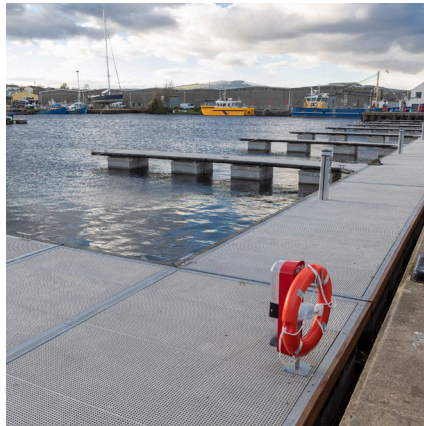


# ANNUAL REPORT



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

# 20 23





## Mission Statement

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“To improve the quality of life for the people of County Wicklow, drive economic and community development, adhering to the principles of sustainable development, social inclusion, human rights and equality and accessibility for all. We will maximize the use of resources to deliver efficient, effective and value for money services, be open and receptive to change, working in partnership with all our stakeholders”



## FOREWORD

### by the Cathaoirleach

As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2023. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services. Wicklow County Council provides and funds a broad range of services including; housing, roads, playgrounds, libraries, fire stations, sports facilities, arts centres, recycling centres, as well as serving as a platform for local democracy.

Wicklow County Council received €1,600,845 in 2023 to develop seven community projects across the county under the Government's Community Recognition Fund.

The Community Recognition Fund supports communities across the country that are hosting people from Ukraine and other countries. The towns of Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Rathdrum and Greystones and Wicklow all benefited from this initiative.

Wicklow County Council has welcomed a €75,000 funding boost under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF). The Council has a long-standing partnership with Healthy Ireland and has worked collaboratively to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone living in the County. The funds were allocated to initiatives that supported both positive mental health and decrease those at risk of poverty and basic deprivation and targeted at all age groups, particularly children, adolescents and young people, older people, those living in disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities.

Some 1,300 participants participated in the EcoTrail Wicklow race, which took place in September. A remarkable 46 different nationalities were represented.

Four community groups from Wicklow were successful at the National Pride of Place awards on 10th November. These annual awards are known as the Oscars for community groups, and they highlight the tremendous work being done by community groups all over the island of Ireland. The village of Hollywood won Gold in the Population 0-500 category while Avoca Village won Silver in the Population Category 500-1500. Greystones Tidy Towns also won Silver in the Creative Place Category and Rewild Wicklow took home Gold in the Special Award category.

Wicklow's first ever Disability and Inclusion Strategy was launched in 2023. Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) has been working towards this launch since the committee was established in 2020.



The Strategy outlines the various ways that Wicklow County Council and its partners intend to make the services they provide equitable and accessible to all. It aims to ensure that persons with a disability have an equal opportunity to pursue their ambitions, realise their potential and live fulfilling lives. It also seeks to build on the progress made by Wicklow County Council and many other partner agencies and individuals.

As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, I welcome the development and publication of the second Age Friendly Strategy for County Wicklow. There have been many beneficial initiatives and developments undertaken across the county, resulting in improved quality of life of our older citizens, since the signing of the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities in 2014. Given our growing population of older people, this strategy is key to current and future planning, across all policy areas, supporting older people to age in place. The vision of County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy is to make County Wicklow a great place to grow old, where older people are respected and valued, living full lives, ageing in place within their communities.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Elected Members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the six Strategic Policy Groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council.

I would also like to take the opportunity to record my appreciation to Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman and to the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy  
Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council



## FOREWORD by the Chief Executive



It gives me great pleasure as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to welcome the publication of the 2023 Annual Report and to highlight a number of achievements over the last 12 months which are further contained within this report.

During 2023 the Council continued to deliver significant efficiencies and innovation, while focusing on its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, in line with the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, ensuring Wicklow remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit.

During the year County Wicklow received €2.5m to assist in ending long-term vacancy and dereliction in the towns of Wicklow and Arklow.

Clermont Screen Hub, a new facility for content creators located at Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew, opened officially in October.

The Screen Hub is part of a strategy by Wicklow County Council to boost job creation in the film, TV and content creation industry in County Wicklow and the surrounding Mid East region.

Another milestone was achieved in 2023, with the signing of contracts between Wicklow County Council and Ayesa Consulting Engineers to progress the detailed design and construction for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029 was also adopted this year, The LECP positions Wicklow as a county prepared to harness its many unique physical, natural and human resources, in order to improve the quality of life for all who live, work and visit the county, as the county moves into the future with confidence.

During 2023 Wicklow County Council held an awards night to honour 137 employees who between them have over 4,000 years of local authority service.

The awards event was an opportunity for the Council to recognise and pay tribute to long-serving members of staff, indoor and outdoor, across the many functional areas and the five Municipal Districts of Wicklow County Council including the libraries and the fire service.

Throughout 2023, the Council continued to deliver many successful services and projects including:

- €1 million plus RRDF funding for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre

- €7.5 million in expenditure claimed from the NTA, with 8 projects completed.
- 1452 planning applications received
- Greenhill Road affordable home scheme launched
- Approval for two further affordable home schemes in Rathnew and Baltinglass.
- 33,730 library members with 601,235 visits to libraries, the highest visits rate in the County.
- The Urban Regeneration Development Fund is available to eligible local authorities for towns and cities and was established to support more compact and sustainable development of urban centres. The aim of this particular fund is to address vacancy and dereliction, thus promoting vibrant communities. The fund was administered through the Wicklow County Council Town Regeneration Office and covers the entire cost of acquiring suitable properties identified within Arklow and Wicklow towns which can then be purchased and developed.

I would like to commend the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and the LCDC and to acknowledge all the work that is carried out at Municipal District Level and by the various other hardworking committees.

I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy for her commitment and co-operation in the delivery of the Council's high level goals in 2023. I would like to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their continued hard work and contribution to the delivery of high quality service to the public during 2023.

I am confident that the work of the Council and the progress achieved will enhance the quality of life for the people of Wicklow.

*Emer O'Gorman*

Emer O'Gorman  
Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council



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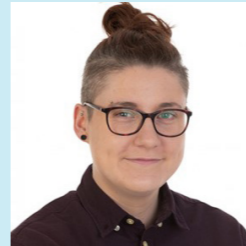
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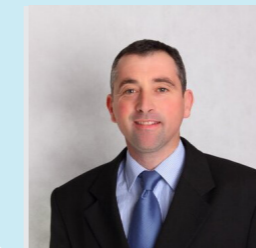
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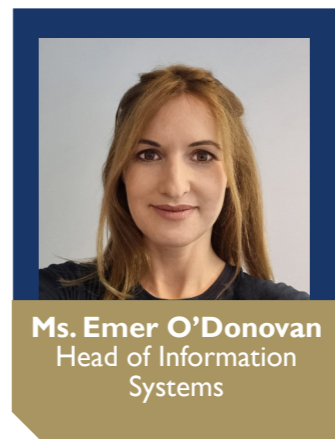
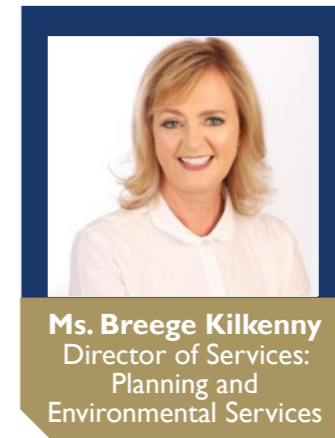
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# Wicklow County Council Management Team



# HOUSING & CORPORATE ESTATE

## Strategic Policy Committee

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John Snell

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy  
Cllr. Paul O'Brien  
Cllr. Mick Ryan  
Cllr. Stephen Stokes

### Outside Agencies

Trade Unions  
Awaiting nomination  
Disadvantaged  
Mark Hennessy Dublin Simon  
Business/Commercial  
Paddy Mordaunt  
Community  
Paul Armstrong  
Aoibhinn McCloy  
Mary Ann Parsons  
Wicklow Travellers Group

### Director of Services

Joe Lane

### Senior Executive Officer

Theresa O'Brien

### Senior Engineers

Helena Fallon

## Housing and Corporate Estate

- Social Housing Provision & Planning
- Housing Management
- Social Inclusion
- Corporate Estate

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions in 2023 and focused on a number of key areas including:

- Housing priorities and work programme for 2023 including future housing supply and management
- Housing Supply/Delivery Programme - Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Maintenance and Management of housing stock
- Annual Housing Needs Assessment
- Cost rental Scheme
- Public Private Partnerships
- Private Rented Inspections
- Traveller Accommodation
- Tenant in Situ
- Ukrainian Response
- Approved Housing Bodies collaboration
- Mid-East homeless Action Plan 2021 - 2023
- Housing For All
- Affordable Housing Scheme
- Croí Cónaithe
- Policy on sale of Local Authority properties in need on significant refurbishment

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery



Wicklow County Council continued to deliver under its Housing Delivery Programme. 412 units of social housing were delivered in 2023, with proposed delivery of 231 in 2024.



## Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing Update at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town - 36 houses

- 32 sold
- 3 nearing completion
- 1 (house that flooded) will be ready to be offered early 2024.

### Aldbrough Manor, Baltinglass - 22 houses

- 58 applied for these houses
- 22 offers
- 8 accepted at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### Rathnew - 44 houses

To be advertised Q1 2024



## Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 20 CPOs completed or underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

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

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

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

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there have been 78 applications with 53 finalised, 4 withdrawn and the rest in progress.

## Part V

Wicklow County Council liaised closely with Agents and Developers in respect of Part V requirements. Some Part V units are delivered through CALF in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and some directly to the Council. 70 Part V units were delivered in 2023 through a combination of LA acquisition and CALF.

## Turnkey

The Council continued to actively seeking and encouraging the provision of social housing via the mechanism of turnkey development. Wicklow County Council delivered 13 no. Local Authority Turnkey units and 286 CALF Turnkey units in 2023, in the following locations Rathdrum, Bray, Arklow, Ashford and Blessington.

## CALF Leasing

Wicklow County Council continues to facilitate applications from Approved Housing Bodies for delivery of units through the CALF leasing scheme.

## Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Wicklow County Council continues to work with Approved Housing Bodies to increase the supply of social housing.

## Housing Management

The total 2023 the budget for housing repairs was

€2,369,820.00. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

Central Heating was also provided in a number of houses while servicing and maintenance of central heating systems continued throughout 2023.

## Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1 and 2

Works continued on the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade programme during 2023 with 90 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works.

## Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by the Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List, subject to compliance with eligibility criteria. A Housing Needs Assessment is carried out annually to ascertain an accurate number of persons seeking housing in County Wicklow

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there was a total of 4,520 persons on the Wicklow County Councils social housing waiting list.

A total of 242 houses were allocated during 2022 with a further 452 households housed by Approved Housing Bodies throughout the county.

## Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options to those in need of housing throughout 2023.

## Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The total number of RAS properties at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 was 182.

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

A total of 1,474 households were availing of HAP rental support at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

## Social Housing Leasing

Properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties will be allocated schemes to tenants in accordance with the local authority's allocations

A total of 51 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023.

## Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a scheme to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants. At 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023 there are 97 families availing of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme.

## Local Authority Home Loan

16 applicants were given approval in Principle in 2023.

## Housing Grants

Wicklow County Council continued to fund grants under the terms of the Housing Adaption Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grant. In 2023, 456 grants were received /processed with approvals totaling over €2.7m issued in grant funding for private and social houses.

## County 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.

Workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by the housing agency regarding the implementation plan.

Once the workshop takes place the local plan will be updated to take account of the implementation plan's targets and goals

## Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Scheme	Status
Millbank, Mill Road 2 x 2 bed properties	Completed and ready for allocation
Castle Villas 2x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site. Expected completion date November 2023
Carrig Eden 14 x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete – design team is being procured at present
Kilcoole Health Centre 4 x 1 bed apartments	Contractor on site. Expected completion date September 2024

## Tenant Purchase Scheme

During 2023 a further 15 tenants completed purchase under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

## Estate Development

Estate Development Grants were allocated through the Municipal Districts to Residents Associations within the districts.

## Management - Tenant Liaison

A new strengthened tenancy sustainment team was established in 2023. There are now 4 tenancy sustainment officers in the County (3 in Wicklow county and 1 in Bray MD area). Their main focus will be as follows:

- Regularisation of Tenancies – own door emergency
- Housing First Tenancies
- Addressing minor anti-social issues/disputes
- Arrears

- Transfers
- Permissions to Reside
- Succession Tenancies
- Nursing Home Transitions
- Older Persons Grants/Adaptions
- Supporting Residents Associations/Identifying funding/Initiatives to improve Social Housing Estates
- Utilising Community Centres/spaces within social housing estates to improve social outcomes for tenants and their children

## Housing Rents

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there are 4,905 tenanted units.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there were arrears amounting to **€3,038,902.00** outstanding.

Following the lifting of the national moratorium on evictions the Rents Team are actively engaging with tenants in arrears to endeavour to alleviate high rent arrears. Eg: offering the option of signing up to Household Budget (rent is deducted at source from a person's social welfare) or Standing Order Statements are issued twice yearly to all WCC tenants in arrears of >€500.

## Traveller Accommodation

Wicklow County Council is required to undertake an annual count of Traveller families in November of each year - the count in 2023 showed 288 Traveller families living in the County.

Under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, 18 allocations were made to Traveller households in 2023.

Ongoing inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites were carried out by members of the Housing section.

Significant progress was made on the Capital Programme in 2023 as follows:

- Ballinteskinn - 3 houses - works completed on site in December 2023.
- Rathdrum: 3 houses Avondale Heights –works commenced on site in late 2023 and completion date is November 2024.
- Barndarrig – Due to changes in family circumstances – site selection will need to be reconsidered.

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met 5 times in 2023. The LTACC subgroup meets on a more regular basis to discuss individual cases and particular issues that may arise. Preparation of the new Traveller Accommodation Plan 2024 – 2029 began in December 2023.

Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow were met. This included planning for the provision of standard housing, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

## Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness continued to be a key focus and the homeless team provided advice and support to homeless persons or those at risk of homelessness.

Emergency accommodation was provided by the Council, where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

- 331 new cases (families/individuals) presented as homeless during 2023.
- As at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - 22 families were in emergency accommodation with a further 21 families in "own front door" accommodation.

## Homeless HAP

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;
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 498 households (353 families & 140 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. (210 homeless cases, 274 prevention cases to date and 13 direct provision). 133 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Partnership Approach – working with Approved Housing Bodies

In order to target specific cohorts of vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and those who need supported accommodation, Wicklow County Council continued to work with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to deliver accommodation to individuals with support needs. This housing led approach ensures a sustainable solution to homelessness in individuals who are initially hard to reach and ultimately have tenancy sustainment issues.

The Council operates the management of these properties through either Service Level Agreements, or License Agreements and Leases. These units provide wraparound, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals using the Housing First model. This housing led approach to combating homelessness is enshrined in Housing for All Ireland and is a commitment in the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

In partnership with the Dublin Simon Community, the Council continued to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Eleven individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility. A number of move-ons to own door accommodation occurred in 2023.

Engagement with the persons in the facility continues on an ongoing basis with a view to providing support into more long term accommodation.

### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray**

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

A Neighbourhood Liaison Committee was set up with representation from local residents, An Garda Síochána, local Councillors, Wicklow County Council and Dublin Simon and continues to meet.

### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Carraig Eden, Greystones**

This facility comprising of 35 ensuite bedrooms provides supported temporary accommodation to individuals who have successfully exited addiction and are now working to exit homelessness.

### **Homeless Family Service Facility, Wicklow**

Dublin Simon is engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units – 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 month STA (Supported Temporary Accommodation) with key working support to enable family's transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP or alternative longer term accommodation.

### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

Wicklow County Council own properties in Wicklow, Bray and Greystones and have them leased to AHBs, and are providing 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

### **Housing First**

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

Peter McVerry Trust was appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council continued to work with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 19 clients under Housing First, 7 new tenancies were created in 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team.

### **Homelessness and Mental Health**

A Mental Health forum was established by Wicklow County Council with representatives from the HSE, Wicklow County Council and HAIL (AHB for Mental Health). Wicklow County Council co - fund a Tenancy Sustainment Officer to deal with clients at risk of homelessness due to enduring Mental Health and this position was filled in 2020. A second sustainment officer was recruited in 2023. The initiative continued in 2023 with the tenancy sustainment officer sitting on the Homeless Action Team and also meeting regularly with staff of the housing section. Regular meetings are held with senior housing staff and the mental health teams of both CHO6 and CH07.

### **Health and Safety**

Wicklow County Council's Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has embedded this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisation's policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives.

Safety audits and safety inspections of contractors and direct labour sites are carried out periodically by technical staff.

Health and Safety Induction Training is communicated to all new members of staff. Continual training programs are provided for staff to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations.

### **Ukrainian Response**

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> December the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,778

This number is broken down as follows

- Arklow MD 246 No.
- Baltinglass MD 369 No
- Bray MD 766 No
- Greystones MD 198 No.
- Wicklow MD 199 No.
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
- WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 30h January we will have housed 250 number displaced Ukrainian people into pledged stand-alone Offer a Home properties
- Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
- The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a regular basis.

# TRANSPORTATION, WATER & EMERGENCY SERVICES

<b>Business Commercial</b>	Donal Murray
<b>Director of Services</b>	Leonora Earls
<b>Senior Executive Officer</b>	Linda Healy
<b>Senior Engineers</b>	Michael Flynn John Bowes
<b>Chief Fire Officer</b>	Aidan Dempsey
<b>Administrative Officers</b>	Mark O'Neill

## Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Transportation, Water and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee consists of five County Councillors' along with four members from sectoral interest groups.

The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local policy are discussed.

<b>Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	Cllr. Vincent Bake Cllr. Joe Behan Cllr. Derek Mitchell Cllr. Irene Winters
<b>Outside Agencies</b>	Trade Unions - Margaret Coughlan
<b>Environment/Conservation/ PPN</b>	Eanna Gallagher
<b>Agriculture/Farming Community</b>	Vacant
<b>Development/Construction</b>	Tomás Peare



## Transportation Objective 1

To promote and facilitate the provision of all transport in an integrated manner and so to foster social and economic development, having regard to environmental considerations, sustainable development and social inclusion and health and safety.

## Health And Safety

The Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety, Health and Welfare at work. In this regard, plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Ancillary & Local Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices across Transportation, Water & Emergency Services remains a priority to the health and safety of our employees.

## Road Safety Promotion and Education

The County Wicklow Road Safety Together Committee consists of members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council. Four meetings were held in 2023 – 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1st June, 7th September and 7th December. The District Engineer from the Municipal Districts of Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass each attended one of these meetings.

During 2023 the committee completed the County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2023 -2030 in accordance with the RSA's National Strategy.

The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation.

## Objective 2

To construct and maintain the national, regional and local roads networks to the highest possible standard for each road type, current and future usage and best value for money.

## MII/NII Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed in November 2018 as the lead consultant to process the project through Phases 1 – 4 in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management

Guidelines.

The NII/MII Scheme aims to improve safety, accessibility and journey time reliability along this strategic southeast corridor. The primary objective of the project is to deliver enhanced multimodal transport links for the south east corridor.

The Option Selection report was published on the project website [www.nii.ie](http://www.nii.ie) in 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. However, the scheme was suspended with further progress pending the provision of funding.

## NII/MII Interim Bus Priority Scheme

The Bus Priority Interim Scheme seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview) and in advance of the Junction 4 to Junction 14 scheme.

A non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option for sections A and C took place in November 2022 that included a two day display in the Glenview Hotel.



A further Public Display event was held in the Glenview Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to present the overall emerging preferred option for sections A, B and C, between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview).



Information is available to view on the Bus Priority Interim Scheme project website [www.nii.ie/bpis](http://www.nii.ie/bpis). This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

## NII/MII Strategic Bus Park and Ride

Three strategic bus park and ride facilities are being progressed at the planning and design stage by the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office in partnership with Wicklow County Council. The locations identified are immediately beside the NII/MII at Junction 6 (Fassaroe), Junction 11 (Kilpedder) and Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew). The Part 8 for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 6 (Fassaroe) was passed at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023.

## National Secondary N81

### N81 “The Four Studies” – Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Lower

Following the completion of Phase 1 feasibility studies, Wicklow County Council is now progressing the following two projects: -

- N81 Whitestown Lower Project
- N81 Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Project

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland’s Project Management Guidelines.

## N81 Hollywood Cross

Funding has been secured from Transport Infrastructure Ireland to progress the design phase of the Rural Traffic Calming and Bus Stops at Hollywood Cross.

Wicklow are now progressing this project at the design phase.

## Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads were carried out by the direct labour units of the five Municipal Districts and by contractors.

## Surface dressing works

Our surface dressing crew carried out road maintenance works on over 88 kms of carriageway.



Surface Dressing Wicklow Gap

## Invasive Species treatment

In September, a contractor, on behalf of WCC carried out a programme for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed throughout the county.

## Winter Maintenance

WCC staff and drivers carried out gritting during the early and late months of 2023. The transition from salt to brine spreading has commenced with new machinery and facilities to be complete in 2024.

## Specific Improvement Projects

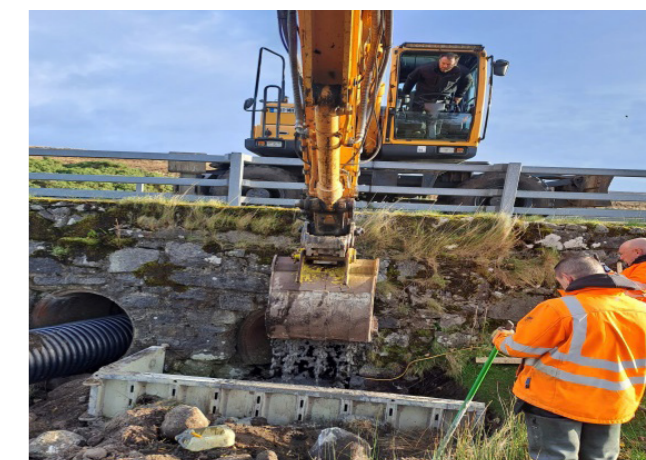
Valleymount junction

Works commenced at this junction to improve the layout and geometry. A direct labour crew and contractor have been on site since October.

## Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

The Bridge Rehabilitation crew completed the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme for 2023. 16 bridges had works completed. Poor weather during the summer reduced the number of “in stream” works:

A major project of 2023 was Kippure Bridge on the Sallygap. Works on the road level and under the bridge were carried out.



Works at Liffey Bridge Lower

## Machinery Yard

On-going repair and Maintenance of a large fleet continues as a priority. A new velocity patcher and an additional salt/brine spreader were ordered.

The workshop commenced the move to digital service records using the ProWork app.

Training for fitters in electric vehicle maintenance took place and will continue in 2024. This will allow staff to maintain and repair EV fleet.

## Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

KLS ASD Joint venture are the works contractor for the PLEEP contract. They commenced survey work on the existing stock in 2023 and will complete it in early 2024.

The Public Lighting Maintenance contract was tendered and awarded to Enerveo. They continue to maintain, repair, and improve the lighting stock throughout the County.

## Speed Limits

The Speed Limit Review was completed and adopted by Members. Each MD installed new poles and signs after its adoption. Most of the signs were installed in 2023 with the remainder in 2024.

