	(82,091,754)	63,100,017	(55,413,563)	(2,469,432)	(76,874,732)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST AUGUST 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/08/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	31,556,899	0	10,129	0	35,024,394	(23,954,505)	11,069,889	604,506	70%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	12,062,914	0	(5,518)	0	15,492,301	(12,031,760)	3,460,541	0	78%
Housing Loans	276,649	1,446,966	0	0	0	1,723,615	(1,448,661)	274,954	0	84%

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 2024

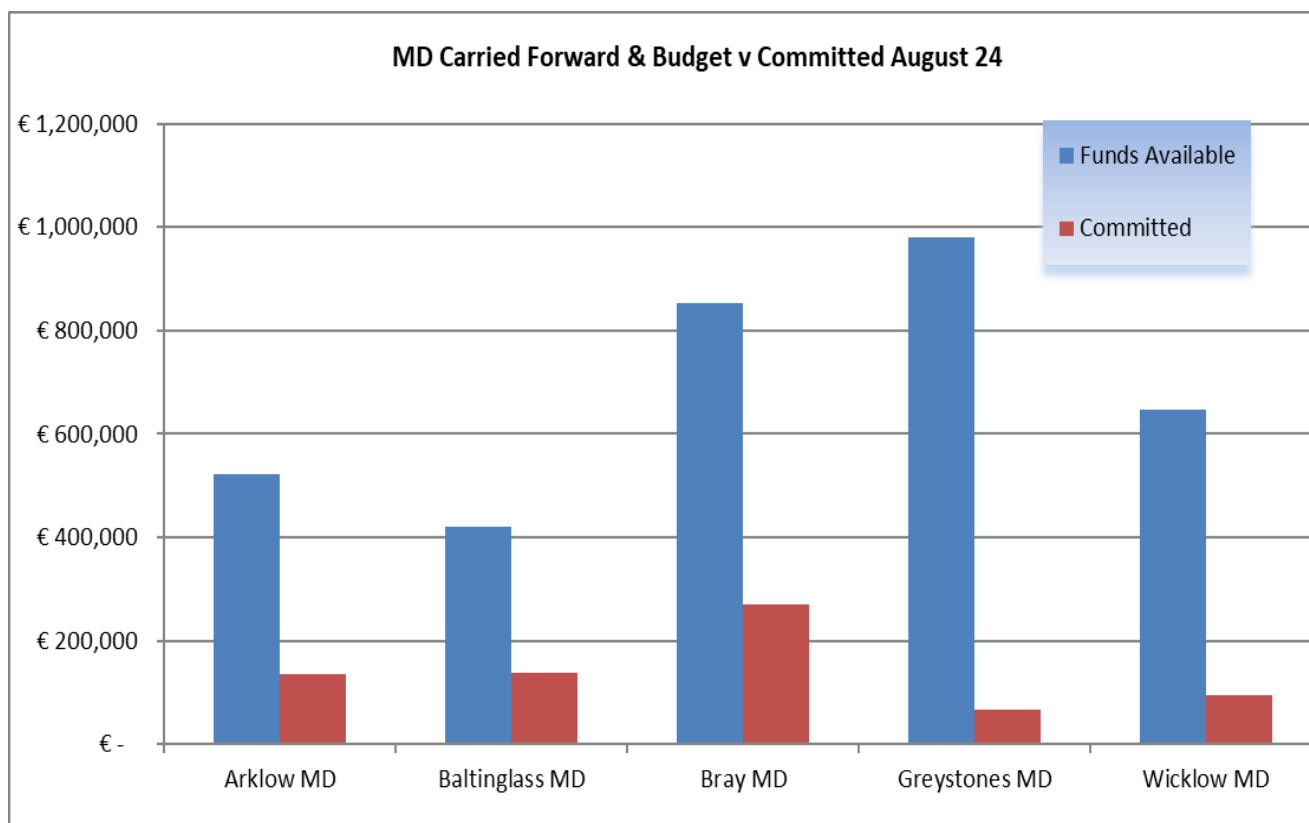
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2024 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	223,028	223,028	367,370	223,028	223,028	1,259,482
Total	284,028	261,028	440,870	261,028	265,028	1,511,982

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '24 and expenditure for 2024 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	238,944	284,028	522,972	135,233	387,739
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	137,838	283,365
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	270,620	581,916
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	65,259	916,360
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	93,272	553,192
Total	1,912,812	1,511,982	3,424,794	702,222	2,722,572

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Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026

The Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026 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 8th 2024. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,375,000	130,150,000	136,500,000	374,025,000	-	30,000,000	333,083,500	10,941,500	374,025,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	20,331,000	45,830,000	58,400,000	124,561,000	31,001,000	7,000,000	69,360,000	17,200,000	124,561,000
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	8,271,000	4,849,507	8,435,000	21,555,507	2,172,376	-	15,623,131	3,760,000	21,555,507
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4,990,000	25,370,000	23,997,000	54,357,000	-	-	47,867,000	6,490,000	54,357,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	8,467,791	9,595,000	18,017,000	36,079,791	12,773,291	-	21,806,500	1,500,000	36,079,791
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	4,000,000	12,210,000	20,400,000	36,610,000	3,127,500	-	30,507,500	2,975,000	36,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	700,000	500,000	500,000	1,700,000	-	-	-	1,700,000	1,700,000
OVERALL TOTAL	154,234,791	228,604,507	266,349,000	649,188,298	49,074,167	37,000,000	518,547,631	44,566,500	649,188,298

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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

- A new **Eircode API** from AutoAddress has been setup for the iReg application.
- The latest version of **LabInfo** has been updated for all users in Environment.
- Commenced a project to streamline **Slurry Land Banks** applications to better integrate into the Environment GIS system.
- Have produced several beta versions of how the organisation can display draft LAP chapters online through the **Consultation Hub**.
- Have commenced server **migration** of GIS systems and applications to a new server,
- Extracted an **EIRCODE** layer from latest Geodirectory downland (2024 Q2) and uploaded to AGOL for integration into various applications.
- **Active Travel** - Incorporated recent NTA wms' into our Roads GIS application.
- Prepared **CFRAM** layers of Future scenarios flood mapping for Housing department.
- **Biodiversity Department:**
Prepared various maps for Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
Protected Areas Map of County Wicklow – source NPWS data
River Catchments Map of County Wicklow – source EPA data
- **Local Area Plans:**
Map preparation for Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole and Wicklow Town-Rathnew (Green Infrastructure & Zoning – Forward Planning).

Infrastructure

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