Periodic Speed Limits at schools are required with variable electronic signage. The contract was tendered for and awarded. Works on site commenced in 2023 and will be completed in 2024.

## Objective 3

To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use of public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have access to public transport.

## National Transport Authority – Active Travel Funding

Each year, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocates funds to Ireland's local authorities with a view to spending on walking and cycling infrastructure. In 2023, Wicklow County Council received an allocation of €8.4 million, which funded 39 projects.

These Active Travel projects aim to improve transport options for those choosing alternatives to the private car, with the creation and development of segregated cycle lanes and widened footpaths, public realm improvements and new pedestrian crossings.

Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2023 included:

1. Bray Seafront Plaza
2. Bray DART Interchange
3. Active Travel Bridge (Wicklow Train Station to PAR)
4. Killarney Road Active Travel Route
5. Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins
6. Bus Priority in Little Bray

7. Arklow Local Transport Plan
8. Greystones Local Transport Plan
9. Bray Main St. Bus Priority & Decongestion
10. Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme
11. River Dargle Cycleway
12. Delgany Village to Mill Rd Active Travel Elements
13. Active Travel Pathfinder: Rocky Road (Access to Train Station)
14. Dublin Road to Wexford Road
15. Blessington Main St to Deerpark
16. Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project
17. Cycle parking provisions in Wicklow
18. Safe Routes to School Programme - St. Kevin's NS
19. Safe Routes to School - St. John's National School
20. Safe Routes to School - SS Michael & Peter's Junior School
21. Safe Routes to School - Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath
22. Safe Routes to School - Greystones Educate Together
23. Safe Routes to School - Kilmacanogue NS
24. Safe Routes to School - Scoil Nioclais Naofa
25. Safe Routes to School - Temple Carrig School
26. Arklow North Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
27. Ashford to New Developments (Urban) Footpath
28. Convent Road, Delgany Active Travel Scheme
29. Wicklow Rathnew Local Transport Plan
30. Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements
31. Ballyguilemore Footpath
32. Arklow South Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
33. Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme
34. Priory Road Footpath

35. Glenart Pedestrian Link
36. Active Travel - Kindlestown Road Cycle Scheme
37. Wicklow Train Station Park & Ride
38. Baltinglass Active Travel River Crossing Study
39. Wicklow County Council - Rapid Deployment Active Travel Measures

## 8 Active Travel Projects Completed in 2023

1. Ashford to New Developments (Wicklow MD)
2. Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)
3. Priory Road Footpath (Greystones MD)
4. Glenart Footpath Link (Arklow MD)
5. Valley Heights Footpath (Baltinglass MD)
6. Dunlavin Footpath (Baltinglass MD)
7. Deputy's Pass Footpath (Arklow MD)
8. Arklow North Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements (Arklow MD)



Ashford to New Developments



Priory Road Footpath



Glenart Pedestrian Link

## Projects substantially completed/under construction in 2023

1. Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany (Greystones MD)
2. Arklow South Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
3. Safe Routes to Schools: St. Kevin's National School, Greystones (Greystones MD)
4. Safe Routes to Schools: St. John's Senior National School, Arklow (Arklow MD)
5. Safe Routes to Schools: SS Michael and Peter Junior School (Arklow MD)



Bellevue Hill



Safe Routes to Schools, St. John's SNS, Arklow



Arklow South Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements

## Arklow South Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements

### Other Active Travel projects progressed

1. Bray DART Interchange Scheme – Entered into a contract with David Walsh Civil Engineering for the construction of the scheme.
2. Fran O’Toole Bridge, Bray – Options Assessment complete
3. 3Delgany Village to Mill Road Active Travel – Detail design being prepared
4. Convent Road, Delgany Active Travel Scheme – Preliminary Design completed. Part 8 Report being prepared
5. Blessington Main Street to Deerpark – Options Assessment Report drafted
6. Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme – Detail design stage commenced
7. Baltinglass Active Travel River Crossing

### Part 8 documents were advertised for 2 schemes; both were approved by the Elected Members

1. Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme
2. Ballyguilemore Footpath

### Non-Statutory Public Consultations were carried out for 3 schemes

1. SS Michael and Peter Junior School
2. St. John’s SNS
3. Greystones Active Travel Pathfinder, Charlesland Dual Carriageway ped/cycle Crossing improvement elements

## Active Travel – Other Highlights

### Award Nominations

The Saville’s Cross Junction Scheme in Rathdrum, completed in 2022, was shortlisted alongside four other projects for the Best Community Transport Initiative award, at the LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2023.

### Utrecht Study Trip

A delegation from Wicklow County Council, including Councillors and staff, travelled to the Netherlands in order to experience their cycling culture first hand, in a trip funded by the NTA.

The delegation participated in a programme of events organised by the Dutch Cycling Embassy, which included lectures and presentations from top experts in relation to cycling infrastructure and development of cycling policies. They also learnt about facilitating the connection between people, engineering and innovation in the built environment.

During the trip, the group embarked on cycling tours to physically experience the cycling infrastructure within the Netherlands that supports cycling activities in both rural and urban areas.

While it may take some time to equal the 17.6 billion kms the Dutch cycle each year, the learnings from the study visit can only help with the introduction of more cycling infrastructure across the county.



Utrecht Study Trip, October 2023

### Dutch Cycling Embassy Visit to Greystones

The Active Travel team, along with Greystones Cathaoirleach Mark Barry and Cllrs. Derek Mitchell and Lourda Scott, were delighted to welcome Maaïke van Koldam, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Greystones on Wednesday 8th November, along with members visiting from the Dutch Cycling Embassy and colleagues from the National Transport Authority to present details of our Active Travel policies and to showcase both past, present and future Active Travel schemes within the district.



Dutch Cycling Embassy visit to Greystones, November 2023

### Disability Access

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate will continue to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability Authority, ensuring

### Water and Wastewater Water Services

#### General

Wicklow County Council, like the other 31 local authorities have operated under a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water (now Uisce Éireann). Wicklow County Council’s Water Services Section operates with circa 70 full time equivalent staff across areas of drinking water networks, wastewater networks, sewerage treatment plants, water treatment plants and pumping stations.

#### Water Framework Agreement

In June 2022, the Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published following an en-

agement process facilitated by the WRC between the Government Departments, Uisce Éireann, the CCMA, the LGMA and Unions.

The Framework sets out the process for the Local Authority’s withdrawal from water services by the end of 2026

A new Master Co-operation Agreement (MCA) to replace the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) was signed on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and remains effective until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.

With effect from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Uisce Éireann now has full accountability for the delivery of water services and for the management and direction of Local Authority water services staff.

### Emergency Management

In a national context Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency Planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare County Council. Wicklow is represented on the Eastern Region Steering Group (ERSG) by Leonora Earls Director of Services and by Aidan Dempsey Chief Fire Officer. The Eastern Region Working Group (ERWG), reports to the ERSG. It has focused its activities on the response to the pandemic and the reception of Ukrainian refugees in 2022.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and Municipal Districts. One meeting of the committee took place in 2023 to maintain MEM preparedness.

### Fire Services

Wicklow County Fire Service was involved in 1,306 incidents in 2023 of which 108 were in neighbouring counties. As more serious incidents result in the mobilization of more than one Fire Station, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 1,571 occasions.

Activity during the year decreased from the previous year (2022) by 9% but was consistent with the preceding 4 year average of 1,513 mobilisations. February saw a spike in activity due to a spate of maliciously set fires in Bray and Greystones. These fires reoccurred in May, June and July along with the expected annual increase in wildfires at this time of the year. October saw many bonfires mainly in Bray where 57% of all incidents were bonfires or similar which represented 25% of all activity across the county.

The following incident types accounted for the majority of operational incidents across the county in 2023:



The construction of a new fire engine was completed and is now in service in Bray.

The following projects were commenced/ progressed with grant aid funding from Central Government:

New Fire Station Baltinglass	€2 million
New Fire Station Dunlavin	€2 million
New Fire Engine (Greystones)	€450,000
2 x new Water Tankers	€350,000

In addition to undertaking all necessary training for fire personnel in Wicklow, Wicklow Fire Service hosted a one-week EU Civil Protection course in October for 20 students from across Europe. The "Team Leaders course" was delivered by a Training Consortium which included Germany, Austria, Poland and Luxembourg. The instructors came from across Europe and possess a wide range of international civil protection experience.

Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. There were a total of 116 inspections undertaken during the year. Fire Safety Certificate applications (FSCs) and Disability Access Certificate applications (DACs) under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009 included 187 FSC applications and 153 DAC applications were processed in 2023.

### Building Control

The Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2015 set out procedures and controls which require owners, builders, and registered construction professionals to demonstrate that the works or buildings concerned have been designed and constructed in compliance with Building Regulations. With the advent of the Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) in 2014, there is now greater oversight and accountability of the construction of building and works in County Wicklow.

The Building Control Section administers the building control system and carries out inspections of active construction sites. Developers are required to submit Commencement Notices online into

the National Building Control Management System (BCMS). A technical desktop assessment of every Commencement Notice is carried out and any issues are identified by a Building Control Officer. The purpose of site inspections is to provide an oversight role to the building control system and also to encourage and support a culture of compliance with the requirements of the building regulations. Sites are selected for inspection on a risk assessment basis with priority given to new building multi-unit residential developments, places of public resort, schools, hospitals and other buildings where large numbers of the public may be affected by non-compliant work. The priority of the Building Control Officer on site is to confirm compliance with fire safety requirements, structural stability, accessibility and conservation of fuel and energy.

In 2023, there was continued activity to promote a culture of compliance with regulations. There was a 9% increase in Commencement Notices submissions totaling 465, of which 70% required revised information requests. 269 Certificates of Compliance on Completion were validated by Building Control in 2023, an increase of 13% over the preceding year. In total 1,163 residential units were notified to Building Control for commencement and 1,151 were completed. In addition staff undertook further professional development by attending a range of training courses, including, HDip in Fire Safety Engineering, A-Z of Local Government, Women in Leadership Program and quarterly NBC&MS Office CPD Day events. The web content for Building Control was updated on the web site, there was increased digitalisation, improved recording and structure of inspections and enhanced collaboration with other Building Control Authorities through the National Building Control and Market Surveillance Office.

### Civil Defence



Currently Wicklow Civil Defence has approximately 50 active volunteers based in Greystones and Baltinglass. We rely on volunteers giving freely of their time and expertise to maintain an operational response. Our Training Centre is located on Mill Rd, Greystones and is home to the majority of our equipment and facilitates all of our training courses. We have highly qualified instructors in area of Swift Water Rescue, First Aid, Missing Person Searching and Manual & People Handling, Flood Support and Boating Operations. Others areas of operation call for having qualified people in areas such as unmanned aerial vehicle's (UAV) and sonar operators.

Wicklow Civil Defence's ability to respond in time of emergency is built on the dedication of our volunteers, and commitment to assisting their community in times of need.

Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence are at the forefront on using Drone and UAV Technology within Ireland. Currently Wicklow Civil Defence is using a DJI Matrice 210 Drone which has both 30 x Optical Zoom Camera and Thermal Imaging Camera to assist local Emergency Service Agencies in carrying out their respective role. As technologies continue to develop, so must our approach to upgrading equipment. Plans to develop and upgrade our drone response in 2024.



Also operated within Wicklow is the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y Platform, Sonar E.M.I.L.Y which stands for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard is a robotic device used for Rescue/Recovery and is equipped with side sonar technology. This operation is supported by our Boat Unit making the deployment of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y



Wicklow Civil Defence welcomed some new equipment in 2023, jointly funded by Wicklow County Council and the Dept of Defence, the procurement of a new boat to support sonar operations and assist with missing person searches.

The SRK 525 is equipped with all the necessary equipment required for the boat crews to perform their duties.



Also welcomed was the addition of a new ambulance. The ambulance was donated by the National Ambulance Service to Civil Defence Ireland to assist local units with medical response in times on major emergency and assisting with community events.



Throughout 2023 Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers provide invaluable assistance to the Principle Response Agencies in times of emergency.

Listed below are some of the tasks performed by Wicklow Civil Defence.

Assisted Dublin Civil Defence with a Missing Person Search at Howth harbor Emily and Drone Support.

Assisting Wicklow Gardaí with a missing person search in Newcastle, Wicklow.

Positive outcome, person located uninjured.



Assisting Wicklow Hospice with first aid cover for charity events, including marathon events in Avondale & Dip in the nip on Greystones beach.

Assisted Wexford Civil Defence & the HSE with the evacuation of Patients from Wexford General Hospital due to a fire.



Provided ongoing support to the HSE in Shoreline Leisure with the supply of a backup generator for Vaccine refrigerators, this center has now been closed and all equipment removed.

Assisted Wicklow Gardaí with locating a missing person from Newtown Mt Kennedy, person located safe and well.



Attended the Tinahely Show on the August bank holiday Monday to display their equipment and engage with the public at this year's show.

Provided first aid and safety cover for Wicklow County Councils Sport & Recreation Partnership Teams free community event on the Seaford in Bray.

Provided first aid cover for Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership with their event, Marathon Kids Event with David Gillick at the Arklow Running Track.



Provided first aid and Safety cover for Schools from around Wicklow town and surrounding areas that came together to raise awareness around mental health for youth by completing 2.5km walk at the Murrough.

Provided Medical cover for Splash & Dash Adventure Race, Blessington.

Providing Medical cover for the Gravity Enduro mountain bike event over 2 day on Carrick Mountain, Glenealy .

Assisted with medical cover at Beyond the Pale, held in Glendalough House over 3 days of a camping festival.

Providing Medical Cover for the Gravity Enduro mountain bike event over 2 day on Djouce Mountain, Wicklow.

In conjunction with Glen of Immal MR and local armature emergency radio network, testing of VHF and HF network across Wicklow in the event of cellular or tetra network blackouts

Assisted Kilkenny Civil Defence with a Missing Person Search Emily Sonar and operational support.



Assisted Bray District Engineer with a house flooding in Kilcronea, sand bags deployed and water diverted.

In conjunction with the Department of Defence and the Environment Protection Agency, Civil Defence held their National Radiation exercise. Soil and grass samples were collected from two locations in county Wicklow.



Over 40 Civil Defence Volunteers were honored on Friday 24th November for their dedicated service to the community of County Wicklow.

Long service awards were presented by the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman,

and Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, to Volunteers who had 10, 20 and 30 years' service.

An outstanding award was presented to Sheila O'Neill who received a long service award for a remarkable 60 years' service with Wicklow Civil Defence. These awards demonstrate the commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers to the Civil Defence organisation.



A number of Covid 19 medals were also presented to volunteers as recognition by Government for their voluntary service during recent Covid times.



The presentation of certificates for courses attended, which is an important part of the Training & Development of Volunteers, also took place on the night.



# PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee

<b>Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Rory O'Connor (2.5 years) Cllr. Lourda Scott (2.5 years)
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	Cllr. Mark Berry Cllr. Pier Leonard Cllr. Dermot O'Brien
<b>Outside Agencies</b>	Environment and Conservation – East Wicklow - Justin Ivory Environment and Conservation – West Wicklow - Sharon Jackson Agriculture/Farming Community - Tom Shortt Business/ Commercial/ Chambers – Gary McKenzie An Comhairle Na n'Og – Kate Dolan Forestry/Fisheries – Ken Sweeney Construction Industry Federation – Michael Storan
<b>Director of Services</b>	Breege Kilkenny
<b>Senior Executive Officer</b>	Jackie Carroll
<b>Senior Engineers</b>	Marc Devereux

The Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC met six times during 2023.

This number is broken down as follows:

- Climate & Biodiversity Actions
- Environmental Awareness
- Sustainable Energy
- Waste Management
- Harbour and Ports
- Pollution Control
- Veterinary Services
- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses
- Caravan Parks
- Burial Grounds
- Casual Trading
- Water Safety

### Goal

“To protect and enhance the natural environment of County Wicklow in accordance with the principles of sustainable and balanced development, in partnership with all sections of the community, having regard to national and EU policies and programmes.

### Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer were appointed in 2023.

Following a comprehensive stakeholder engagement (Including engagement with the youth such as the Children and Young People’s Assembly on Biodiversity Loss) in producing the Draft Climate Action Plan the public consultation closed on the 15th November 2023. A total of 50 submissions were received.

The Chief Executive Report and Revised Draft Plan was presented at the CABA SPC on 6th December and the PDE SPC on 14th December, with a view to been adopted by the members at the ordinary meeting on the 8th January. Once adopted the Climate Action Plan shall be effective for a period of five years.

The Plan will provide a roadmap for taking decisive action to transition to a lower carbon and more climate resilient future for the citizens of County Wicklow.

### Community Climate Action Programme

A programme to support and empower community groups to take climate action at a local level was launched by Wicklow County Council on the 6th December. The council will award grants of up to €100,000 from an allocation of €646,000. The overall objective of the programme is to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities to contribute to national climate and energy targets.



## Arklow Decarbonisation Zone

The Decarbonisation Zone has been allocated a chapter within the Revised Draft Climate Action Plan with proposed 23 Actions allocated specifically to Arklow.

## Climate Adaptation - Coastal Erosion

Wicklow County Council continued to reduce and manage the risk of flooding in developed areas by cooperating with other agencies in implementing government policy in respect of the management of Coastal and Fluvial Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Risk.

It is a priority of Wicklow County Council to work in conjunction with Irish Rail on the East Coast Coastal Erosion Study (ECRIPP East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project) and seek funding from OPW as appropriate.

Wicklow County Council has received funding from the OPW and appointed Malachy Walsh & Co Ltd consultants to carry out a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study for Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches.



Applications for funding from the OPW under Minor Works have also been submitted for the following:

- Seabank to Kilmichael Point
- Greystones North Beach

## Arklow Decarbonisation Zone

The Decarbonisation Zone has been allocated a chapter within the Revised Draft Climate Action Plan with proposed 23 Actions allocated specifically to Arklow.



## Climate Mitigation - Bray E-Bolt Scheme

Bolt e Bikes arrived in Bray in June 2023 with 90 bikes. The scheme has over 6000 various users travelling over 100,000km in its first six months. The scheme encourages modal shift from the private car to this shared mobility scheme reducing emissions of fossil fuels.

## Climate Adaptation - Coastal Erosion

Wicklow County Council continued to reduce and manage the risk of flooding in developed areas by cooperating with other agencies in implementing government policy in respect of the management of Coastal and Fluvial Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Risk.

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Wicklow County Council has received funding from the OPW and appointed Malachy Walsh & Co Ltd consultants to carry out a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study for Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches

## Mid-East Energy Unit

The Mid East Energy Unit was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, a collaborative partnership between the three local authorities of Wicklow (lead authority), Meath and Kildare County Councils.



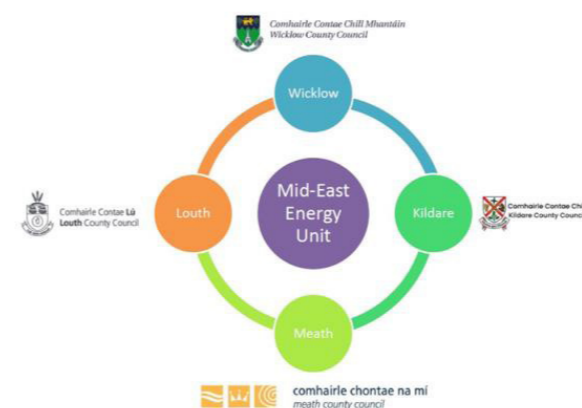
The Energy Unit is progressing and delivering agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects, in partnership the SEAI with the support of CODEMA.

The Regional Energy Manager and Energy Manager were appointed in early 2023.

- The Mid-East Energy Unit Steering Group held 4 quarterly meetings in 2023
- ISO 50001 10 day training completed for the 3 local authorities
- Appraisal reports compiled by CODEMA to

inform the pilot project for leisure centre decarbonisation in Mid-East region.

- Energy Review and Monitoring and Reporting review completed for all local authorities compiled by Codema.
- Regular meetings held with Energy Officers in Meath, Kildare & Wicklow technical working group meetings also ongoing
- Collation of energy projects across the region for 2024/2025 with support from SEAI Pathfinder
- Supporting the 3 LA's in completing the SEAI Buildings Register
- First SEAI Pathfinder financial drawdown to support contribution to Codema and energy projects
- In early 2024 Louth County Council will be joining the Mid-East Energy Unit



## Energy Office

A Wicklow County Council Energy Team meeting was convened in November, the energy office outlined the current status of ISO 50001, challenges faced, planned energy projects and the council's Significant Energy Users to the team.

- ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council has completed the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme to prepare for ISO accreditation. WCC have appointed NSAI as external auditors for this accreditation process.
- The Energy Office is currently working with its energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach the 2030 targets. Targeting large energy users across the council's building stock.
- Ongoing communications with Coral Leisure & Shoreline Leisure, addressing challenge of decarbonising the leisure centres.
- Works currently underway for the decarbonising project for Bray Fire Station
- Updating Energy Elephant to include all energy users profile and building stock

- Tender issued for decarbonising Bray Municipal District Office
- Energy Appraisal and BER report currently in progress for County Buildings

## Energy Performance

Public Body	Energy Performance			
	2021 Energy Consumption		Energy Performance Indicator	
	Final GWh	Primary GWh	2030 Target	Change since EE baselines ● Good ● Bad
				-28%

## Energy related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions						
Non-Electricity GHG Emissions				Total GHG Emissions		
GHG baseline tCO <sub>2</sub>	2021 tCO <sub>2</sub>	2030 target tCO <sub>2</sub>	Change since GHG baselines	GHG baseline tCO <sub>2</sub>	2021 tCO <sub>2</sub>	2030 target tCO <sub>2</sub>
			-22%			

The 2022 SEAI Annual Report on Public Sector Energy Performance outlines the status of all public bodies' energy performance. Wicklow are currently at 28% towards the 2030 50% target for energy efficiency and 23% towards the 2030 51% target of absolute reduction in energy related greenhouse gas emissions.

## Environmental Awareness

Longstanding support for the Green Schools programme (administered by An Taisce) was continued, through school visits by the EA team throughout the year. 20 schools in Wicklow were awarded Green Flags, and an award ceremony took place in May 2023 in Meath.

The 2023 Tidy Towns & Sustainable Development Awards were well subscribed, with some impressive entries in the SDA categories, as these awards continue to grow year on year. 63 prizes were awarded and the prize-giving ceremony is due to take place in March 2024.

In the annual Relove Fashion initiative, supported by the EA office and the Rediscovery Centre, six secondary schools from Wicklow registered in 2023. Students participated by designing a one-of-a-kind sustainable fashion piece.

Transition year students from 13 Wicklow schools took part in the 2024 Rubbish Film Festival, during which each school learns how to make a short film on waste reduction. The EA office supports this initiative and also judges the entries.

The Council worked with Ark housing association to equip a sewing training room in 2022 in Bray recycling centre and in 2023 two courses (beginner and advanced, following on from 2022) were run with the support of the EA office.

With the aim of promoting active travel and the circular economy, 8 Bike Repair Workshops were run throughout the county in autumn 2023. The courses were led by an instructor from Bray Wheelers Cycling Club and were open to all.

The Council partnered with 2GoCup to launch a novel, reusable coffee cup initiative, which was rolled out in multiple outlets in Enniskerry and Blessington.



The National Spring Clean, which is an annual nationwide anti-litter campaign (administered by An Taisce), continued in 2023.

The 2023 Tree Grant Scheme gave out over €6,000 to 17 community groups around the county wanting to plant native and biodiversity friendly trees and hedges in public spaces.



During National Tree Week in March of 2023, c.800 trees from Coillte were distributed to community groups and schools throughout the County.

The Environmental Awareness office supported the Cloth Nappy Loan Scheme which works with local li-

braries to provide a cloth nappy kit lending service in Wicklow.

A number of "Sea Safari" workshops took place, aimed at raising children's awareness around the beaches of Wicklow. This was part of the Blue Flag Beach programme (organised by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe and co-ordinated by An Taisce) of which Wicklow County Council has been a longstanding partner.

The annual Christmas Decoration competition was heavily subscribed and culminated in an awards ceremony in December, during which 63 prizes were awarded to students from over 20 different Wicklow Schools.

The 2023 National Gum Litter Campaign organised a roadshow and photoshoot in Wicklow to promote responsible gum disposal.

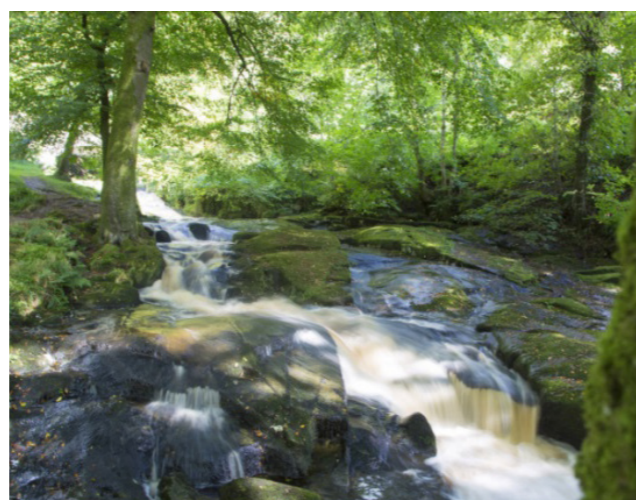
Multiple social media campaigns were run throughout the year, according to seasonal themes (e.g. Halloween bonfires, Xmas waste reduction) and one-off initiatives (e.g. WEE e-waste).

### Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

Wicklow County Council, under its own remit, and on behalf of Irish Water, continued to monitor water and control and wastewater pollution in accordance with legislation and EU regulations.

### Laboratory Services & Pollution Control

The laboratory services and pollution team were active in a range of areas to promote, protect and improve the quality of our environment and water resources in County Wicklow. The team plan and RMCEI (recommended minimum criteria for environmental inspections) formed the basis of prioritizing the work activities such as monitoring, complaint investigation, assessment and enforcement, as guided by departmental plan and committed resources.



Wicklow County Council continued to participate on the regional management and operational committees and engage with the Environmental Protection Agency, LA Water Programmes Offices, Community Groups and other stakeholders tasked with preparation and implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (draft) to be signed by the Minister in 2024.



The monitoring of drinking water, river and lakes, and emissions to air and water and investigation of complaints continued during 2023.

### Air Quality

A total of 48 first time inspections of retailers under the Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 were carried out in the fuel burning season. 10 inspections were also carried out on producers of solid fuels.

Wicklow County Council installed an air quality monitor at Arklow (a Decarbonisation Zone) monitoring PM2.5 and PM10 levels as a Climate Action. Reviews of data from the three monitors in County Wicklow (Bray and Greystones operated by EPA and Arklow operated by WCC) regularly indicate that air quality is good.

### Noise

A total of 30 new noise complaints were received and investigated in 2023.

### Natural Waters

100% of planned sampling of rivers and lakes were monitored with 540 river and 82 lake samples taken. The Council worked on 29 engagement activities in 2023. This included public water quality talks via the East Wicklow Rivers Trust, engaging with LAWPRO on desk studies and issues in PAAs, responding to public water quality queries etc.

### Wastewater Discharges

32 farm inspections were carried out in 2023 to check on farm practices to prevent water pollution. The review and approval process of Nutrient Management Plans for bio-solids focused on spread-land maps, buffer restrictions, soil type, soil quality, soil nutrient status, local topography, watercourses and the vulnerability of the groundwater.

Wicklow County Council carried out 57 septic tank inspections in the required risk zones in 2023 with a compliance rate of 70% with 82% non-compliances closed out in the same year. The public are encouraged to inspect and maintain their septic tanks regularly.

### Private Drinking Water

The Council continued to monitor the 116 private supplies in operation, ranging from B&B's, Hotels, Schools, Caravan Parks, Golf Clubs, Cafe's, and Crèches, and these details are recorded in our Private Drinking Water Supply Register. Where the quality did not meet the standards, the suppliers were issued with Notices to remediate the issue.

### Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these beaches including three blue flag beaches at Greystones, Brittas Bay North, and Brittas Bay South, and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2023. The bathing water monitoring results are displayed at the beaches and on the beaches.ie website through the bathing water season which runs from 1st June to 15th September each year. The bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters and eight other bathing areas was predominantly excellent in 2023 although there were periods when the water quality was lower, due to rainfall events, which necessitated the placing of notices to protect the health of bathers, on some bathing waters during the season.



## Blue Flag Beaches



Wicklow County Council retained the Blue Flag award in three beaches in 2022: Brittas Bay South, Brittas Bay North & Greystones South Beach. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised symbols of cleanliness and quality. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational and safety criteria must be reached.

## Waste Enforcement

The Waste Management Section is dedicated to enforcing Waste Management legislation within County Wicklow. The Team deals with waste, litter and environmental burning complaints.

## Waste Enforcement

Local Authority Waste Enforcement Measures Grant Scheme – Funding - €208,544.00 for expenditure on the engagement of full time dedicated Waste Enforcement Officers.

## 2023 Waste Management Statistics

	No.
No of Complaints received 2023	1,431
No of Waste Warning Letters Issued	38
No of Section 14 Directions Issued to occupiers who failed to keep their property free from waste	78
No of Section 18 Notices issued directing that information be given to the Council in respect of Waste Issues	3
No of Abandoned Vehicle Notices Issued	73
No of Fixed Payment Notices Issued under the Waste Permit Collection Regulations	2
No of Litter Fines Issued	101

No of Waste Management Files Opened for various breaches of the Waste Management Act 1996, e.g., mismanagement and/or illegal storage of waste, illegal dumping etc	38
Burning Applications Processed	152
Fines issued under the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste By-Laws 2018	2
Court Hearings under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended	26
Court Hearings under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	29



## Anti-Dumping Initiative

Last year the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications made funding available through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA) to support projects through the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI).

The aim of the ADI is to fund projects which tackle problems using a collaborative approach involving local authorities and communities to eradicate litter blackspots and increase awareness of best practices in litter and waste management and minimisation. In summary, the focus of the ADI is on prevention, abatement, education and enforcement of anti-litter initiatives.

Wicklow County Council successfully submitted a number of proposals for funding under this initiative which included hazardous waste collections, mattress amnesties, clean up of sites and the purchase of essential equipment to assist with enforcement and prosecutions. For 2023 Wicklow County Council received an allocation for €86,500.00.

## PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)

The Pure (Protecting Upland & Rural Environments) Project is an environmental partnership project which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations including Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Wicklow Uplands Council.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) provides financial assistance to support the Pure Project in respect of litter pollution.

The Pure Project is operated by Wicklow Uplands Council with assistance from Wicklow County Council, as the lead local authority involved in the project.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications funded the purchase of new truck which is due to come into service in early 2024.



## Recycling Facilities

In addition to the five recycling centres, there are 41 standalone bottle bank locations throughout the County that collect Glass, Drink Cans and Food Cans.

The tonnages collected at the recycling centres and bring banks are set out below.

Main Products	Recycling Centres Total	Bottle Banks
	Tonnes (UOS)	
Glass	1,040.53	2456.5
Aluminum Cans	50.80	55.58
Steel Cans	51.82	37.66
Cardboard & Paper	1,285.48	
Mixed Plastic - PET, HDPE, etc*	181.46	
WEEE - Electrical including Bulbs	727.97	
Batteries	32.96	
Paint including containers	173.60	
Scrap Metal	271.12	
Polystyrene	14.37	
Plate Glass	37.36	
Textiles	196.15	59.08
<b>Total Tonnes of Materials</b>	<b>4,063.62</b>	<b>2,608.82</b>
Waste hydraulic or engine, gear and lubricating oils (litres)	31,299.00	
Cooking Oil	8,760.00	
Total Litres of Materials	40,059.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,122.62</b>	<b>2,608.82</b>

## Whitestown Remediation Project

The draft remediation plan was presented to the court and was approved in part. The process to develop the Tender Documents for Landfill Capacity and the Main Contract commenced in Q4 2023.

## Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council worked in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. The work primarily involved making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring, and is covered by a grant agreement with the Department.

## Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Approval has been received from OPW to move onto the next stage and Byrne Looby Partners Ltd (now trading as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project.

Project Name	BALAMI Grant Received	Details
Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon (SSE Renewables contributed €120,000)	€276,355	Pontoon with 16 berths has been installed for Fishers
South Quay Arklow Storage facilities	€391,025	The construction of 14 storage huts for fishers and harbour users.
Arklow Harbour welfare facilities	€95,000	Installed of a unit consisting of Toilet and shower facilities for harbour users.
Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids	€47,500	Repair and refurbishment of the East Pier Lighthouse.
South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon installation	€48,450	Installation of a small craft pontoon on the South Quay
North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space	€120,000	Demolition of Warehouse on North Quay
Wicklow Harbour - concrete works	€140,782	Concrete repairs on surface of Packet Pier. Concrete pumped into West Pier to repair damage
Wicklow - welfare facilities	€75,788	Installed of a unit consisting of Toilet and shower facilities for harbour users.

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## Burial Grounds

There are 34 active and 40 closed burial grounds under the control of Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow County Council employs part time Burial Ground Registrars responsible for the sale of plots and the recording of interments at each of the active burial grounds.

The Burial Ground Registrars also maintain the relevant records for the burial grounds, liaise with undertakers and families and some partake in voluntary maintenance and upkeep of burial grounds.

Each Municipal District is responsible for the maintenance of the burial grounds within their district.

## Columbarium Wall

Columbarium Walls provide a suitable resting place within a cemetery for the placing of cremated remains. The wall is divided into niches with a front panel

A Columbarium Wall was constructed in St. Gabriel's Cemetery, Arklow in 2023.

## Harbours and Ports

Under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023, the following projects were substantially completed.

### Shipping Movements / Cargo Statistics 2023

Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import or Export)	Transactions	Imports /Exports
88	61	27		

### Other Harbour Projects

A Foreshore license application was lodged in June 2023 for emergency dredging of the shipping channels in Wicklow. A decision on this is due in Q1 2024.

A new swimming floating pontoon and platform were purchased in June 2023 for Wicklow Harbour bathing area.

An electric utility vehicle was purchased in July 2023 assist with maintenance of the Harbours.

## Veterinary Services

The Service contract with Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) continued throughout 2023 with ongoing supervision of low throughput abattoirs and meat manufacturing premises (14 in total)

Ante & post-mortem inspections; hygiene inspections & audits; animal welfare; microbiological sampling (food, water & swabs); chemical analysis (sulphites, nitrates, allergens & speciation); veterinary medicine residue analysis all continued throughout 2023.

## Dog Control

The Council continued its Service Level Agreement with the ISPCA for the operation of the pound and implementation of the Control of Dogs legislation under SLA

Dog Pound at Wicklow SPCA site in Ballygannon more, Rathdrum

2 Dog Wardens & 1 part-time Kennel Assistant

Charge for 2023 - €189,683

Statistics 2023	
Surrendered	0
Stray	106
Reclaimed by owner	33
Re-homed	36
Transferred to Animal Welfare Groups	39
PTS	4
Died of natural causes	0
Dog Licences Issued	5,064
On the spot fines	0
Reports of Aggressive behaviour by dog	56
Report of Livestock worrying	7

During 2023 Wicklow County Council continued to participate in the Wicklow Multi-Agency Animal Welfare Forum.

# COMMUNITY CULTURAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CC & SD)

## Strategic Policy Committee

<b>Director of Services</b>	Michael Nicholson
<b>Elected Members:</b>	Cllr. Vincent Blake (Cathaoirleach) Cllr. Gail Dunne Cllr. Anne Ferris Cllr. John Mullen Cllr. Melanie Corrigan Cllr. Miriam Murphy
<b>Outside Agencies</b>	Business/Commercial Irene Sweeney: Chamber of Commerce Public Participation Network Niamh Wogan: Social Inclusion Kevin Mann: Community and Voluntary Mai Quaid: Community and Voluntary Vacant: Environment

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The purpose of this committee is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

### The functions of the LCDC

To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6-year economic and community plan. To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan. To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least once within the 6-year period.

To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.

To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination, and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.

To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee, to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.

To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority.

The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body, or person which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

### Local Economic and Community Plan

The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County.

The plan:

- Agrees priorities for the area.
- Agrees agency roles in addressing these priorities.
- Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan. The first LECP operated from 2016-2022. A new LECP has been developed for 2023 – 2029. As it is unrealistic to imagine that things will not change within the 6-year life of the plan, the first two-year implementation plan has now been prepared.

## Monitoring the LECP

An Advisory Committee was originally set up to develop the LECP and ensure integration of both elements of the plan. The Advisory Committee has agreed to continue in place to monitor the implementation of the plan. The members of the Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority.

They are:

Name	Responsibility
Cllr. Melanie Corrigan	Chair LCDC
Cllr. Tom Fortune	Chair Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Michael Nicholson	Chief Officer LCDC
Lorraine Gallagher	Director of Services, Economic Development & Enterprise
Vibeke Delahun	Local Enterprise Office
Christine Flood (Jan – June)	4
Susan Nichols A/SEO (July – Dec)	SEO Economic Development & Enterprise
Deirdre Whitfield	Town Regeneration Officer, Enterprise & Corporate Services

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

### Regional

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001, in particular Section 66c 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC has anticipated the development of the Re-

gional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) worked closely together on the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

The LDS was designed and developed through the following consultative processes:

- Feedback from countrywide consultation process
- Relevant stakeholder consultations
- Socio-economic profile of the County
- Desk research – relevant policies and reports
- Available budgets

The combined Goals of the LECP are:

*(The Goals highlighted in blue are mainly the Community Goals – those in green are the Economic Goals).*

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy
Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

### 3.1.2. Implementation

Goal 1	
Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development	Build capacity and social capital across all communities  Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development

A number of programmes contribute to the achievement of this goal and a number of agencies are involved in the integration of this action. The LEADER and SICAP Programmes are central to building capacity of communities. In addition, several development funding schemes were announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development:

- Town & Village Scheme
- CLÁR
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
- Urban Regeneration & Development Fund
- Community Enhancement Programme
- Community Enhancement Programme (Community Activities Fund)
- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund

### Funding Received 2023

Funding Schemes 2023	Funding Received 2023
Town & Village Schemes	TBA
CLÁR	€126,865
DCYA Playground Grant	€18,000
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund (ORIS)	€3.5 million
Healthy Ireland Initiatives	€95,000
Sláintecare Healthy Communities	€325,000
Sports Funding	€530,293
Creative Places Baltinglass	€375,000
Community Enhancement Programme	€308,834
Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund – top up funding	€1,049,813

Goal 2	
Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making	Develop strong representative fora in the county

Goal 3	
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups	

2023 Highlights:

Strategy	Status
Healthy Wicklow Strategy	Each Local Authority has developed a 3-year Local Strategy for Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025.
County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy (Integrated action with Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC)	<p>The County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy launched at a food showcase event, the 'Feast from the East' in April 2019.</p> <p>The strategy is being implemented by the Committee along with Birnie and Associates Ltd. funded equally between Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Partnership.</p> <p>Progress underway on the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Wicklow Food Story</li> <li>• Development of Wicklow Food and Beverage Branding</li> <li>• Creation of a key messaging plan</li> <li>• Creation of a food activity calendar</li> <li>• Creation of a website</li> <li>• Delivery of business networking events</li> <li>• Food Poverty and Sustainability</li> </ul>

Goal 4	
A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector	

County Wicklow Partnership and Bray Area Partnership have taken the lead with this goal and are rolling out training and support programmers for a number of social enterprises in the county.

### Socio-economic Integration

The LCDC also continue to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. These include:

- LEADER
- The Children and Young People Services Committee
- The Joint Policing Committee
- The Public Participation Network
- The HSE / National Office for Suicide Prevention

### EU Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

Theme	Sub Theme
Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation	Rural Tourism Enterprise Development Rural Towns Broadband
Theme 2: Social Inclusion	Rural Youth Basic Services
Theme 3: Rural Environment	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources Renewable Energy

The LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme in the county and hold the LAG meetings separate from the LCDC meetings. County Wicklow Partnership is the implementing body for the programme. The Local Authority is the lead financial partner for LEADER in County Wicklow with responsibility for the programme both administratively and financially.

## Meetings

Six LAG meetings took place in 2023 January, February, March, May, August and December.

Four Evaluation Committee Meetings took place in the period between January and December 2023.

## LEADER Programme

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 was extended to the end of March 2021. Local Action Groups were allowed to recommit un-used funding until December 2022.

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Circular 03-2022 extended the current LEADER programme to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, allowing un-used funding and funding from de-committed projects to be allocated to new project applications, until that date.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Minister Humphreys announced the new €180 million LEADER programme 2023-2027. Wicklow was allocated €5.3 million. The Minister called for Expressions of Interest, from interested parties, to deliver the new programme.

## Key Dates

15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Final date for interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to develop a new Local Development Strategy for County Wicklow, to deliver the LEADER 2023-2027 programme. Wicklow LAG submitted an EOI to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). Just one EOI was submitted from Wicklow.

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 - Final date for decommitted funds from 2014-2020 Programme to be reallocated - Final date for allocation of Transitional Programme project budget.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Wicklow LAG received notification from DRCD that their EOI was deemed eligible and were invited to develop a new Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Wicklow.

May/June 2023 – Workshops and public consultations were held for community input into the new Local Development Strategy.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Wicklow LAG submitted a new Local Development Strategy to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

November 2023 – Wicklow's Local Development Strategy was approved by the Department of Rural

and Community Development (DRCD). Funding agreement was issued.

The LEADER 2023-2027 programme will commence in 2024 once the finalised Operating Rules have been issued by DRCD.

31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 - Final date for all LEADER projects to be completed under the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and Transitional Programme.

30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Final date for submission of all project claims for payment under the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the Transitional Pro



Wicklow County Council is the host of Co. Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg. 20 local schools and youth groups are involved in Comhairle na nÓg and it has a very positive profile across the County as a structure that amplifies the voice of young people.

In 2023, the members of Wicklow Comhairle undertook projects across a number of key areas:

**Drug Awareness:** The members presented findings from their 'Drugs Attitudes' survey to a conference in Wicklow, along with stakeholders involved in drugs treatment, education, and other related provision.

**Mental Health:** The members created targeted content to support youth mental health and delivered events around mental health to local schools.

**Ukrainian Response:** The members maintained positive communication channels with the Local Authority through participation on structures around the Ukrainian response activities.

Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg members continue to undertake projects to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies, and issues that affect them in their local area.



## Age Friendly Programme

In line with our National commitment to World Health Organization's global Age Friendly Cities and Communities Programme, Wicklow County Council is committed to future proofing County Wicklow for the changing demographics of our aging population and making County Wicklow a great place to live and grow older.

Ireland's National Age-Friendly Cities and Counties Programmes is part of this worldwide initiative which aims to make sure that as we age, we can all:

- Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live.
- Enjoy good health, good services, and live in a safe environment.
- Participate fully in everything that is going on in our communities, cities and counties.

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme provides a structure so that Local Authorities can take a lead on changing thinking about ageing and how services are planned and delivered. Through this model, Local Authorities bring together older people, service providers and businesses in an Alliance that really works and which:

- Enables older people to live active and healthy lives, remaining in their own homes for as long as possible
- Enhances service delivery without increasing expenditure
- Brings about valued improvements in the quality of life for everybody in the community

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme offers a proven way of bringing diverse organisations, groups, services, and businesses together to streamline their work, with the needs and interests of older people at their heart.



## Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The development of the new Age Friendly Strategy 2023- 2027 was a priority for the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance in 2022. The stakeholder and public consultation process was conducted early in early in the year and the findings were presented to a joint meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance and the Older People's Council on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Following consultations with individual members of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance and other stakeholders, over 70 actions were identified, defined and categorised under the 8 WHO High Level themes. The lead partner and support partners identified in the Action Plan, which underpins the new strategy, have all committed to delivering on these actions over the next 5 years. The full text of the strategy document was agreed by the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022, and subsequently presented to the SPC and full County Council on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and adopted as presented. Mary Butler, TD, Minister for Health and Older People formally launched the new strategy at County Buildings on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The strategy document can be downloaded at: [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Age-Friendly-Wicklow](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Age-Friendly-Wicklow)



## County Wicklow Older People's Council

The CWOPC are a representative body for older people in Wicklow.

The monthly meetings of the OPC Executive recommenced for 2023 from 17<sup>th</sup> February to agree a workplan for 2023 and a recruitment plan for new members. Three members of the OPC Executive attend all Alliance meetings to represent the voice of older people in County Wicklow. The AGM of the wider OPC was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## Older People's Council – National Convention

The 2023 National Convention of Older People's Councils was hosted by Age Friendly Ireland and Kerry County Council, in Tralee on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The theme for the convention was 'Reconnecting | Fáilte ar ais "Welcome Back"'. The delegation from each county included the Age Friendly Programme Manager and 3 OPC members, including the chair of the OPC.



## Beyond The Trees Avondale

Beyond the Trees Avondale opened to the public in June 2022. A walkability study was co-ordinated by Age Friendly Ireland and included members of the Older People's Council and the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee. In 2023, Beyond the Trees was shortlisted for the National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards, in the Business Innovation Category.

Beyond the Trees has been acknowledged as the first age friendly destination in the Country. It is now recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an international model of good practice for age friendly development. A case study publication was also launched by Age Friendly Ireland, outlining the work undertaken at Beyond the Trees Avondale, with input from members of the Older People's Council and Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee.



## Trio Bikes

A Service Level Agreement was finalised in 2023 with Baltinglass Community Hospital and Carnew Community Care Centre for use of Age Friendly Trio Bikes. These age friendly bikes are designed to allow older people the freedom of cycling in safety. Funding was received under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme.



## Disability Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC):

The purpose of DISC is to achieve a multi departmental approach to making the services provided by Wicklow County Council accessible to all citizens in the county.

Funding was received from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth to support disability services in the County made through the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. This funding will assist the Council in making Wicklow more inclusive and welcoming for people with all disabilities.

An Accessibility Toolkit for community and voluntary groups was developed and launched in December 2022, to coincide with International Day for People with a Disability (IDPWD).

A new disability strategy for the county is currently in development. Several public consultation workshops were held throughout the year and the findings from these and further stakeholder consultations will underpin the new strategy.

Another project is also underway, to develop Communications Boards for Playgrounds to make them more accessible. The first Disability and Inclusion

Strategy for County Wicklow was approved by the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) and presented to the full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, by Laura O'Callaghan, Disability Information Officer (Disability Federation of Ireland). The official launch of the strategy took place at the Arklow Bay Hotel on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

## Launch of Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard Initiative

Wicklow became the first County Council in Ireland to recognise the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard across all of its public offices and libraries. The initiative was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 by Cllr. Tommy Annesley. Funding for this initiative was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Community Enhancement Programme.



## Community Awards 2023

The Community Awards Scheme for 2023 had an overall fund of €77,650 and awards were granted in respect of Community Grant/Merit Awards and Community Social Innovation Awards.

Over 270 Community Groups, Clubs and Voluntary Organisations benefited under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2023.

## Social Inclusion Unit

Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued to support anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives throughout 2023. Over that period, it:

- Monitored the implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) throughout Co. Wicklow.
- Represented social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).
- Oversaw the management of tendering process for new Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2024-2028+ and awarding of new contracts to the successful tenderers Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership.
- Supported ongoing development and operation of the Co. Wicklow Public Participation

Network (PPN).

- Participated on regional and national committees, networks, and structures.

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022

This national programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU European Social Fund (ESF) continues to be successfully delivered in Co. Wicklow by Bray Area Partnership for the Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-1) and Co. Wicklow Partnership for the Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-2). In 2023 this programme was worth almost €2 million to the county. SICAP focuses on empowering and enabling the county's most disadvantaged communities and individuals to improve their life opportunities, outcomes, and local environment.

In 2023, Bray Area Partnership supported 28 Local Community Groups and 607 disadvantaged individuals, while Co. Wicklow Partnership supported 15 Local Community Groups and 544 disadvantaged individuals.

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, continued to oversee, monitor, and manage the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering this programme. The LCDC was greatly assisted in this task by the SICAP Sub-group.

## County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network continued to facilitate public engagement and community participation throughout the county and acted as the conduit through which Wicklow County Council connected with community, social inclusion, and environmental groups. Throughout 2023, it participated in a wide variety of public consultations and policy submissions at local, regional, and national level.

In October 2023, Wicklow PPN hosted the National PPN conference in the Arklow Bay Hotel. This was a huge success with over 250 delegates from across the country in attendance.

At end of 2023, Wicklow PPN had in place 42 Representatives sitting across 18 Committees/Boards within the county and local authority including Strategic Policy Committees and Joint Policing Committees. (A full list of Committees and Representatives is

available on Wicklow PPN website).

Activity Performance Indicator 2023:

Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

1. Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 = 422
2. Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2023 = 28
3. Number of organisations (registered in 2023) that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = 3
4. Total number of groups in the Social Inclusion College = 74



### Healthy Ireland Vision

A Healthy Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

The four goals of Healthy Ireland are:

- Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.
- Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities.
- Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing.
- Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.

As part of the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 application process, Local Authorities were required to select outcome indicators from the Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework Indicator Set. The two outcomes that were chosen for Wicklow were:

1. Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per the Energy and Vitality Index.
2. Decrease in % of those at risk of poverty and basic deprivation.

A targeted approach was required to ensure a clear focus on supporting the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged groups and communities in Wicklow to address health inequalities. The Pobal HP Deprivation Index was used to identify areas of disadvantage to very disadvantaged across the County.

Healthy Wicklow Programme Round 4 2023 received an allocation of €95,000 in total broken down as follows:

Income	Amount
Healthy Ireland Fund allocation	€75,000
Period Poverty	€20,000

Healthy Ireland Fund allocation breakdown:

Action	Initiatives
1: Active Community Pilot Project	Areas of disadvantage in County i.e. Tinahely/Carnew/Shillelagh & Rathnew Non-clinical activities used as a means of positively influencing physical and mental health & wellbeing
2: Wicklow Travellers Group	Education/Training Workshops Provision of Physical Activities
3: Bray Area Partnership	Approval for employment of community food coordinator for Wicklow

### Period Poverty Initiative

The Healthy Ireland Coordinator and Sláintecare Local Development Officer submitted an expression of interest application for period poverty funding.

An initial allocation of €10,000 was approved by the Department of Health for Wicklow but due to its success across the County an additional €10,000 was granted for 2023.

Facilities/services reached in 2023 include:

- 13 libraries across the County continue to be provided for and stocked with period products.
- Direct Provision - Kippure, Esplanade & Slaney Court.
- Public toilets in Wicklow County Council, Arklow, Wicklow and Bray Municipal Districts.
- Connect Youth Service Little Bray & Ballywaltrim, INTREO Bray, Little Bray Family Resource

Centre, Family Resource Centre Oldcourt Bray, Ballywaltrim Community Centre, and Little Bray Community Centre.

- Wicklow Child & Family Project, Crosscare, Arklow Springboard and West Wicklow Youth Project.
- Director of Nursing in Wicklow & each of the 25 public health nurses have now been equipped with stock when visiting vulnerable clients across the County.
- Saoirse Domestic Violence Service Outreach & Prevention West Wicklow
- Homeless services - Simon Emergency accommodation in Bray, Simon Family accommodation in Wicklow Town and 5 Loaves.



The aim of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is to achieve long term, sustainable health equity for everyone living in Ireland. The programme focuses on addressing the wider determinants of health that cause health inequalities and leads on the provision of initiatives intended to improve and protect the long-term health and wellbeing outcomes of less advantaged communities.

The programme achieves these aims by:

- Assessing the common and unique needs of focus communities using the place-based approach and wider determinants of health lens.
- Engaging, collaborating, and partnering with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the target communities, community groups and services, and statutory and non-statutory service, at all stages of the programme.
- Developing and delivering long term and sustainable initiatives that specifically target identified wider determinants of health.
- Monitoring and evaluating the success of the programme.

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities area in Wicklow is Bray, and within that are the target populations are areas of disadvantage and vulnerable populations. Since the launch of the programme, the programme funding received has been as follows:

Programme	Amount
Enhancement Fund for capital projects	€250,000
Seed Fund 2022 - 2024	€225,000
Promotion budget	€8,000
Inflation increase	€5,627
<b>Total</b>	<b>€488,627</b>

Enhancement fund projects completed in 2023 are as follows:

Project	Cost
Upgrade to Futsal Courts: Giltspur, Ballywaltrim	€15,913
Calisthenics: Ballywaltrim Playground	€35,000
New goals: Ballywaltrim Playing Fields	€16,850
Climbing boulders: Ballywaltrim Playground	€100,266
Kitchen upgrade grant – SPECS Bray Area Partnership	€2,000
Floodlight upgrades for Little Bray training pitch	€4,500



Climbing Boulders, Ballywaltrim



Futsal Courts, Giltspur



Goals, Ballywaltrim



Calisthenics Equipment, Ballywaltrim

All the €225,000 Seed Fund received to date has either been spent on projects or is committed to Seed Fund projects for 2024/2025.

Seed Fund Projects 2023		
Project	Cost	Status
Little Bray Community Enhancement Feasibility Study	€59,000	Ongoing
Little Bray Family Resource Centre Garden Project	€47,000	Ongoing
Trauma Project – focused on two areas, early years services and the Traveller Community	€12,000	Ongoing
CARA – Care and Repair Service, Bray Area Partnership	€12,000	Complete
Period Poverty Project – in partnership with Health	€5,627	Complete
Play Therapy Resources	€4000	Complete
Physical Literacy project in partnership with the LSP	€10,000	Ongoing
Bray Children’s Wellbeing Hub	€85,000 committed for 2024 onwards	In development

## Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service provides a wide range of services and facilities, across its 13-branch library network. The mobile library also visits 32 locations on a fortnightly basis. In addition to borrowing & lending books, DVDs, talking books and music CDs, the following services are available:

- Online stock, such as e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio books, e-newspapers from across the world, e-languages and self-learning courses
- Public computers
- Wi Fi for the public to use their laptops, tablets or devices
- Online catalogue of all 330 libraries in Ireland
- Twice weekly request service delivery and collection of stock from those 330 libraries – directly to each branch

All above is free, and there are no longer any library fines for overdue items.

## Statistical Returns

Library Visitor statistics for 2023 saw Wicklow topping 600,000 visits for the first time, reaching 601,235 and exceeding the pre-Covid 2019 record high figures.

Wicklow libraries are in the top three in the country in terms of library visits, items issued and Borrowbox issues per head of population.

These figures have been achieved due to Wicklow County Council’s continued commitment to libraries coupled with staff buy in to attractive programming that makes each library a valued space in the community.



## Wicklow Libraries continued welcome to new Communities

During 2023, the library service continued made extra efforts to warmly welcome new communities, especially families seeking refuge from war-torn regions. Information was translated into relevant languages, like Ukrainian, and welcome posters were displayed in all libraries.

To address diverse language needs, the library obtained a variety of books in different languages, including those spoken by refugees. An online database with books in various languages was also made available for children and their families.

In addition to language support, library branches actively promoted social integration. English language conversation groups were set up to help adults improve their English skills. Painting and crafts for adults to relax and create together has been a feature in many libraries during 2023 encouraging conversation and friendship.

To foster a welcome for children, library branches organised inclusive activities like crafts, board games, and music sessions that transcended language barriers. The aim was to build connections and create a positive space for children from diverse backgrounds.

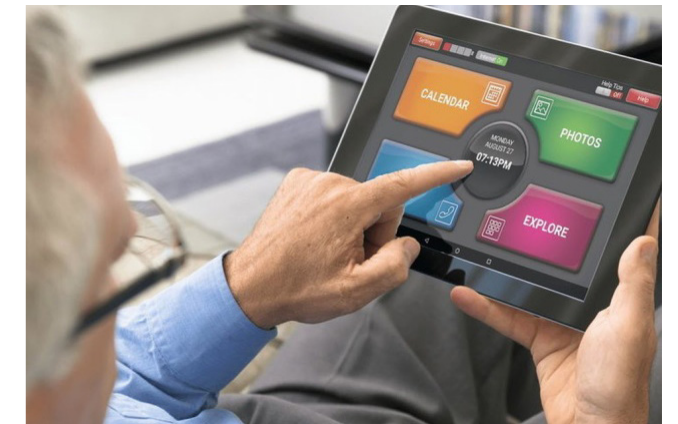
To extend the idea of sanctuary, the ‘Sanctuary in Nature’ initiative was supported by the library service to set up a new group who would accompany adults from new communities, including refugees, on walks in Wicklow’s beautiful landscape and trips to places of interest. This program fostered meaningful connections and a sense of welcome and belonging.

## Dormant Account Funding 2023

With support from Dormant Account Funding and financial support from Age Friendly Wicklow, the library service has purchased cutting-edge Acorn smart tablets, which are uniquely tailored for older Garden County residents.

These tablets are available on a three-week loan basis and offer people a ‘taster’ experience and allowing them to familiarise themselves with the technology before deciding to purchase.

The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide, foster community connection, and promote lifelong learning among older Wicklow communities.



Dormant account funding also supported the purchase of sensory materials for Rathdrum Library, seeing the arrival of a multi-sensory pin board style playhouse which can be used for groups of children to explore sensory play. The much welcome funding also supported the completion of a sensory space in Wicklow Town Library.





## Literacy for all Ages



Promoting literacy for all ages is a core focus of the library service, starting from birth and spanning all the way to 110 or beyond. As part of the First 5 Strategy the 'My Little Library Book Bag' was available free for every child starting school in 2023 to help them to prepare for this big step. There was also the offering of a free bedtime-themed picture book for every child aged 0-3 in the county. These initiatives are part of the 'First5' whole of Government strategy for babies and children.

“One Book, One Community” Carnew

Wicklow County Council Library Service was delighted to partner with Choláiste Bhríde, Carnew and All Saints NS for a “One Book, One Community” project in the spring of 2023.

To support homeschooling parents', home schooling hubs were established in Blessington and Arklow libraries, these meet on a weekly basis.

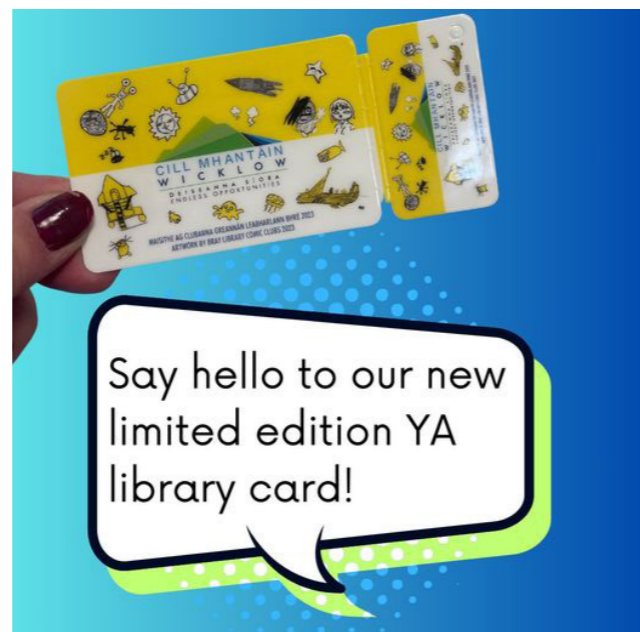
Book clubs play a crucial role in fostering literacy and take place for all age groups in many of our libraries. This includes a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Book Club in Greystones Library, where children explore material related to Climate Action and become Child SDG Ambassadors. Their achievements were acknowledged at a special ceremony in the Greystones Municipal District office on 26<sup>th</sup> September.



Recognising the importance of storytelling, there has been an increased emphasis on children's Storytime's in all libraries, with Rathdrum and Tinahely libraries offering this for the first time.

The success of Bray Library's Teen Comic Club is noteworthy; librarians were given a special opportunity to present their work at the NEXT LIBRARY

conference in Aarhus. This group of teens is behind the design of the first ever limited-edition library card, aimed at teens aged 12-17, launched in the summer of 2023.



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## Outreach activities

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the following are just some of the programmes that library staff engaged in during 2023.



## Healthy Ireland at Your Library

We had approx. 800 people attend Healthy Ireland at Your Library events in 2023.

We receive almost 4k in funding for events, but we also can programme and promote some at no cost.

We had mostly in person activities and events with 2 events solely online.

The Irish Heart Foundation mobile health unit was a great success and parked up at 10 of our libraries for 1-day sessions – they were well attended and generated a lot of interaction as people chatted in the queue and waited in the library for their checkup. We were lucky with the weather conditions and people were delighted to avail of the free opportunity in their local area.



We publicised national campaigns like the Irish Hospice Foundation series on bereavement and Mental Health Ireland “Hello campaign”. We shared information with our local schools and parenting groups on relevant talks. We took ourselves out and about and promoted our initiatives at the Aging well in Bray event and at the Bray Area Partnership Christmas Lunch.

## Local Studies

Wicklow County Library Local Studies Service is a reference and research facility dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making available material related to all aspects of modern and historic county Wicklow. The Local Studies collection covers a diverse range of topics documenting the activities of individuals, organisations, and businesses in County Wicklow, as well as aspects relating to the topography, geography, flora, and fauna of the county. It is a significant information provider and plays a significant role in the cultural remit of Wicklow County Council Library Service. The service facilitates and promotes research, lifelong learning and provides a leisure dimension for the community.

2023 saw the launch of the Local Studies Services education pack for Junior Certificate History students. The aim of the pack is to support teachers and

students completing the Junior Certificate History Class Based Assessment (CBA). It consists of a guide to the Local Studies Collections, guides to completing the CBA, as well as digital resources including worksheets, and PowerPoint presentations. Over 1,000 guides were printed and disseminated to local secondary schools over the course of the year.

‘The Past in My Place’ was a collaborative exhibition organised by Wicklow County Council Library Local Studies and local secondary school Coláiste Chill Mhantáin. The exhibition featured the works of 2nd year students which were completed as part of their History Class Based Assessment (CBA). The aim of the exhibition was to showcase the rich history of the county and highlight the diverse heritage of the students attending Coláiste Chill Mhantáin. The exhibition featured over 40 displays from around the Wicklow district and from as far afield as the Republic of Moldova, Lithuania, and South Africa.



## Archives

Wicklow County Archives Service holds a unique collection of Wicklow records relating to the administration of the County and the people's interaction with this administration. They offer a rich research resource for the family and local historian, as well as academics and researchers of wide and varying interests. Among the jewels of the collection are the 17th and 18th century Wicklow Borough records - offering a snapshot of Wicklow life in the mid-1600. The County archives also holds the records of the Grand Jury, the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, rural and district, Town and County Councils as well as private collections.

## Genealogy Service

The County Archives offers a genealogy research service, researching and advising those with Wicklow roots, and promoting the County as a key destination to those on the “roots trail”. Our parish records database establishes family lines and their connection with the Wicklow landscape. Wicklow is a member of [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie).

## Archives & Genealogy Programme 2023/24

### Digitisation projects

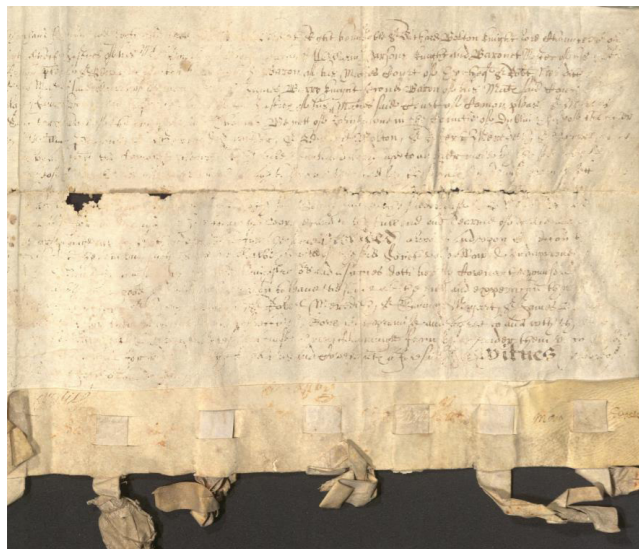
Wicklow County Council Valuation books are now digitised and will be online on Wicklow.ie in 2024. Proposed project for 2024 is the Wicklow Borough Corporation Minute book dating from 1662. Digitised and online to date on www.wicklow.ie: Grand Jury Records; Wicklow County Council Minute Books; Arklow UDC Minutes, Bray UDC Minutes, Wicklow UDC Minutes, Wicklow Workhouse Records.

### Conservation Programme

Programme of archives conservation continues with repairs and conservation of the Archive's oldest collection, the Wicklow Borough Corporation Minute Books which date from early 1600s.

### New collections:

#### The Actons of Kilmacurragh



The estate papers of the Actons of Kilmacurragh dating from the 1660s. The Actons acquired the Kilmacurragh estate during the 17th century and developed the famous arboretum in the 19th century, now operated by the OPW. In 2021 the OPW announced funding of €5.45 million for structural work at Kilmacurragh House. The County Archives is currently cataloguing this new collection in preparation for an exhibition to coincide with the refurbishment of Kilmacurragh House.

### Schools Programme

As part of our schools programme, the Archives Service welcomes school groups to visit and explore our collections. We have developed a Schools Resource Pack in line with the senior cycle history coursework:

Wicklow Archives Guide to the Leaving Certificate History Research Study Report including a suite of digital resources for teachers and students. The archivist will continue to present these resources to each Wicklow secondary school in 2024. The aim is to introduce the students to Wicklow sources and support their work as part of the history curriculum, particularly in relation to the emphasis on the use of primary source material in history project work.

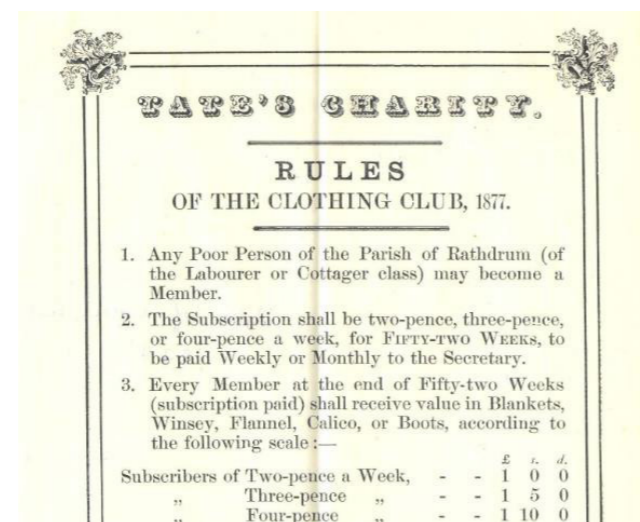
### Wicklow Decade of Centenaries

#### Programme 2020-2023

**Wicklow Gaol Comrades: A Civil War Autograph Book** is a collaboration of the Wicklow and Wexford County Council Archive services. This project by historian Aaron O' Maonaigh, tells the stories of the men held in Wicklow Gaol during the Civil War and consists of a publication, exhibition, and video. The prisoners feature in a 1923 autograph book, which was donated to Wexford County Archives many years ago. It consists of rhymes, messages, sketches, and cartoons, all recalling the men's humanity, courage, and humour in the grim surroundings of Wicklow Gaol, where they faced an uncertain future. The men hailed from Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Kildare, Westmeath, and Dublin. As part of the project, relatives of the prisoners were traced, and we thank them for their invaluable contributions to the publication, video and exhibition which will travel to Wicklow and Arklow libraries in 2024.

**Wicklow Gaol: Three Centuries of Incredible Irish History.** Children's author Carmel Kelly has developed a young person's book and series of projects around Wicklow Gaol. The book will be distributed to each primary school in the county and the author Carmel Kelly and illustrator Jimmy Burns will present workshops in libraries and schools in 2024.

### Funding application: Heritage Council



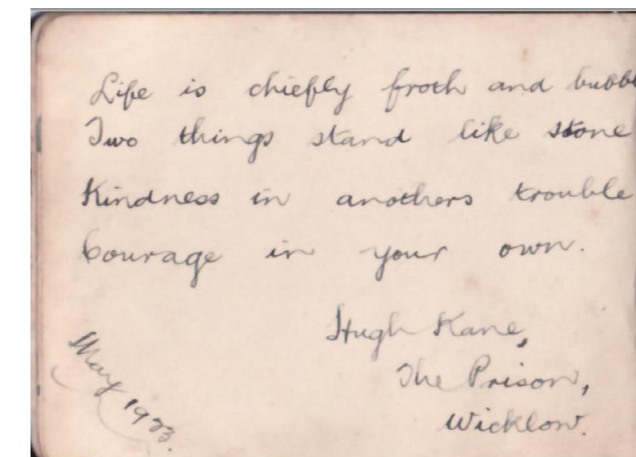
Application submitted under the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship grants scheme 2024 for a project on the Tate Charity Trust collection (1787-1990): To produce a descriptive catalogue, exhibition, and online resources.

### Committees/Networks

County Wicklow Heritage Forum – continues to implement the actions of the 2017-22 Wicklow Heritage Plan and new Heritage Plan for 2023. Local Authority Archivists & Record Managers (LGARM) – Developing strategic plan in 2024. Engaging with the National Archives subgroup National Centre for Research and Remembrance (NCCR) regarding the Birth and Information Tracing Act 2022 and Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Act 2023.

### Wicklow and the Civil War: Archives Decade of Centenaries Project

Wicklow Gaol Civil War Prisoners Autograph Book project is being developed in collaboration with Wexford County Archive. A book, exhibition and short film will be produced 2023, telling the story of the Wicklow and Wexford men held in Wicklow Gaol in 1923. The autograph book on which the project is based features the signatures, notes, and illustrations of the Wicklow Gaol prisoners in 1923. (Decade of Centenary projects are funded by Wicklow County Council and Creative Ireland).



### Committees/Networks

County Wicklow Heritage Forum – continues to implement the actions of the 2017-22 Wicklow Heritage Plan and new Heritage Plan for 2023

Wicklow Creative Ireland Culture team implementing Wicklow Creative Ireland plan/Decade of Centenaries programme for 2022/23

### Records Management programme

The Archives Service is a Member of the Wicklow County Council Records Management Group, developing a records management programme for Wicklow County Council, with reference to the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records published by the LGMSB – in the process of being updated by the LGMA. The Archives Service is also a Member of Wicklow County Council GDPR Governance Group – working with each department to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

### Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

This includes the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the following outdoor leisure facilities.

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow:

- Arklow: Annacurragh Playground
- Arklow: Meadowvale Playground
- Arklow: Rathdrum Playground
- Arklow: Seaview Avenue, Arklow.
- Arklow: St. Peter's Place, Arklow.
- Arklow: South Green, Arklow.
- Arklow: Heatherside, Vale Road.
- Baltinglass: Recreation Park and Playground
- Blessington: Playground, Business Park
- Bray: Ballywaltrim, Bray.
- Bray: Fassaroe, Bray
- Bray: Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road
- Bray: Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray
- Bray: Sidmonton Park
- Bray: Seafront, Promenade
- Carnew: Playground
- Enniskerry: Playground Monastery Grove
- Greystones: Playground, Mill Road, Greystones
- Kilcoole: Little Tern Playground
- Kilmacanogue: Playground, Rockfield Park
- Laragh
- Newcastle: Playground, Wicklow Coast Road,
- Newtownmountkennedy: Children's Playground
- Newtownmountkennedy: Playground and Scouts Den
- Newtownmountkennedy: Wicklow Hills Playground
- Rathangan: Playground
- Rathnew: Children's Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park

- Roundwood
- Wicklow Town: Ballynerrin
- Wicklow Town: Hill View
- Wicklow Town: The Murrrough

Uplands Council. Out of this consultation process, an overall vision was agreed for Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow.

Five strategic objectives were identified, that collectively, will help to achieve the agreed vision. These objectives are:

- Integrated outdoor recreation management
- Improving opportunities and facilities for sustainable outdoor recreation
- Supporting conservation through outdoor recreation
- Promotion, education and raising awareness of outdoor recreation
- Stimulating outdoor recreation tourism and entrepreneurship.

**To manage with the implementation of the Strategy, a Strategic Development Officer will be appointed in 2023.**

### Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards 2023

The competition is run by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company (IPBMI), in association with Co-operation Ireland.

This competition acknowledges the fantastic work being done every day by communities in their local areas in the County.

Four Wicklow volunteer groups were nominated by the Community, Cultural and Social Development Directorate of Wicklow County Council to represent the county in the 'Pride of Place' 2023 competition.

ReWild Wicklow was nominated in the 'Climate Action and Biodiversity' category while the villages of Hollywood (Population 0-500 category) and Avoca (Population 500-1500 category) were also entered. Greystones Tidy Towns was nominated under the "Creative Place Initiative" for the creation of an all-inclusive Sensory Garden adjacent to Burnaby Park in



The winners were announced at an awards ceremony in November 2023, hosted by Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. The village of Hollywood won Gold and Avoca Village won Silver in their respective categories. Greystones Tidy Towns won Silver in the Creative Place Category and Rewild Wicklow took home gold in the Special award category.



### Community Recognition Fund

The following seven projects are progressing, with completion dates estimated in quarter three 2024:

- **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.  
  
Installation of universally accessible outdoor community gym facility along the Murrrough, in order to extend upon and complement the existing community facilities present.  
  
Improvements to the seafront promenade linking Wicklow Harbour to the existing Murrrough community facilities and beyond to the Murrrough coastal walk.
- **Arklow Playing Pitch:**  
Groundworks and surfacing works.  
  
Multi use pitch and fencing, Landscaping.

- Rathdrum Community Park: Groundworks, Fencing, Gates, Landscaping, large planters and benches.
- Greystones Community Park: Boules/pétanque playing ground, landscaping and Community Placemaking.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland. The scheme seeks to support those sporting and recreational pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles and the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

Projects applications are accepted from Local Authorities (All Measures), Local Development Companies (Measure and/or State Bodies (Measure 3) under the scheme.

The following funding is available under the scheme:

- Measure 1 for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €20,000.
- Measure 2 for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000.
- Measure 3 for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000.
- Project Development Measure funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large-scale projects.

Current Projects under development funding in the region of €3.5m with 20 projects ongoing.

Roundwood Recreation Project – Part VIII process completed. Tendering to commence shortly. Play area, cycle hub/trail and upgrades. Licence agreement to be finalised with Coillte.

The Sugarloaf Repair Scheme – Part VIII submissions being received. CE Report to follow in February which will be submitted to the members of Bray Municipal District.

New projects commencing in 2024:

### Skate Parks:

- Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue
- Baltinglass Skate Park
- Blessington Skate Park, at Business Park, Blessington
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, and Athletics Track at Charlesland Greystones.
- Wicklow Town Skate Park and BMX Circuit and MUGA at Seafront, The Murrrough

### Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow

#### County Council in partnership:

- Auhrim Playground
- Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, Charlesland, Greystones
- Dunlavin Playground.
- Eden Gate Playground, Charlesland, Greystones.
- Grangecon, Playground.
- Knockananna Playground.
- Rathdrum Playground.
- Shillelagh Playground
- Tinahely Playground and MUGA

### County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020 -2025 sets out the ambitions for outdoor recreation in County Wicklow and the steps to realise it.

This Strategy Action Plan is the outcome of an extensive consultation process managed by County Wicklow Partnership in conjunction with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Sports Council (now Sport Ireland), the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow IFA and Wicklow

Project	Description	Amount
Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation Plan for the Lugnaquilla uplands area to manage visitor numbers, land use, habitats and safety in changes to access routes.	€50,000
Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Recreation Plan to manage and protect the landscape and ensure safe and appropriate recreation.	€50,000

assessment screening, and which examined the potential adverse effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 sites i.e. the Poulaphouca Special Protection Area. It was concluded that the project requires a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

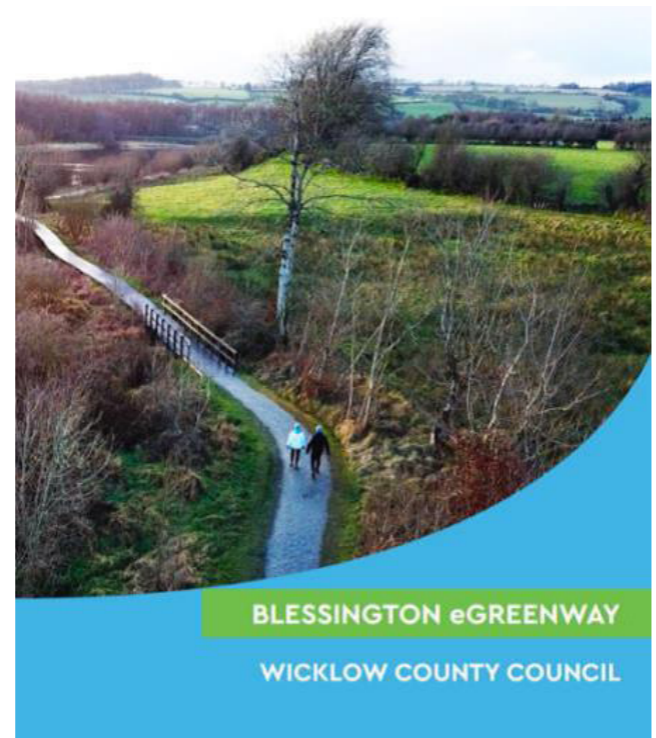
Planning documents were submitted to An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, with a deadline of 4th March 2022.

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

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



An Aerial View of the current trail in Blessington



An Aerial View of the current trail in Blessington

### ORIS - Blueway Project

The Bright-light Blueway project commenced with the appointment of a consultant to assist with the development of a delivery strategy for this project with the four Municipal Districts also involved in the creation and development of the nodes at Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Brittas Bay and Arklow.

The Blueway project's overall budget is €554,820, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, with Wicklow County Council providing match funding. The areas for expenditure on this project are:

- Improved water access
- Trailheads and trail links
- Marketing and signage

An online public survey was conducted of the county's beaches to assess the uses, strengths, and deficits of the offerings of its beaches.

A new boardwalk is installed at Greystones South Beach which will make the beach more accessible to all individuals including those with varying degrees of ability. An upgrade of existing facilities is taking place in Brittas Bay along with new information boards in conjunction with the guidance of the Heritage Officer. The Cove area, Arklow, subject to a land agreement, will see bicycle stands installed, privacy screens for changing built, planting and cleaning of graffiti on the rock armour. Information boards and Blueway accredited signage will be placed at each of the locations to guide visitors.

### Blessington eGreenway

The Greenway is designed based on the following elements - Excellence, Exercise, Energy, Environment, Ecological, Exploration and Ease of access.

As the project works/scope and legislation have changed since the previous Appropriate Assessment screening, which was carried out in 2015, AECOM (consulting engineers) conducted an Appropriate As-

### Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is now established in Co Wicklow and will start operating from 2nd January 2024. It consists of an Integration Support Coordinator, 2 Integration Support Workers and 1 Admin Support Officer.

Current objectives are: engage stakeholders, establish the New Communities Response Network, assist in development of SOPs, assess gaps and needs, seek additional funding. DCEDIY Objective: enable the above populations to live independently in the community.

The team will play an important role in the overall integration strategy for the Council and the focus will be on the following cohorts of people:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP Applicants)
- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status
- Programme Refugees
- Beneficiaries of temporary Accommodation (BOTPs)

While the LAITs are not expected to be responsible for the creation or management of the Local Migrant Integration strategies, they will be a key player in the delivery of those strategies.



### Overview

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership was established in 2008, supported by the then Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative. Representatives from a variety of Agencies, Organisations and Community Groups involved in sport, physical activity, outdoor recreation, and community development make up the Board of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is advised by a Steering committee that consists of members from the following agencies:

Wicklow County Council, Elected Representatives, County Wicklow Partnership, Children & Young Peoples Services Committee, HSE, Gardaí, KWETB, Wicklow Uplands Council, Healthy Ireland, County Wicklow Network for Older People, NGB Repre-

### Implementation

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership implements a range of national programmes to encourage participation in Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation. Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport and Physical Activity, Schools Sport, Youth Sport and Sport Inclusion. Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership will also implement sports programmes in the context of the National Physical Activity Plan, The National Sports Policy, and other relevant Strategic documents.

### Actions undertaken in 2023

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership continued their Governance journey to maintain compliance with the Sport Ireland Governance code throughout 2023. It is now a requirement to have 40% female representation on sports partnership committees and boards. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is well placed with 57% female representation on the committee, 8 females and 6 males within our 14-person membership.

### Disability & Inclusion Programmes

Throughout the year, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership successfully implemented a diverse range of community programs catering to adults with disabilities who link in with HSE Day Care services. The Inclusive Dance Fit program in Arklow, conducted every Friday morning, has been a consistent and enriching offering. Additionally, in partnership with Bray Sports Promotion Unit, an engaging sports day featuring yoga, soccer, and multi-sport activities was organised in June. This event was supported by workers from Sunbeam House, Autism Initiatives, and Rehab Care Bray.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership delivers numerous training and education, and participation programmes for people and children with disabilities throughout the county.

Month	Name of Program
Jan	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness
Feb	Disability Inclusion Training
Feb	Lámh for Sport Information Session
Feb	Vision Sport Awareness Training
Mar	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness with Practical
Mar	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness
Mar	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness
Apr	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness
May	Cycle Right Learn to Cycle for People with a disability Tutor Training
May	Disability Inclusion Training
May	Autism in Sport
June	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness
Sept	Inclusive Fitness Training
Nov	Autism in Sport
Nov	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness

The Learn to Cycle initiative, tailored for children aged 5 to 12, addresses the diverse need of participants, including those with disabilities and autism, but also all children who cannot cycle without stabilisers. In 2023, the program was delivered in Autism units in primary schools, in community settings and as part of National Campaigns. A total of 275



### Diversity and Inclusion Summer Camps for children and teenagers

In 2023, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership's Disability Inclusion Summer Camp program expanded its reach by introducing new locations and

accommodating a greater number of participants. Notably, the inclusion of a Surf Camp at Brittas Bay offered an additional option for teenagers with disabilities or autism in the surrounding area, providing them with the opportunity to participate in the engaging three-day camps. The return of the Outdoor Camp in Blessington, the Multi-Sport Camp in Enniskerry, and the taster camps at Bray Sailing Club further diversified the offerings, allowing children and teenagers across County Wicklow with disabilities to choose from a variety of camps tailored to their enjoyment. In total, 54 children with disabilities actively participated in these inclusive and enriching summer experiences.

Name of Program	Location
Bray Sailing Club Taster Sessions	Bray
Multi- Sport Camp	Enniskerry
Outdoor Camp	Blessington
Brittas Bay Surf Camp	Arklow/Wicklow
Spotlight Studios	Wicklow/Ashford
Swim Camp – Shoreline	Bray
Hoops Academy	Baltinglass
CP Adventure	Blessington
Soccer Camp	Ashford
Rowing Ireland	Dublin
National Playday – Play & Sport packs	Bray, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Arklow, Blessington
Nov	Sports Inclusion & Disability Awareness

### Women in Sport

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership delivered numerous Women in Sport programs throughout 2023. These programs were delivered by external tutors and National Governing Bodies. These varied in duration from 6 to 12-week programs which a majority become sustainable with the program continuing and women and girls becoming members of their local club or continuing the activity independently.

Name of Program	Location
Indoor Volleyball	Wicklow Town
Couch to 5K	Rathdrum
Women Try Soccer	Bray
Women in Sport Week	Co. Wicklow
Girls Kick-boxing Program	Bray
Youth Kick-boxing Program	Bray
Women Kick-boxing Program	Bray
Women's Try Tennis	Arklow
Summer Couch – 5K	Online
Intro to Gym for Teenage Girls	Arklow
Teenage Girls Roller Skating	Greystones
Social Basketball for Women	Arklow
Social Basketball for Teenage Girls	Arklow
Pickleball	Newcastle

### Marathon kids

The 8-week marathon kids' program was hugely successful impacting on 700 primary school children. The children ran 26.2 miles over the 8-week program. Former Olympian, David Gillick attended the celebratory event at the Arklow running track and presented the children with their medals. A teacher from St Joseph's Templarney, Arklow said "The event at the end was a really positive celebration of the children and a great reward for all who had put in such effort over the course of the program".

### Arklow Sports Hub

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership was awarded €20,000 phase 5 of Dormant Account Funding. There were 25 programs and workshops delivered in Arklow in 2023 with 1347 participants taking part.

Name of Program	Location
Adult Badminton Tuesday mornings	Coral Leisure Arklow
Rackets Open Evening	Coral Leisure Arklow
Sports Injury Prevention and Clinic	Stephen Hurley Health and Fitness
Intro to Mini Tennis for 6 to 9 years	Coral Leisure Arklow
Table Tennis Training Award	Coral Leisure Arklow
Junior Badminton	Coral Leisure Arklow
Community Walking Leader Workshop	Stephen Hurley Health and Fitness
Marathon Kids	In Schools
Women's Try Tennis	Arklow Tennis Club
Introduction to Basketball Coaching Course	Glenart College Arklow
Get Going Get Rowing	St Marys College Arklow Schools
Intro to Gym Teenage Girls	Coral Leisure Arklow
Junior Pickleball	Coral Leisure Arklow
Social Basketball for Women	Coral Leisure Arklow
Social Basketball for Women	Coral Leisure Arklow
Sports Club Promotion Evening	Coral Leisure Arklow
Adult Badminton Evening time	Coral Leisure Arklow
Junior Pickleball	Coral Leisure Arklow
Beginners Squash	Coral Leisure Arklow
iCoach Girls	The Colour Club Arklow
Get going get rowing schools	Glenart College
Junior Badminton	Coral Leisure Arklow
Beginner Spin class	Coral Leisure Arklow
Walk n Talk	Coral Leisure Arklow
Get going get rowing programme	Coral Leisure Arklow

### iCoach Girls program

ICOACHGIRLS aims to promote and increase physical activity and sport amongst primary school age girls through the creation of "Girls Play Centres" in their local community. Rachel Tyrell and Siobhan Jones led this 10-week program with 30 girls aged between 5 and 11 years participating. The girls attended The Colour Club one hour a week to equip

them with competence and fundamental movement skills.

Wicklow was one of the pilot sites for this initiative and it is planned to expand it in 2024.

### HSE Programs

A number of Men on the Move and Walk 'n Talk programs were delivered in the county. This was the beginning of our Physical Activity for Health Pilot program in the county. The Physical Activity for Health Officer will coordinate activities for those living with Chronic Conditions.

### Direct Provision and Ukrainian response

An eight-week trial running program in partnership with Sanctuary Runners and delivered by founder of She Summits, Alicia was delivered in Bray. This program was aimed to get people in the direct provision centres in the Bray area running. A four-week Sanctuary Swim program in partnership with Swim Ireland developed from this.

A series of summer camps were facilitated for children living in Direct provision centres and Ukrainian centres. There was a swim series delivered in West Wicklow to the Ukrainian centre in Baltinglass.

All centres were provided with play packs and sports equipment.

### Bike Week

To celebrate Bike Week in May, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership held 32 events across county Wicklow, aimed at the general public funded by the Department of Transport.

### HER Outdoors Week

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership welcomed Ireland AM to Greystones Harbour to kick off HER Outdoors Week in Wicklow. There were over 35 events hosted in Wicklow to showcase the outdoor recreation opportunities in Wicklow and encourage women to take part. Activities included: Kayaking, Gliding, Canoeing, Hiking, Archery, and biking. Over 270 teenage girls and women took part in the week



### Active Girl Guide:

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership hosted our first ever Active Girl Guide event on Thursday, February 16th, in the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) campus. The event saw over 100 teenage girls gather from all over Wicklow to attend an active learning day aimed to teach them more about how to fuel their bodies, care for their minds and train effectively during their menstrual cycle. The day was packed with classes led by top Irish experts including, Irish international basketball player Hannah Thornton, Dr Kiera Ward and Ruth Kavanagh of EduFit, BIFE Sport Co-Ordinator Jennifer Campbell, Bar Monkey founder Jamie Geraghty and to open the event with an inspiring chat with LGFA All Star Mary Hulgaine.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Web: [www.wicklowlsp.ie](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie).

### Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant and creative activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, socially engaged arts, youth arts, community arts and festivals. Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is designed to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the county.

### Annual Arts Act Funding Scheme

The Artist Award, the Artist & Community Collaboration Award and the Arts Festival Award Schemes target artistic practice in all disciplines by people and groups that are from or based in County Wicklow. In 2023, funding in the amount of €85,882 was made available to support these schemes.

- 1 Artist Award  
The objective of this Artist Award is to assist

artists in development their practice and to make a significant contribution to the professional life of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow. Ten applicants received a total of €37,830 in 2023.

- 2 Arts Festival Award

Applications were received to support high quality programmes by local, national, and international artists presented within County Wicklow. The predominant art form presented within the festivals was music. Other events include dance and storytelling. Five applicants received a total of €29,775 in 2023.

- 3 Artist & Community Collaboration Award

The objective of this Artist & Community Collaboration Award is to support artists and community groups to realise an arts project or programme to support their artistic development. Applications were accepted for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/ implementation of a new arts project or programme. Four projects were selected for funding in 2023. The total funding for these awards in 2023 was €18,277.

### Strategic Projects Awards

The Strategic Projects Award is designed to support the development of new work in Wicklow by both residents of County Wicklow and those from outside the county. Designed to support the collaborative development and delivery of new high-quality projects during 2023, the projects selected were:

1. Anna Newell: working with collaborators on the exploration of ideas for the creation of a new show for children/young people with complex needs.
2. Shane Sutton: working with youth groups in two Wicklow communities to create and experiment in virtual reality.
3. Finn Richards: working with collaborators to produce a photography and public realm project charting various connections between a diverse range of people throughout the county.
4. West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival: develop the capacity and expand the reach of the festival's annual education and outreach programme in collaboration with the National Concert Hall. Engagement of artists to deliver a bespoke, bilingual family and education programme based on Saint-Saëns's famous Carnival of the Animals orchestral suite.
5. Shane Finan: working with three artists to create new writing and artworks based on the myth, ecology, and more-than-human aspects of the Poulaphouca Reservoir in west Wicklow.
6. Aisling Ennis: working with collaborators to

create a solo pedal harp recital inspired by music of the fairies or ceol sí.

7. Maia Nunes: working with collaborators on the creation and presentation of a short performance art film 'Overture Cochlea' to premiere at Mermaid Cinema in the autumn of 2023.

The appointment of artists to this Scheme works one year in advance. The total investment for projects delivered in 2023 was €89,955.



West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival presented Saint-Saëns's famous Carnival of the Animals orchestral suite and workshops, Blessington, 2023

### Public Art

The Per Cent for Art Scheme is a government funded programme whereby an additional fund of up to 1% of the cost of publicly funded infrastructure of building, can be applied for by the client (typically a local authority, school, hospital, the National Roads Authority, the OPW) to commission original, site and context specific works of art. The fund is available across all government departments and supports the commissioning of artists and artworks across all contemporary art forms.

Tenders were invited in late 2022 for proposals for the commissioning of a public artwork installation for the Knockroe Bends on the N81. Stage 1 of the assessment of applications took place in January 2023, Stage 2 assessments were completed in February 2023 with the successful applicant being selected.

### Creative Places Baltinglass

Following a successful application led by the Arts Office in partnership with local community development organisations in Baltinglass and West Wicklow in 2022, the people of Baltinglass continued to benefit from an investment programme, awarded by the Arts Council, to develop and sustain new creative opportunities for all age groups until June 2025.

Creative Places is an opportunity for locations which had not benefited from sustained arts investment in the past, to build local arts programmes which will benefit local people. In 2023, Monika Sapielak was appointed as 'Creative Places Baltinglass Coordinator' and undertook an inclusive, socially engaged

approach to build upon the existing local cultural strengths, led by community participation and ideas, and supported by artists.

In 2023, Creative Places Baltinglass launched a new website [www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie](http://www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie) and delivered a range of events and initiatives including: artist gatherings, community singing sessions, artist residencies, a community mural project, special Cruinniú na nÓg and Culture Night programmes, and six artists were awarded under an inaugural 'Seed Funding Scheme'.

Wicklow County Council's Art Office and the Coordinator will continue to enable the Baltinglass community to engage in conversations aimed at exploring and planning a range of creative and participatory projects for local people to take part in and enjoy in 2024.



*Creative Places Baltinglass 2023 programme and website launch, Baltinglass, 2023*

### Culture Night

Wicklow County Arts Office commissioned, collaborated and supported an exciting programme of events and activities in over 12 locations across the County Wicklow to celebrate Culture Night in 2023.

With an estimated 3,700 people in attendance across all 21 events, the Wicklow County programme featured a diverse range of events and happenings purposefully selected to open pathways to creativity.

The Wicklow Culture Night programme regularly featured in local press with over 10 articles in the lead up to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.



*Arklow Culture Crawl as part of Culture Night, Arklow, 2023*

### Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is a five year all-of-Government initiative that places creativity at the centre of public policy.

In early 2023, Wicklow County Council's Arts Office launched the Wicklow Culture and Creativity Strategy for 2023-2027.

[www.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie)

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children and young people, returned to County Wicklow on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Wicklow County Council's Arts Office programmed more than 40 activities, events, and workshops in nine locations across County Wicklow including: Arklow, Blessington, Baltinglass, Bray, Dunlavin, Greystones, Rathdrum, Tinahely and Wicklow Town.

The Wicklow County Council's Arts Office partnered with Wicklow Library Services, Mermaid Arts Centre, The Whale Theatre, Arklow Music and Arts, Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre as well as Wicklow Artists and Community Groups to devise a dynamic programme which engaged an estimated 1,500 children and young people in County Wicklow.



*Clay workshop as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, Rathdrum, 2023*

### The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency

The third edition of Wicklow Music Teaching Residency, a partnership between the Wicklow County Arts Office and Music Network, returned in October 2023. County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over were invited to pick up musical instruments they used to play in times gone by and start playing again under the guidance of 'The Rossana Trio'.

The participants will receive tuition on uilleann pipes, whistle, flute, violin/fiddle or bodhrán with 'The Rossana Trio', comprising renowned musicians Mark Redmond (uilleann pipes, whistles, flute), Lynda O'Connor (violin/fiddle) and Robbie Walsh (bodhrán).

Based in Wicklow County Campus, Clermont, for its duration (November 2023 – May 2024), the Residency received 34 applications for 15 places on the programme. The selected participants were from across Wicklow County including Arklow, Ballynerrin, Roundwood, Glenealy, Wicklow Town, Kilpedder, Delgany, Bray, Enniskerry and Greystones.



*Wicklow Music Teaching Residency launch in National Concert Hall, 2023*

### Creative Wicklow Grants

In 2023, Wicklow County Council's Culture Team invited applications under the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme. This scheme was put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in the delivery of the Creative Ireland Programme.

Applications were invited from not-for-profit organizations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues, and societies. Applications by individuals had to be in partnership with a community, cultural or heritage group. Ten applications were selected and received a total in funding of €19,500.

### Choral Activation

In September 2023, Wicklow County Council's Arts Office launched the 'Sing in Wicklow' website and the 'Sing in Wicklow' funding Award.

The 'Sing in Wicklow' website aims to provide a base for all Wicklow choirs to help promote their work, events, achievements, and recruitment drives for new members and to support a countywide choral network. [www.singinwicklow.ie](http://www.singinwicklow.ie)

The 'Sing in Wicklow Award' aims to support choirs across the County to participate in workshops and choir competitions, facilitate inter-choir collaborations (such as performances, peer-learning and networking), recruit new members and purchase essential equipment and instruments. A total of 13 applications were received of which 6 were successful. The six successful applicants received a total funding of €5,599.

### Bray Library Afterschool Comic Club

The Bray Library Afterschool Comic Club is a weekly event for children aged 9-12 with diagnosed or suspected Dyslexia. The project has been developed in response to findings from Dyslexia Association of Ireland research that parents of children with Dyslexia have identified as a priority - the need for self-esteem developing activities.

The initial pilot of the project ran in 2022 and

received highly positive feedback from the schools involved. In 2023, the aim of the project was to encourage a regular creative practice of self-expression among the group, as well as to develop a community of peers with shared experience of neurodivergence.

Due to the success of the project, it was extended county-wide for Children's Book Festival through a 'zine' workbook produced with assistance from Teen Comic Club that contains some of the drawing prompts enjoyed by the groups.

In 2023, funding in the amount of €5,600 was provided for this programme.

### Mobile Music Machine - Covid Care Concerts

Mobile Music Machine 'Covid Care Concerts' was an initiative created by acclaimed Irish cellist Gerald Peregrine. The project was initially conceived in response to the many social and economic challenges created by Covid-19. Wicklow County Council first piloted the concerts by Gerald and Mobile Music Machine in 2020.

Mobile Music Machine Care Concerts 2023 series included 20 concerts in five residential care home facilities for older persons across County Wicklow between July and October 2023.

Each concert showcased a different group of renowned classical musicians and singers performing and presenting a new programme of music. The performance line-up included singers Mary Coughlan, Niamh Kavanagh and Sandra Oman, cellist Gerald Peregrine, pianist Vincent Lynch, trumpeter Niall O'Sullivan, violinist Lynda O'Connor, accordionist Dermot Dunne. Funding for this initiative in the amount of €15,000 was provided by Creative Ireland.



Mobile Music Machine performance, Wicklow, 2023

### Way with Words Literary Festival

Wicklow County Council's Arts Office partnered with Wicklow Library Services to deliver the fifth edition of 'Way with Words Literature Festival' on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Blessington Library.

In 2023, the programme featured a range of events that included readings, workshops, in conversations, and activities for all ages with a variety of genres and approaches to writing represented. Over 300 people attended this highly anticipated festival, curated with writers and readers at its core.

### Rathdrum Placemaking

In September 2023, Music Generation were commissioned to manage and deliver an inclusive arts project for the children/ youth from three Rathdrum primary schools titled 'Harmonising Beyond the Trees: Building a Creative Community in Rathdrum' to take place in early 2024.

The programme focuses on climate and the environment as core elements of placemaking and community building for young people through the Arts. It aims to help children relate to their own environment and consider their response to climate and their role within it using music, dance, and visual art experiments arising from an immersive experience at Beyond the Trees, Avondale. The project culminates in a vibrant celebration at Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024, showcasing the collective creativity and community spirit that flourishes when art and nature unite.

In 2023, Rathdrum Playground committee completed the installation of history telling panels with QR codes in 4 bus shelters in the town. With the support of a Creative Wicklow Grant, the panels contain different aspects of Rathdrum history and will be rotated every quarter so everyone can read about aspects of the town's history.

Wicklow County Council's Arts Office also supported the 'Rathdrum Christmas Festival' which brings

the community together to celebrate the festive season by providing a wide variety of arts activities and entertainment designed to appeal to all, managed by Rathdrum Development Association.

### Decade of Centenaries

'Our Wicklow Women' returned in November 2023 as part of the final strand of the Decade of Centenaries programmes.

Exploring the changing role of women in society at the turn of the Century and drawing on contemporary changes in the ensuing Century, the two-day programme celebrated Irish activist, feminist, politician, and businesswoman Jennie Wyse Power's connection to County Wicklow as part of Creative Places Baltinglass and supported through the Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012 - 2023) funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The event took place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The programme included the unveiling of two new commissions: an embroidered tapestry portrait of Jennie Wyse Power by Visual Artist Sarah Bracken Soper and a commemorative poetry collection by Wicklow Poet Jane Clarke, alongside five free creative hands-on workshops for young people and adults.



Cora Venus Lunny performing at Jennie Wyse Power launch as part of Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012 - 2023), Baltinglass 2023



# ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

## Key Strategy Objective 3:

### **Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure:**

“To develop infrastructure and measures that will sustain the best quality of life for our citizens in a strong economic competitive environment of the highest quality; support interagency collaboration and capitalise on County Wicklow’s unique attributes, harnessing efficiently the entire resources of the County to develop employment opportunities”.

## Key Strategy Objective 4:

### **Organisation Development and Financial Matters:**

“To maximise and develop the potential of our human resources, fulfilling our duties under Health and Safety, to adhere to the highest stand of governance, integrity, transparency and accountability and to develop new technologies to continuously innovate and improve the delivery of a cost effective, efficient and high quality of

## **Audit Committee**

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under Section V of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005. Following the May 2019 local elections, the Audit Committee was re-established. The membership of the committee now comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh (From October 2022)
- Cllr. Edward Timmons

The functions of the Audit Committee are prescribed in Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include:

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor’s Report or Auditor’s Special Report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the Authority
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authorities performance of its functions
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Committee (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented its Annual Report for 2023 to the Wicklow County Council in February 2024. In the report, the Committee welcomed the receipt of reports on the following assignments during the year:

- Report to NOAC – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report  
ICT Audit

In the report, the Committee also advised of the following audits that had commenced and were due to be finalised shortly:

- Audit of Grant payments

- SICAP – County Wicklow Partnership – 2022
- SICAP – Bray Area Partnership -2022

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2014 the Local Government Auditor was invited to address the Committee. This annual meeting is a constructive opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues and for the Local Government Auditor to discuss his statutory audit report on the Council’s Annual Financial Statement.

## **Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus**

Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus was formed to address barriers to women taking part in local politics.

The barriers and challenges identified to participation by the female Councillors of Wicklow County Council have mirrored those outlined in national reports such as the ‘Independent Review of the Role and Remuneration of Local Authority Elected Members’ (Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and ‘Women Beyond the Dáil’ (National Women’s Council of Ireland).

The aim of the Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus is to address these barriers and to strengthen co-operation between women across political and ideological lines and strengthen their capacity to effect change. They hope that through the work of the Caucus they can help build the capacity of women Councillors, through formal and informal mentoring, and to promote women’s equality in Local Government in Wicklow.

During 2023 the Caucus held a joint event with the Wicklow Traveller Women’s Group, the aim of the event was to demystify the workings of the Council and encourage Traveller women to participate in local politics and promote their causes.

## **Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee**

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee held three (hybrid) meetings in 2023 which included the annual joint meeting between Wicklow and Wexford Policing Committees.

Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to ‘arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area.’ Two public meetings were held in 2023, the first on the 26<sup>th</sup> April in Arklow, the second on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November in Kilcoole. Both had good attendance and engagement from the public.

Sergeant John Fitzpatrick, Crime Prevention Officer,

attended the February meeting and gave a presentation giving personal advice to all present.

The annual joint policing committee meeting of Wicklow and Wexford Policing Committees was held on the 7th December 2023 in The Chamber, County Building, Wicklow Town. This meeting was attended by Commissioner Drew Harris and was an opportunity for both committees to:

- Discuss the new Operating Model for An Garda Síochána.
- Extra Gardaí allocations for Wicklow/Wexford Division.
- Identify any future co-operation opportunities.
- Status of drug units in the Division.

JPC Working groups have been set up to implement the objectives of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing 6 year Plan under the 4 key areas identified:

1. Policing Communities
2. Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
3. Drug Prevention
4. Communications.

These groups meet approximately 3 to 4 times a year. Each committee has a Chair and the administrative support is provided by an official of Wicklow County Council. The committee is supported by representatives from An Garda Síochána and comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stakeholders outside of the JPC such as Muintir na Tíre, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

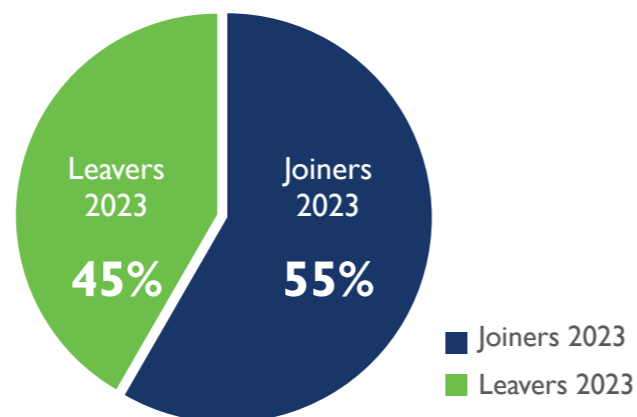


## Human Resources

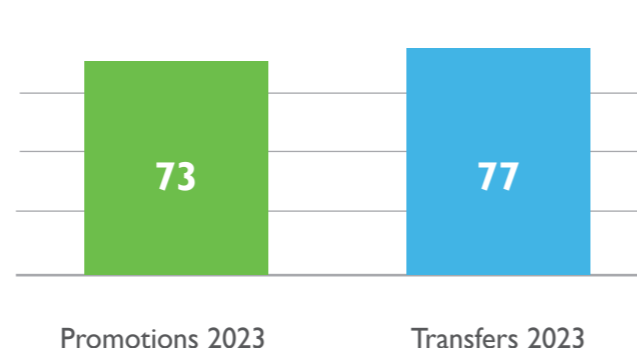
The Core function of Wicklow County Council's Human Resource department is to plan and deliver the organisational workforce requirements in a timely manner to support the delivery of service and our corporate goals. Workforce Management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department, the objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with adequate staffing resources within the financial resources available, in 2023, 61 Competitions were administered.

HR support good governance and promote a positive working environment, through the implementation of Council policies and procedures. HR recognise the importance of staff well-being and make provision for flexible work arrangements and deliver statutory and non-statutory leave arrangements which create a positive work environment to improve work life balance, including: The Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Blended working arrangements, Career Breaks, Carer's Leave, Exam leave and Travel Pass Schemes together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement Leave and the Cycle to Work Scheme.

### Wicklow County Council Joiners and Leavers 2023



### Wicklow County Council Promotions and Transfers 2023



## Members Expenses

Member	Expense
Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000
Leas-Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000
SPC Annual Allowance	€30,000
Annual Representational Allowance	€933,429.39
Councillors Annual Allowance	€219,738
Foreign Conferences	€0.00

## Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council subscribes to a dynamic and interactive Health and Safety process. Accordingly the Health and Safety Office avails of every opportunity to reflect these principles in terms of consultation, training and the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management System.

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, City & Guilds Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans amongst others.

Policies and procedures in Wicklow County Council are constantly being reviewed in line with new best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Staff participation in the process is encouraged and the input of the Safety Representatives is valued.

## GDPR

Wicklow County Council is fully committed to compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) & the Data Protection Act 2018.

The legislation also gives Data Subjects the right to access their personal data on request and have their personal data amended if found to be incorrect.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 7 subject access requests during 2023.

## Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act, 2014 came into effect on the 14th October, 2014. This Act abolished the requirement to pay a fee when making a request. The Freedom of Information Acts assert the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of in-

dividuals.

The Act established three new statutory rights:

- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;
- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to himself or herself amended when it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and
- A legal right to obtain reasons for decision affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 105 requests during 2023. A disclosure log detailing all non-personal freedom of information requests can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).

## Register of Electors

The addition of the online registration facility and the implementation of a single live "rolling register" under the Electoral Reform Act 2022 has provided for a fundamental strengthening of the Electoral system and processes.

Wicklow County Council strives to ensure that every opportunity is provided to all qualified persons to be included in the Register of Electors. Online registration under [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) has created a more streamlined, effective and inclusive way for electors to register or update their details. This facilitates the democratic process at election and voting events, ensuring their voice is heard.

The number of Electors currently on the Register of Electors for Wicklow at the time of this report is 102,516.

## Training and Development

Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and elected members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them.

Staff members also regularly attend seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise.

The Council also encourages and assists staff to undertake relevant further education at all stages of their career.

## **Ombudsman**

Any person who feels that he/she has been unfairly treated or is not satisfied with a decision on a complaint by the local authority may contact the Office of the Ombudsman. By law the Ombudsman can investigate complaints about any of the local authority's administrative actions or procedures as well as delays or inaction in your dealings with the local authority. The Ombudsman provides a free, impartial and independent dispute resolution service.

The Ombudsman referred 29 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2023.

# ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Strategic Policy Committee

### Wicklow County Council

#### Chair

Cllr. Avril Cronin

Cllr. Tom Fortune (2.5 Years)

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh

Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Cllr. Gerry Walsh (2.5 Years)

Cllr. Irene Winters

#### Outside Agencies

Mr. Huw O'Toole, Environment/Conservation

Mr. Chris Fox, Agriculture/Farming Community

Mr. Jim Wood, Development Construction

Ms. Ruth Donnelly, Business Commercial

Ms. Muireann Dalton, Trade Union

Mr. Killian McGreal, Business West Wicklow

### Enterprise and Economic Development

County Wicklow is a great place to live, visit, work, and do business in. As one of the most rapidly growing counties in Ireland, Wicklow has unlimited business potential, which can be seen through the significant expansion and development the County has undergone in recent years. Strategically located less than one hour from Dublin, with easy access to the M50, national motorways, Dublin Port and airport, the County has many benefits to offer by way of idyllic location, infrastructural development, proximity to universities and Institutes of Technology.

The Economic Development and Enterprise Unit of the Council is responsible for the promotion and marketing of County Wicklow and its towns as a location for enterprise and job creation. It promotes and assists in the development of enterprise hubs and acquires land to facilitate employment and commercial development. The unit plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the County and is committed to growing a further education base in conjunction with SETU and KWETB at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew.

The Council works closely with other development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and maintains and broadens links with potential industrial / commercial developers / promoters to achieve job creation and economic growth. It promotes County Wicklow as a premier film location through Screen Wicklow.

### Development of Enterprise Hubs

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies and in conjunction with local chambers of commerce works closely with existing enterprise hubs in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park comprises 74,000 sq. ft. of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. In this centrally located Wicklow facility there is a wide range of workspace units in sizes from 180 sq. ft. up to 5,000 sq. ft. along with hi-spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room.

The Arklow Business and Enterprise Centre ABEC is a community initiative set up to provide workspace for new embryo and small expanding businesses together with a range of support facilities. The centre offers approx. 30,000 sq. ft. of workspace consisting of 14 small/medium sized production units and 14 offices and facilitates 34 businesses.

In addition ABEC partnered with Wicklow County Council to develop the Courthouse as Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices.

Wicklow County Council secured enterprise space in Greystones in 2023 at a discounted rate. It is hoped that this will qualify for Smart Regions Enterprise funding. The building is expected to open for tenants in early 2024.

The building is completed to shell and core fit-out. It will offer agile, cellular office spaces including co-working, break-out and meeting spaces and will be an ideal opportunity for businesses to create their own tailored environment to suit their specific needs.

The 14,381 sq. ft. building extends over two floors with the capacity to accommodate approx. 46 units together with parking for 46 cars, EV charging points and bicycle spaces.

The building has been created to excel in sustainable credentials, is A3 rated and LEED Certified and is ready to occupy.

Wicklow County Council has appointed a consultant to develop a marketing plan to market remote working hubs and broadband connection points in County Wicklow. This is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and will provide a county level framework to complement the National Hub Network and provide a strategic direction for the development and marketing of current BCPs/Remote Working Hubs both nationally and internationally.

### Sites for Enterprise / Employment / Amenity uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the development of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum including essential infrastructure on the site including roads, roundabout, utility ducts and pipes, fencing, entrance pillars and gateway.

The Economic Development unit has commenced a marketing drive and is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

The Council has some varying size landbanks at a number of other locations throughout the County including Baltinglass, Dunlavin, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Ashford. The Council will work with all relevant stakeholders to develop these lands in a strategic and sustainable manner.

The former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew, which has been purchased by Wicklow County Council, will be used as a remote working hub following refurbishment in 2024.

Wicklow County Council has appointed estate agents to market a 4.5 acre site at South Beach, Greystones

with a view to attracting investment in a hotel and some residential space at the site.

The Abbey Grounds is currently under construction by the Wicklow Municipal District as an amenity for Wicklow Residents through Destination Towns funding provided by Fáilte Ireland.

The redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café/Retail/Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheater arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility and public seating.

### Disposal of Lands

A resolution was signed in respect of the disposal of 0.54 hectares (1.33 acre) site on Mill Road/South Beach to the HSE for the development of a Primary Health Care Centre and this is due to finalise in 2024.

### Economic Development Unit

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas.

The new Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 sets out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wicklow, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The Economic Development unit has been engaging with the business community and government and local agencies to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

Five High Level Goals have been identified incorporating Community, Climate Action and Economic Development.

### Networking & Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2023 the Economic Development Unit met with representatives of Fáilte Ireland, Enterprise

Ireland, the IDA, along with other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal networking continues with the local businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Town Teams to promote and develop business and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow.

### Food Strategy

The main aims of the County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy include:

- To tell the Wicklow Food Story,
- To develop a Food Activity Calendar (Business to Consumer),
- To increase Food Stakeholder Networking (Business to Business),
- To get Local Food to Local Consumers,
- To provide appropriate business supports.

A review of the current Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2018-2021 was carried out by James Burke Associates (JBA) and an Action Plan is being agreed in early 2024. The new Plan is similar to the original Plan but with more focus on Climate Action and the development of a Food Incubation Hub.

Wicklow Naturally Co-ordinators and members took part in a number of events and activities throughout 2023:

- The Taste of Wicklow
- The Tinahely Show – ‘The Best of Wicklow Tent’
- Wicklow Naturally October Feast which encompassed a full calendar of activities with different events every day including food tours, demonstrations, markets and restaurants hosting Wicklow Naturally dining experiences.
- Gifted at the RDS



### Skills Taskforce

Wicklow County Council established a Skills Taskforce in 2022 with the aim of creating an opportunities for professionals and stakeholders to help facilitate the development and delivery of training and education to meet the skills needs of County Wicklow into the future.

A Skills Strategy has been developed following extensive public consultation and will launch in early 2024 with a focus was on film, food, and renewables as key drivers of economic development in the county.

This is viewed as a catalyst for active collaboration and co-operation between all participating stakeholders in skills development and training and has members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors, as well as the Education Sector, Training and Development sectors, and supported by Wicklow County Council staff.

### ORE Network

The Offshore Renewable Energy Network was established by Wicklow County Council in late 2022 as an industry led network interested in building capacity to maximise the potential business opportunities for Wicklow that the offshore wind industry will present.

The sector will require supporting infrastructure and a steady supply of highly skilled workers with a wide range of training and educational skills.

The group met regularly in 2023 to discuss skills and training, ports and infrastructure, and industry and the supply chain, and has met with each of the companies who will operate offshore wind projects off the coast of County Wicklow. It is estimated that the lifetime spend in delivering 3.5 GW by 2030 is €17.9 billion.

### Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

A steering group, chaired by the Chief Executive, has been established to drive progress on the new Glendalough Masterplan. A Working Group has also been set up to engage with the local community and look at priority actions for 2024.

### Tourism

EcoTrail Wicklow: This three-day event attracted more than 1,400 participants representing 47 different nationalities. EcoTrail Wicklow is increasing Wicklow’s profile as the outdoor destination in Ireland.

Wicklow Passport: Around 600 Wicklow Passports were sold through [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie) More than 2000 were distributed at various events. 30 new Wicklow Ambassadors were welcomed.

Promoting Wicklow: From October to December, [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie) ran an extensive digital campaign promoting Halloween, Mid-Term Break, the Wicklow Passport and Christmas in Wicklow.

Each month, a series of blogs were produced and posted on [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie) and shared on social media. Each post presents a special theme, interest, seasonality, and more.



Thanks to growing partnerships with many Tourism Ireland offices around the world, Wicklow welcomed press trips to the County and enjoyed extensive international exposure, especially in France and Spain.

In May 2023, Wicklow enjoyed a six-page special feature on the Dublin Gazette showcasing a 3-day Wicklow Passport adventure.

### Town Regeneration Office

The Town Regeneration Office was set up in February 2023. It is staffed by the Town Regeneration Officer with administration support. The main remit of the office is to implement the Town Centre First Policy.

The Town Centre First policy puts town centres at the heart of decision making and aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. The policy is aligned with the National Planning Framework and Our Rural Future.

Irish towns are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response. The Town Centre First policy will facilitate that response by towns of all sizes across the country so that their centres can function as the sustainable and vibrant heart of the communities they serve, in ways that are adaptable and appropriate to 21st century needs.

This Town Centre First policy will empower local communities and businesses, working with Local Authorities, to develop Town Centre First Masterplans to maximise the particular strengths and assets of their town.

A plan-led approach is critical.

These plans will also provide a link to the objectives

in the statutory development plans and local area plans that are relevant to each town.

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first in the county 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. Based on an extensive consultation process, there are 8 themed areas to the plan:

- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Urban Design Framework
- Placemaking Projects
- Activating the Town Centre
- Supporting Community Amenity
- Town Centre Green Space Network
- Supporting Local Business
- Improving Accommodation Offer

Wicklow County Council will work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Blessington Town Team to devise and deliver on the objectives of the Masterplan.

### Town Teams

A Town Team is a representative group of active people from various sectors in a town or village, including business, community, culture and heritage. Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2016, and are active in Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington. Town Teams run events and develop projects that will enhance their town centre and improve the quality of life for those who live or work there.

The Town Centre First Policy is supported by a number of funding schemes, mainly the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) and the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), as well as a number of smaller schemes.

In County Wicklow there are a number of RRDF and URDF projects. In 2023 Wicklow County Council set up a steering group for the advancement of the URDF & RRDF projects.

### URDF

Work continued on implementing the projects for which successful funding was secured under the URDF including:

- Arklow Historic Town Core – complete
- Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square – complete
- Bray Public Transport Bridge – under review
- Bray Harbour Project - ongoing

The URDF team continues to work on a pipeline of projects for future funding applications.

### RRDF

Work is ongoing on the Baltinglass Town Centre Regeneration project which was awarded €2.7m under RRDF. The project focuses on two key elements; Restoration of the Courthouse with its reuse as a heritage centre and Digi-hub space and public realm enhancements.

Wicklow County Council was awarded funding of €357,750 in respect of Newtownmountkennedy for the design and plans for upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities. This funding builds on the €150,000 that Newtownmountkennedy received in 2018 from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which funded streetscape improvements in the town.

Wicklow County Council was awarded just over €1m funding in respect of Blessington. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre guided by the TCF Masterplan, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

### Screen Wicklow County Wicklow Film Commission

Screen Wicklow, (formerly known as The County Wicklow Film Commission) is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county.

Funded by Wicklow County Council, Screen Wicklow is based in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, but represents the whole county.

The main objective of the Screen Wicklow is to market and promote the county as a film location for any kind of audio-visual or content creation production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production, gaming, animation or music promo. The film office assists any project regardless of the size of the budget with the aim of bringing economic benefits to County Wicklow.

As a secondary objective, Screen Wicklow is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity.

In 2023 County Wicklow once again experienced high levels of production activity. Over 600 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television.

The County was used by a large number of international and national feature film and television produc-

tions. Feature films, high end television productions and numerous commercials that used Wicklow locations include:- TV Drama 'The Tourist' (Season 2) starring Jamie Dornan, Bad Sisters (Season 2), Moonflower Murders, feature films The Watchers and Freud's Last Session, and advertisements for Rockshore and Lidl among many others.

Services on offer to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and location suggestions through personalised web brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

The Action plan that came out of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank identified the film industry as of great importance to the local industry. Objective 4 of the Action Plan is to capitalise on the Immediate Economic Opportunity in the Film Industry through a number of actions: To develop a Film Industry Cluster in County Wicklow (a hub for film making and ancillary industries).

Establishing the appropriate infrastructure and supports to attract and sustain the film making industry in Wicklow requires a collaborative approach, facilitated and supported by Wicklow County Council. Such an approach will enable the County to realise the potential value from film making directly plus film tourism, accommodation services and other support services.

### County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy

During 2020 Wicklow County Council engaged Saffery Champness, working with Nordicity, to prepare a Screen Sector Development Strategy for the next 5 years. The Strategy assesses the County's financial, human, physical and cultural capital and help to develop policies for strengthening the County's position in respect of each. The strategy continues to guide action in the areas of;

- Attracting foreign direct investment (including marketing and promotion)
- Support for the indigenous screen content creation sector.
- Developing screen tourism.
- Support for the development and training of local screen sector creatives and crew.
- Working with the newly completed Clermont Screen Hub.

### Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional asset to the County and continues to be developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of

Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 55-acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms and a third level college. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, EI, the Local Enterprise Office, County Wicklow Partnership and the Chambers of Commerce to achieve the vision and to create a high-quality environment for a thriving business quarter on the campus.

### Wicklow County Campus and South East Technological University (SETU)

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with South East Technological University (SETU) is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses which delivered online during 2023. Over 2000 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since the commencement of this partnership in 2006.

All events and meetings held face to face and online throughout 2023 continued to promote the Campus as a unique and exceptional venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the South East Technological University (SETU).

The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public

### Actions Undertaken in 2023

In 2023 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of projects on the Campus, including:

- Restoration of heritage windows and doors aided by a grant from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme
- Completed preparation of a Conservation Management Plan to guide future Development of the campus.
- Completed preparation of a Master Plan to guide future Development of the campus.
- Wildflower Meadow areas Developed.
- Extensive removal of invasive species in vicinity of ornamental pond.
- Additional staff assigned to intensify maintenance and management of grounds and heritage buildings.
- Ongoing facilitation of campus as a unit base

and a filming location for screen productions.

- Completion of installation of new Biofuel Heating system.
- Demolition and removal of old prefab buildings.
- Old CCTV camera system upgraded and replaced.
- A Community Employment worker continued to assist with the maintenance and caretaking of the buildings and grounds throughout the year.



Official opening of Clermont Screen Hub



Official opening of Clermont Screen Hub



Construction of Clermont Screen Hub

## Development of a Content Creation Enterprise Hub

In June 2023, Clermont Screen Hub had a soft opening and allowed two production companies to take up residence in the hub while in production of two television series which were mostly shot in County Wicklow. Clermont Screen Hub was officially launched by Cathaoirleach Aoife Flynn Kennedy in the presence of Minister Simon Coveney, Minister of Enterprise Trade and Employment and Minister Simon Harris, Minister for Further Education in front of a very large gathering of local business support agencies, film industry professionals, education providers and other relevant parties. The Hub comprises of a new 2-storey building linked to the refurbished courtyard cottages, conference facilities in the former school chapel and administrative offices in a section of former dormitory at second floor level in the school block. The facility will provide approximately 10,000 sq. ft of private and co-working spaces in a dynamic and synergetic environment for creative/media cross-fertilisation. It will offer specialised and customised, sector specific business supports that drive start-ups and economic growth. The launch has created a lot of positive interest in the hub and anyone interested in more information can take a look at: [www.screenhub.ie](http://www.screenhub.ie)

The Hub construction was financed by Wicklow County Council and is supported under the Department Enterprise, Trade & Employment's Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland.

The development of this remote working hub is one of main objectives in the Mid-East regional Enterprise Plan.



Clermont Screen Hub

## Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Offices were established in April 2014 to enhance the national enterprise support model for small and micro businesses. This new partnership model builds on the 20 year success of the City and County Enterprise Boards. The Local Enterprise Office commenced operations within the Wicklow Local Authority structure in April 2014 under a Service Level Agreement between the Local Authority and Enterprise Ireland.

### Mission Statement:

The aim of Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide high quality supports for business ideas in County Wicklow.

The Local Enterprise Offices serve as a "first-stop shop" to provide support and services to start, grow and develop micro and small businesses in each local area. The Local Enterprise Office is strategically charged with stimulating economic activity at county level through the development of indigenous enterprise potential in the county.

The key focus of the Local Enterprise Offices is to maximise opportunities for job creation and retention, attained through:

- Creating and raising local enterprise awareness and developing an enterprise culture and community-based enterprise activity;
- Providing a single/first point of contact service to the business community - providing business advice, direction and signposting, business counselling and mentoring;
- Providing support to private sector and community initiatives to secure the establishment and/or expansion of commercially viable micro-enterprise projects;
- Providing comprehensive pre-and post-start-up supports to new and expanding micro-enterprises;
- Influencing the allocation of resources for micro-enterprise from EU, private and public funding sources
- Promoting the general economic development of their areas.

The following supports and services are offered through the Local Enterprise Office:

### Supports for micro business include:

- Information Provision
- Supports for business networks including Network for women business owners (NEW)
- One to one Business Advice clinics

- Assignment of mentors to companies
- Financial support to boost sales via Trading Online Vouchers
- Technical Assistance Grants to attend Exhibitions & trade shows
- Access to Microfinance Ireland loans
- Student Enterprise Programme
- Business and IT skills training programmes & Seminars
- Leadership and management capability programmes, such as Lean for Micro and the Management Development Programme for Owner / Managers.
- Grant funding towards strategic business growth for eligible companies
- Assist companies with decarbonising, becoming more productive and thus more competitive.
- Assist companies to start exporting.

The Network of LEOs (31) design and develop a number of programmes that are implemented by all the LEOs across the country. These include:

- Student Enterprise Awards
- National Enterprise Awards to showcase local business excellence
- Showcase, the international trade fair for the crafts industry in the RDS
- Food Academy, a specialised training programme for food producers run in conjunction with Board Bia.
- A LEO marquee showcasing LEO clients at the National Ploughing Championships
- Local Enterprise Week with training and events for clients at all levels of business growth.
- Ireland Best Young Entrepreneur programme

The LEO Wicklow also has a role to play in the formulation of local economic development plans for the County, aimed at maximising the opportunities for enterprise and capitalising on the features in the County that offer sustainable competitive advantage. A number of the actions contained in the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan are driven by the LEO.



## Impacts in 2022:

### 2023 Job Creation Figures:

- 774 new jobs created in 2022
- 7% job increase from 2022
- Net employment gain of 69 in 2023

### 2023 Metrics:

- 27 Grant Applications approved valued at € 678,000.
- 81 Trading Online Vouchers approved, valued at € 120,000 .
- Green for Business: 5 clients approved.
- DigitalStart: 1 client approved.
- 11 companies participated in the Lean for Micro programme.
- 5 portfolio client were transferred to the High Potential Start Up unit in Enterprise Ireland.
- 46 Owner/Managers participated in the Owner/Manager Development Programmes.
- Tony O’Kane, WHC Labs, Kilcoole: Winner of the Innovation Award at The National Enterprise Awards 2023.
- Delivered one to one business advisory meetings to 502 entrepreneurs.
- Assigned a mentor to 76 companies.
- Provided business and business IT skills training to 751 participants across all training workshops, specialised clinics and events and seminars.
- Provided Start Your Own Business training to 73 individuals.
- Assisted 17 businesses to apply for MicroFinance Ireland funding. Five of which were approved.

## Priorities for 2024:

- Assist First Time Exporters (Export Development Programme and mentoring)
- Addressing the Productivity Challenge (Lean for Micro support)
- Digital Transformation (Digital Start)
- Innovation (Innovation supports and programme)
- Owner Management Development Programmes
- Specific supports for the Food, Content Creation and Renewable Energy Sectors
- Ongoing strategic alignment with EI
- Support portfolio companies
- Over 10 employee business supports.
- Focus on assisting enterprises at risk from rising overhead costs and impact of Ukraine war.
- Maximise the opportunities for entrepreneurs from National programmes and new initiatives at local and regional level.
- Further develop an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in County Wicklow.
- Heighten awareness of the services available to businesses locally and nationally and help develop relationships between businesses and these service providers.
- Generate awareness of the LEO brand and services.
- Target supports at client companies in the LEO Wicklow portfolio with a view to maintain employment levels, stimulate further growth and job creation.
- Provide progression pathways for client companies to access Enterprise Ireland services and supports.
- Provide a suite of capability building supports while focusing on Innovation, Financial capability, Productivity, Export, and Competitiveness thus adding value and bringing benefits to business and increase productivity.
- Provide the Lean for Micro and the Green for Business programme to mitigate impact of climate change.
- Encourage companies to avail of the Energy Efficiency Grant.
- Promote the DigitalStart support to assist portfolio clients with digitalization of their business.
- Support employment creation in the county through investment in eligible businesses.
- Support economic development aimed at job creation in the County.

- Engage with partners at local and national level to design and deliver enterprise creation and support initiatives.

## Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-2024

County Wicklow and the East Coast Region are at the heart of the screen content sector and the international opportunity, with an existing internationally recognised screen industry. Wicklow County Council’s objective to develop a Content Creation Enterprise Hub is one of a number of objectives in the Regional Enterprise Plan 2024. Other objectives include the development of a Crew Hub for the East Coast to further strengthen the screen sector cluster in the Mid-East and to develop a network of remote working hubs throughout the region. These would include the Clermont Enterprise Hub, the Baltinglass Hub and the Arklow Courthouse Hub.

In 2023 The County Wicklow Skills Strategy was commenced as well as the formation of a Strategic Development Plan for Wicklow County Campus.

## Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan 2024 Strategic Objectives and Actions

<b>Strategic Objective 1</b>	<b>Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs</b>
Action 1	The completion of the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Phase 1) and the development of the Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub (Phase 2)
Action 2	The development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub
Action 3	The development of an incubation food development hub in County Wicklow
Action 4	The creation of the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence
<b>Strategic Objective 2</b>	<b>Develop the Mid-East as a hub for the screen content creation sector</b>
Action 1	Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew
Action 2	Collaborate with strategic stakeholders to establish a Crew Development Hub to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region
Action 3	Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region
<b>Strategic Objective 3</b>	<b>Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across the Mid-East</b>
Action 1	Establish the first National Equine Innovation Centre in Ireland

Action 2	The development of programmes and training to support the growth of the equine sector
Action 3	Conduct a feasibility study to examine the expansion of the National Equine Innovation Centre
<b>Strategic Objective 4</b>	<b>Develop key projects that facilitates the job creation opportunities that result in the transition to a low carbon economy</b>
Action 1	Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a regional green technology enterprise hub that facilitates the creation of a green cluster of companies
Action 2	The development of a Green investment and enterprise zone in Allenwood, County Kildare
Action 3	The establishment of Marine Education, Training and Enterprise facilities to drive job creation in the Mid-East
Action 4	The creation of a circular economy cluster for the Mid-East
<b>Strategic Objective 5</b>	<b>Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East</b>
Action 1	Deliver upon multi stakeholder initiatives that will support the competitiveness of Start Ups, SMEs and micro-business across the region
Action 2	Commission a regional strategy that will adopt an evidence-based approach to co-working hub and innovation space development and investment for the Mid-East





# ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## District Members:

<b>Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Tommy Annesley (FF)
<b>Leas-Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald (FF)
<b>Council Members</b>	Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (FG) Cllr. Pat Kennedy (FF) Cllr. Peir Leonard (IND) Cllr. Miriam Murphy (IND)

## Municipal District Staff

<b>District Manager</b>	Leonora Earls
<b>District Administrator</b>	Alvina Brehony
<b>District Engineer</b>	Avril Hill
<b>Executive Engineer</b>	Vacant
<b>Technican</b>	Stephen Howes

## District Office

Arklow Municipal District Offices,  
Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow Y14 FX63  
Tel: 0402 42700  
Email: [arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## Arklow Area

Area: 48,380 hectares  
Population of District: 26,185

Arklow Municipal District (AMD) covers 26% of roads in County Wicklow (598 KM) being the second highest District in the County. AMD includes Arklow town, Aughtrim, Rathdrum, Avoca, Redcross, Ballinaclesh, Glenmalure and Annacurra.

The offices are open to the public from 9.00 – to 4.00 pm each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, roads etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, parking fines, leases etc.

## District Meetings

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings in “The McElheron Chamber” on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

Arklow Municipal District is represented by its elected representatives on the following Strategic Policy Committees:

- Community Cultural and Social Development  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services:  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald (Chair)
- Planning and Development:  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
- Housing & Corporate Estate:  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
- Economic Development & Enterprise:  
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
- Climate & Biodiversity Action:  
Cllr. Peir Leonard

## Community Sector

- Number of Press Releases issued 2023: 5
- Estate Development Grants were awarded to fifteen successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District. A total sum of €10,000 was awarded to them.
- Awarding of Festival Funding to 12 Festival Committees.
- Number of Roundabouts in Sponsorship Agreements: 8

## Arklow Community CCTV

Arklow Community CCTV system is a great benefit to the town. It is a valuable policing tool and creates a safe environment. 28 requests for footage were received in 2023.

## Retail / Business Sector

### Pay Parking

Wicklow County Council continued to operate a pay parking scheme for Arklow Town which includes:

- Free parking between 9.00am and 10.00 am each morning.
- 15 minutes official grace period in order to purchase a ticket at any time of the day.
- Arklow Town continues to offer free parking throughout the town on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Paying for parking in Arklow is faster and easier with Parking Tag. The cashless parking solution allows motorists to park by phone in the town and extend their parking without returning to their vehicle.
- Free parking was provided in Council owned carparks in Arklow town during the Christmas period.
- 2 free annual parking permits for businesses whose rates are up to date.

## Town Team Initiatives

Despite the challenges of not being able to meet face to face, the volunteers of Arklow Town Team, with the support of Arklow Municipal District Council, were busy completing a number of projects during 2023. Eight meetings were held during 2023.

The mission of Arklow Town Team is to contribute to the improvement in the quality of life for people living in Arklow and enhance the attractiveness of the Town as a place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

- The Flower Basket Scheme continued in 2023. A total number of 125 baskets were purchased. Local businesses and Arklow MD kindly sponsored the flower baskets this year. The scheme enhances and improves the image of the Main Street.
- The Arklow Town Team held an International Women’s Day Lunch on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. There were 3 Speakers and a raffle was held during the lunch from which all proceeds were donated to the Red Cross for the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

Following successful applications submitted to LEADER for funding the following projects were completed.

## Digital Screen

A digital screen has been installed on the newly refurbished Parade Ground – the screen will provide key information about the town and upcoming events for visitors and residents alike keeping communities informed.

## The Arklow Pottery Online project & Heritage Week event



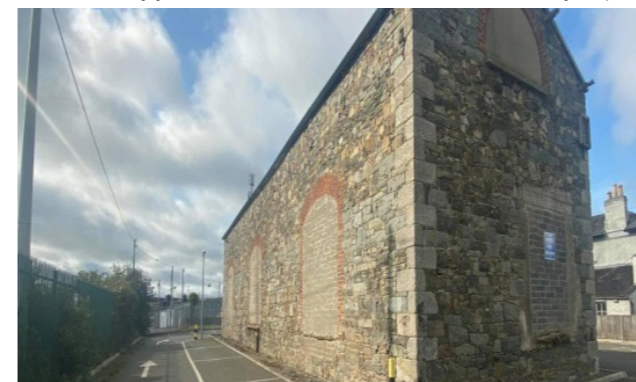
The Pottery project was extended to include interviews with former employees who shared their experiences and memories of working in the pottery.

## Community Garden Biodiversity project

Arklow Town Team teamed up with Glenart College and secured LEADER funding to build a Community Biodiversity Garden. A polytunnel and raised beds have been installed. The students were educated about community, gardening, the environment, biodiversity and many other life skills.

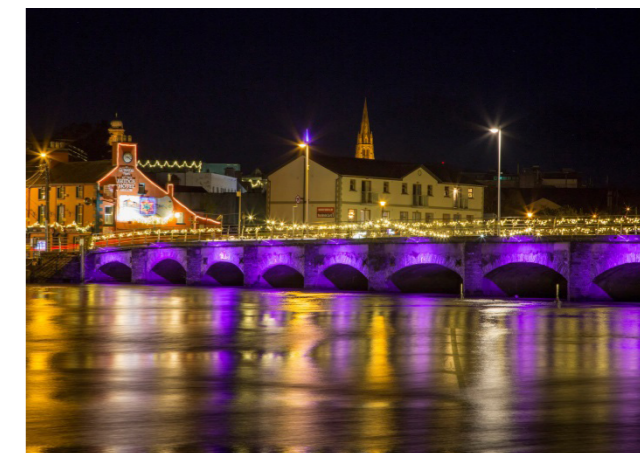
## Harbour to Headwaters Project

Progress on the Harbour to Headwater Project was also made, which will map the Avoca River Catchment from Glenmalure to Arklow and install educational panels of aqua life of the river and the wildlife on the riverbank have been installed with a view to linking to an educational website. This project will be a great base for the starting of future projects to promote our wonderful waterways. Further funding has been applied for in order to showcase the project.



## Kynocks Park Painted Playground Project

A sum of €3,000 was secured from the Community Enhancement Programme to contribute to the painted playground project at Kynock’s Park. The project includes a Painted Playground and Colourful Court and will really uplift and transform the space. The Colour Court and hoops are well utilised.



To mark UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities, The 19 Arches Bridge was lit up in purple.

## Arklow Running Track

Arklow Running Track will be enhanced with extra lighting following receipt of grant of €43,704 awarded under the Sports Capital Equipment Programme. It is the intention of Arklow Municipal District to carry out additional upgrades of the facility during 2024.

## Events

- The Cathaoirleach Awards took place in March 2023 to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of the 12 recipients from all over the District. They were recognised for a wide range of achievements such as sports, literature and music.
- EU50 Event – A collaboration between AMD and Arklow Library to celebrate 50 years of EU Membership invited primary school children to take part in an EU themed quiz with prizes for the schools and individuals taking part.
- Facilitated the Arklow Christmas Festival – in 2023 a new addition of Santa’s Grotto was well received.

## Twinning

Twinning helps to develop a better understanding of other nationalities and cultures. In addition to educational, cultural and sporting exchanges, partnerships with international communities have led to lifelong friendships, to business exchanges and commercial opportunities.

Arklow Town is twinned with two towns:

- Chateaudun - The Cathaoirleach travelled to Chateaudun 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- Aberystwyth, Wales – Cllr Annesley travelled to Aberystwyth 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Arklow Municipal District continues to support the Twinning Committees.

### Tidy Towns Committees

There are 5 active Tidy Town Committees in Arklow MD – Arklow, Aughrim, Clean up Aughrim, Rathdrum, Avoca and Ballycoog.

Arklow Municipal District acknowledges that the great effort by teams of volunteers around the District who work hand in hand with Council staff. This effort is reflected in the continued successes achieved in the IBAL and the Tidy Towns competitions. 2023 was a particularly successful year with all areas improving on their marks from 2022. Arklow was awarded the Gold Medal at County level.

### Infrastructure Projects within Arklow Municipal District

Works have been completed on the Parade Ground Public Realm Project in Arklow Town. The Arklow Town Team Information Point went live in the last quarter of 2023.

Improvement works at Saville's Cross in Rathdrum have been completed along with the resurfacing of Brewery Lane.

Irish Water is continuing with works on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Works undertaken in 2023 using central government funding in Arklow Municipal District included the following: There was approximately 19.4 km of road improvement works carried out in 2023:

### Restoration Improvement

Road No.	Road
R-755	Ballybeg-Rathnew-Woodenbridge
L-6137	Ballymorris Lower-Upper
L-6183	Crone Beg - Tinakilly Lower
L-2140	Macreddin to Ballyshane - Ballinaclash
CL-2172	Redcross to Templeraíne
L-5155	Tullylusk - Kilmacoo
L-6154	Tigroney West - Ballymurtagh
L-6200	Kilballyowen - Kilacloran
L-6902	St.Mary's Road & Connolly Street
L-69022	Griffith Street
L-6139-0	Ballyshane - Cappagh

### Restoration Maintenance

There was approximately 22km of road surfacing works carried out in 2023

Road No.	Road
R-747	Vale Road
R-747	Woodenbridge to Aughrim
L-1113	Deputy's Pass to Coolbeg
L-5156	Kilcandra
L-6203	Tomnasklea
L-62031	Curraghlawn
L-62032	Toberpatrick
L-6204	Killaveney

### Former National Roads:

R-772 at Arklow North was resurfaced in conjunction with the NTA cycle and footway scheme.

### Local Improvement Schemes:

Road No.	Road
	Ballinacor, Greenane
	Drumdangan, Glenealy
	Coolahulle, Aughrim

### Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience:

Road No.	Road
R-752	Installation of earth retaining structure to support the road with new drainage

### Other Infrastructure Projects within AMD

- Irish Water are continuing to work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- A consultant has been appointed for the design of the Arklow Flood Relief Project.

# BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## Municipal District Staff

**District Manager** Breege Kilkenny

**District Administrator** Liam Cullen

**District Engineer** Patrick Byrne

**Executive Engineer** Dermot Graham

**Technican** Denis Jones

## District Offices:

Blessington Area Office  
Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park,  
Blessington, Co. Wicklow W91 RTV0

Tel: 045 891222

Tinahely Area Office  
Council Offices, Coolruss  
Tinahely, Co. Wicklow Y14 AY19

Tel: 0402 38174

Email: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## District Members:

**Cathaoirleach** Cllr. Edward Timmins (FG)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach** Cllr. Vincent Blake (FG)

**Council Members**  
Cllr. Avril Cronin (FG)  
Cllr. Patsy Glennon (FF)  
Cllr. John Mullen (FF)  
Cllr. Gerry O'Neill (IND)

## District Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August. Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

## General

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Coolboy, Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal District is 25,267 (18%). Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads.

Baltinglass Municipal District has two Area Offices in Blessington and Tinahely – Public Counters are open to the Public from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Motor Tax Office is open in Blessington Civic Offices on Tuesdays from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and provides a valuable service to the local area.

## Strategic Policy Committees:

- Community Cultural and Social Development Cllr. Vincent Blake
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services: Cllr. Vincent Blake
- Planning Development and Environment: Cllr. Gerry O'Neill and Cllr. Edward Timmins, Cllr. Patsy Glennon.
- Economic Development and Enterprise Support Cllr. Avril Cronin.
- Wicklow County Council Access and Inclusion Committee: Cllr. John Mullen

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school traffic warden services, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

Wicklow County Council was allocated additional funding by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the development of the Blessington Greenway. Baltinglass Municipal District is looking forward to working with the different sections of

Wicklow County Council to bring this exciting project to fruition.

Members of staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District. The efforts of the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication was reflected in the success of local villages and towns in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) and the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards.

Estate Development Grants were awarded to nineteen successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District.

The Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided Discretionary Funding to various projects:

## Footpath Works:

Road No.	Road	Works
R-43642	Lackan School Road	Provision of new footpath from junction of existing footpath to junction of private lane.
R-412	Dunlavin	Provision of new footpath to link existing footpath to Soccer club grounds.
L-8336	Rathluain Dunlavin	Provision of new footpath to link estate to existing footpath.
L-5156	Shillelagh Road, Tinahely	Provision of a new footpath to create a continuous pedestrian linkage to the Town Centre from the Residential Shillelagh Road area.
R-756	Hollywood Footpath	Proposed new footpath to link GAA playing fields to Hollywood Village with public lighting, drainage and fencing along the R756. We are currently on site. Fencing, ducting and groundworks are complete. Drainage works, kerbing, PL lighting and surfacing will be completed in coming months.
L-4284	Grange Con Village Footpath	Proposed new footpath to link school to Grange Con Village. Design layout and costing are complete. The tender process has been completed. These works are substantially complete. Line marking and PL lighting works will be completed in the coming months.

## Specific Improvement Grants:

### Junction improvement at Lockstown Vallemount

Specific Safety Improvement Grant scheme at R-756/R 758 Junction improvement at Lockstown Vallemount. The works include realignment of an existing road and new junction construction, removing the existing boundary ditch/hedge to facilitate the new road construction works and required sightlines at the junction. Drainage and signage will also be installed as part of the scheme. Work on this project is ongoing. Excavation and drainage works are currently underway. New road construction and surfacing will be completed in coming months.

### Drainage Improvement Works:

- Drainage works at R758 Vallemount
- Drainage works at L8314 Randlestown
- Drainage works at L7238 Ardoyne
- Drainage works at R725 Eastern Main Street, Carnew
- Drainage works at L3260 Feddan

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for Drainage Grant Works projects has yet to be received and the final allocation for works in the Baltinglass Municipal District is awaited. The schemes for 2024 will be identified by both engineers as soon as we know our allocations.

## N81 Works

### N81 Minor Works Projects

WCC have looked for TII approval / funding for a number of minor drainage and surfacing works on the N81 in 2024.

### N81 Category B Projects.

WCC will look for TII approval for surfacing works on the N81 at the start of 2024. WCC will identify sites for TII approval and possible funding in 2024.

### N81 Cleaning of Pipelines and Gullies

The annual cleaning of pipelines and gullies using a Vac tanker unit was completed on a section of N81 North of Blessington to South Dublin County Border in September 2024.

### N81 2024 Pavement Capital Works N81 Tuckmill to Saundergrove

TII have carried out testing and design analysis on a section of N81 from North of Baltinglass to Castleruddery Lower. Analysis of results indicated that a sec-

tion of N81 needs to be resurfaced North of Tuckmill Cross and this be part of a Pavement Capital Works Scheme in 2023. TII have provided funding to improve the vertical alignment of this route and to re-surface this section of N81 in 2024. This contract has been awarded and we are awaiting a start date for winning contractor. The contractor is due to start early this year.

### N81 Hollywood Bus stop facilities and traffic calming

TII have provided funding to access the feasibility of future bus stop facilities in the vicinity of Hollywood Village County Wicklow. The project will also incorporate traffic calming measures to reduce speeds on the N81 and. The Feasibility and Option Report, was submitted by Wicklow County Council on 17th November 2023, for the N81 Hollywood Cross Rural Traffic Calming RSIS (Option 2). The scheme has Gateway 1 approval from TII. The design work has commenced with the expectation of a Part 8 to follow to Baltinglass MD.

### N81 Blessington South Traffic Calming

TII have provided funding to access feasibility of a future traffic calming safety scheme and progress possible design works in 2023 on the N81 south of Blessington. National Roads Staff within Wicklow County Council have made a formal submission of the Blessington Gateway - Type B Road Safety Improvement Scheme. This includes the letter to TII Road Safety, the Feasibility Report and the Funding Request to progress the scheme through to construction. TII have approved the feasibility and options report for the Blessington South scheme and have approved funding to proceed to the design stage. We will now need to appoint a consultant to undertake the design.

### N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West - Feasibility Report

TII are currently carrying out a study on a section of N81 from North of Baltinglass to Annalecky Junction on N81. TII have allocated funding in 2024 to access feasibility of any future projects and progress a possible design works.

A public consultation process is required to progress this scheme. An overview of the scheme will be presented to Local Councillors before the proposed public consultation. The first part of the proposed public consultation will include presentation of the constraints study area and short list of options, in-person information events, letters to landowners along the route and invite comments on constraints and the options.

## Baltinglass Roads Programme 2024

The new 3 year road programme will be in place for years 2012 – 2024 inclusive. The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for RI Works has yet to be received and the final allocation for works in the Baltinglass Municipal District is awaited. The Baltinglass Municipal District allocation will be divided equally between the Blessington Area and Tinahely Area.

## Restoration Maintenance Works (RM) – Surface Dressing

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for RM works will be allocated in the coming months. The Baltinglass Municipal District allocation will be divided equally between the Blessington Area and Tinahely Area.

## Blessington Area Restoration Improvement Schemes

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
R756	Dunlavin - Hollywood	Complete
L4307	Ballynure	Complete
L4307	Rathsallagh	Complete
L4264	Clonshannon	Complete
L7261	Ballinabarny	Complete
L8804	Knoxtershill	Complete
L8320	Castleruddery	Complete
L83761	Ballynultagh	Complete
L8367	Lacken Gap	Complete
L8388	Rathmoon	Complete
L8353	Granabeg	Complete
L42621	Cranaareen - Rathgorragh	Complete
L8333	Kilbayet	Complete
L8378	Ballylow	Complete
L8875	Goldenhill	Complete

## Tinahely Area Restoration Improvement Schemes

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
L3221	Clonegal Road	Tender awarded – Dec 2023
L7256	Ballykilmurry Road	Completed 28 <sup>th</sup> November
L7247	Muskeagh Road	Completed 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
L7250	Seskin Road	Completed 5 <sup>th</sup> December
R725	Coolkenna Road	Completed 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
L77477	Old Lathaleer	Completed 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
L7246	Mullinacuff Cross	Completed 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023
L7246	Ballyraheen	Completed 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
L77477	New Lathaleer	Completed 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
L3215	Gorteen Road	Completed 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Blessington Area RM (Surface Dressing) Schemes

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
R759	Knockatillane	Complete
R756	Granabeg	Complete
L4371	Threecastles	Complete
L8285	Baronstown	Complete
L8333	Kilbayet	Complete

## Tinahely Area RM (Surface Dressing) Schemes

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
R747	Crossbridge to Whiterock	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
L3216	Coolboy to Coolattin	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
L7256	Borkil Beg to Highpark	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
L3260	Fiddan to Rathdangan	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

One scheme was completed under the Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) in the Tinahely Area of Baltinglass MD in 2023 - Rancher's Lane, Cronalea, Shillelagh.

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for CIS projects will be received in early 2024.

## Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

Four schemes were completed under the Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) in the Baltinglass MD in 2023 these are as follows:

- Liscolman Lane, Ballyconnell, Tinahely
- Newtownsaunders Lane, Baltinglass
- Knockeen Bridge Lane, Ballyconnell
- Raheenteigue Lane, Crossbridge.

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for LIS projects will be received in early 2024.

## Blessington Inner Relief Road

The Inner Relief road is a partially completed distributor road, which is designed to provide a town centre 'by-pass' from a new roundabout adjacent to the existing entrance to Roadstone on the north side of the town, to a point on the N81 south of the town centre. The objective in the current Blessington Local Area Plan is to facilitate the completion of the inner relief road.

To date, this road is complete between the Naas Road and the Blessington Industrial Estate junction (opposite the Maxol petrol station) and between the N81 south of the town and the Kilmalum Road and was delivered as part of a number of private developments that were granted permission by Wicklow County Council.

The section of road to be constructed lies between the roundabout on the R410 Naas Road and Roundabout on the L8364 Kilmalum Road. The proposed route alignment would bring the road through a corridor already provided for when planning was granted by Kildare County Council for Blessington Manor, It should be noted that this portion of land is now in the ownership of Wicklow County Council. The remainder of the route is located on Greenfield sites.

It should be noted that the majority of this section of road lies within the functional area of Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council have entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 providing for the execu-

tion of such works.

## Blessington Greenway

Wicklow County Council has obtained Part 8 planning permission to construct a Greenway around the lakes of Blessington. The scope of works for the project was changed during the process of route identification. These project changes triggered the need to review the environmental reports undertaken to date, which has led to the project requiring a NIS and a planning submission to ABP. The new planning documents have been lodged and we are awaiting a decision from ABP.

## Funding Secured for Baltinglass Municipal District

### RRDF

#### Blessington

Blessington has been awarded just over €1.1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects.

The funding was announced by Government as part of a €21.5m programme of support for 27 landmark regeneration projects in rural communities across the country.

It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance the Blessington as a place to visit.

#### Carnew

To do design, cost and planning for the refurbishment of the old Bank of Ireland building (BAM purchase) to become a remote working hub - €49,999.50

#### Kiltegan Community Centre

Engage architect / engineer to assess property being leased to Community Group by Council, review design, prepare plans, planning permission and tender for construction phase, to turn into multi-purpose use - €49,999.50 – Blessington

#### Blessington Community Centre

To kit-out a vacant building in the town centre in order to create a community and youth space ensuring functionality for a wide range of uses including a small tech space - €36,000

### Blessington Greenway/Russborough Parklands and House Trail

Enhancement of the trails within Russborough Parklands - €178,380

Coolkenno Equestrian Trail - Construction of equestrian trail and associated access - €198,000

MD budgets for 2023, 10k extra on Economic Development, 3k extra on twinning and 3k extra on Festival/Christmas lights.

### Other Projects:

#### Christmas Lights

Contributory funding for Christmas Lights was provided to a number of community groups around the Baltinglass Municipal District. The aim of the scheme is to support the excellent work being done around the Municipal by community groups.

#### Festival Funding

Contributory funding for festivals held within the District was provided to various community groups around the Baltinglass Municipal District. The aim of the funding is to support groups holding social and cultural events within their local communities.

#### Blessington Town Team

Baltinglass Municipal District works closely with Blessington Town Team to make Blessington a better place to work, shop, socialise and live in. The Town Team has six key working groups as follows;

- Tidy Towns and Public Realm
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Business
- Tourism
- Culture and Heritage
- Projects

In 2019 Future Analytics were commissioned to undertake a Blessington Town Health Check Phase 2 to inform future community and socio-economic planning and development in the town. This Health Check has now been signed off on by Blessington Town Team and the focus is on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

Baltinglass Municipal District is a member of the Blessington Access Group and is working with all members on the implementation of the Blessington Street Route Accessibility Audit which was completed by Universal Access.

### Blessington CCTV

Wicklow County Council has successfully completed the implementation of a community-based CCTV system for Blessington town. The new system will be fully operational from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. Funding for the project has been provided for by Wicklow County Council with an additional funding grant of €40,000 coming from the Department of Justice and Equality. The project was initiated through Blessington Town Team and Blessington and District Forum and has been progressed and managed by Baltinglass Municipal District. The new system will operate in partnership with the local Gardaí and will be used to assist in the general policing of the area. The CCTV system will also act as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour and public order offences. The system will assist the Gardaí in the identification of offenders and assist as evidence in prosecutions. This project will keep our citizens safe and serve not only the needs of An Garda Síochána but also enhance the citizen safety experience from a Wicklow Local Authority perspective. The CCTV programme is part of a programme of development which will see Blessington town become a centre of recreation as well as a safe place to live, work and shop in.

### Baltinglass CCTV

Work on the Baltinglass CCTV project is ongoing. Funding for the project has been provided for by Wicklow County Council with an additional funding grant of €40,000 sought from the Department of Justice and Equality in 2024. Preliminary locations for cameras have been identified and will be confirmed following a public consultation process. This project will contribute to public safety in Baltinglass and also enhance the public safety experience from a Wicklow Local Authority perspective thus encouraging people to visit the town for both business and leisure purposes.

### Community Recognition Fund

Baltinglass MD received a total of €425,000.00 from the Government's Community Recognition Fund to support the development of Baltinglass Park.

### Events

Baltinglass Municipal District continued its support for the Coolattin Canadian Connection, the O'Neill City Nebraska twinning project, and Castel Maggiore twinning project all of which continues to develop strong community relationships between Wicklow and the respective towns and cities in Canada, USA and Italy

Baltinglass Municipal District supported many local social and cultural and fundraising events including Blessington Open Door care, Vallemount Men's shed, Tinahely Men's shed, Blessington History Society and Carnew First Responders group.

### Tidy Towns

Baltinglass Municipal District continues to support and develop strong links with the various local Tidy Towns groups within the District, recognising the invaluable contribution that these groups make to their local communities

### Active Travel Measures

Provision of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works from Blessington Main Street to Deerpark Roundabout.

This project is currently at Phase 2 - Concept and Options. Consultants are developing options for provision of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works.

### Old Ballymore Road Blessington

Consultants are currently developing a draft Project Appraisal Report and draft Preliminary Design Report to explore the possibility of provision of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works along Old Ballymore Road, Blessington.

### Baltinglass Active Travel River Crossing Study

Active travel funding has been provided to access the design feasibility of a future pedestrian bridge crossing on the River Slaney. Funding in 2023 to be used to appoint a Consultant to progress a possible design. Staff within Wicklow County Council are currently reviewing an options report for this project.

### Rural Development Fund (RRDF). Baltinglass town centre work

Public realm and streetscape works within Baltinglass town centre have started in March 2024. Funding was awarded in 2019 under the Rural Development Fund (RDF).

The project will involve the re-allocation of road space, the laying of new high-quality paving and kerbs along the footpaths, enhanced lighting provision, tree planting and landscaping as well as associated drainage works, installation of ducting and the undergrounding of overhead cables.

### Climate Adaptation Action Works

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for projects will be received in early 2024.

### Rural Specific Action Programmes

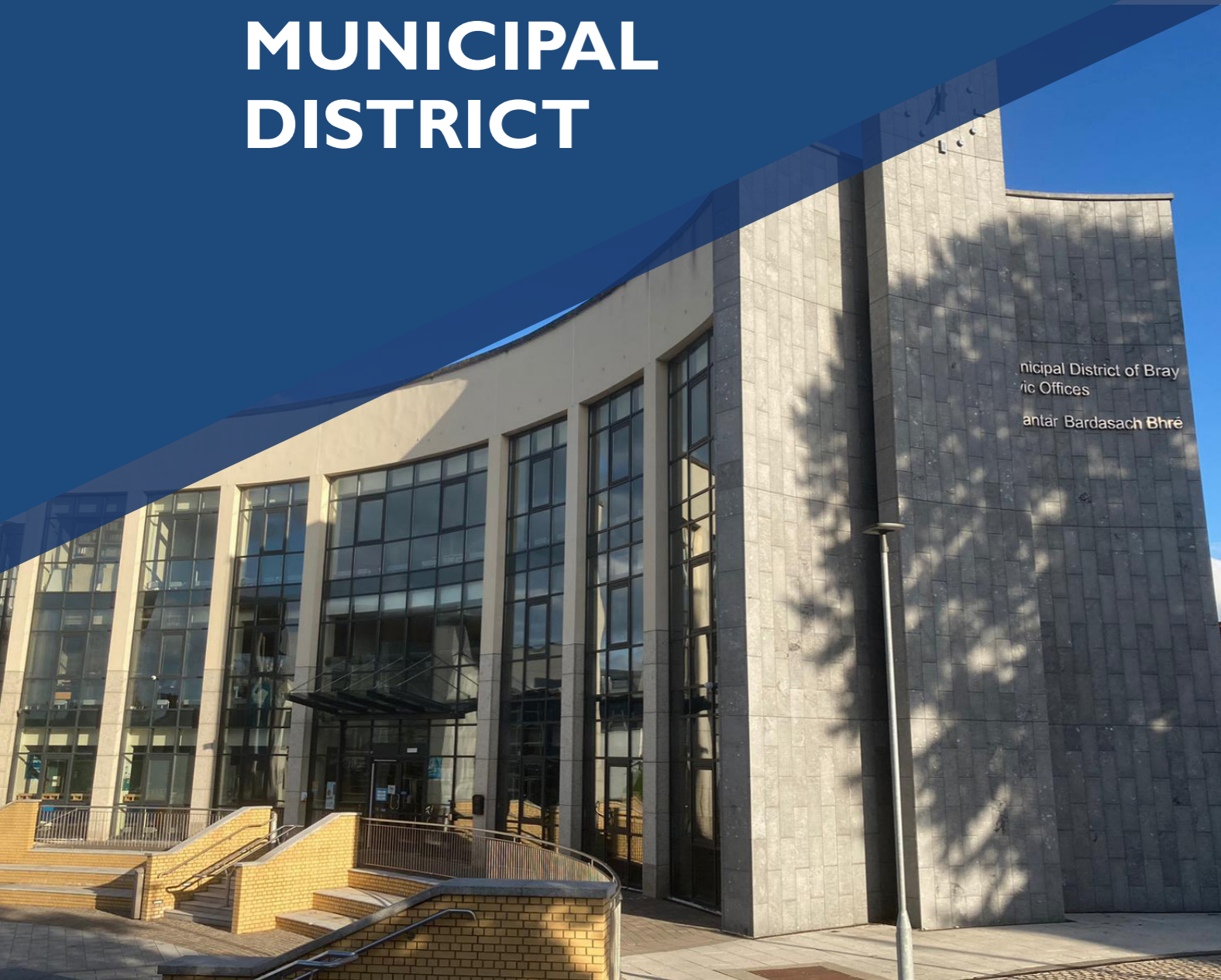
Due to the focusing of NTA Active Travel Allocations to more urban areas a case was made by Baltinglass MD Councillors for the provision of an Active Travel Programme targeting rural areas of the county. A number of schemes proposed commenced in 2023 and will continue into 2024 including the following

- Rathdangan Road, Talbotstown
- Carnew Road, Shillelagh
- Long Hill Tinahely

Four Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works projects were approved for the Baltinglass MD for 2023 as detailed below.

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
R747	Ballytore (Baltinglass)	Completed
725	Deerpark, Shillelagh (Tinahely)	Q4 2023
R725	Harris's Hill, Coolkenna (Tinahely)	Q4 2023
R747	Glenphillipeen (Tinahely)	Q4 2023

# BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## District Members:

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Erika Doyle (until June 2023)  
Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (from June 2023)

### Leas-Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (until June 2023)  
Cllr. Rory O'Connor (from June 2023)

### Council Members

Cllr. Joe Behan (IND)  
Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (FG)  
Cllr. Erika Doyle (GP)

Cllr. Anne Ferris (LAB)  
Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG)  
Cllr. Grace McManus (SF)  
Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (SF)  
Cllr. Rory O'Connor (IND)

### Municipal District Staff

#### District Manager

Lorraine Gallagher

#### District Administrator

Linda Healy  
Garvan Hickey (from May 2023)

#### District Engineer

Liam Bourke

#### Executive Engineer

Stephen Fox  
John Malan

#### Technician

Dominic Gillian

#### District Offices:

Bray Municipal District  
Civic Offices, Main Street,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow A98 A9X9

Tel: 01 2744900  
Email: [braymd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braymd@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

### Bray Area

Population of District: 32,600

Bray Municipal District covers 180km of roads in County Wicklow. The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Bray Main Street, Civic Centre.

The offices are open Mon – Fri 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm (excl bank holidays).

The cash desk counter is open Mon – Fri 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm

The motor tax counter is open Tues – Thurs 10.30am – 2pm



## District Meetings

The members of Bray Municipal District hold their district meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (unless there is a Bank Holiday and then it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) at 6.30pm with the exception of August when there is no meeting. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

## Restoration Improvement Works Completed in 2023

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
L-5813	Hazelwood	Complete
L-55212	Berryfield Lane	Complete
R-760	Church Hill, Enniskerry	Complete
L-5007	Ballyman Road	Complete
L-1019	Glencormick	Complete
L-1962	Killarney Lane	Complete
L-1957	Novara Avenue	Complete
R - 7 6 6 - 135	Putland Road	Complete
L-1963	Kilbride Lane	Complete
L-1015	Deakin's Lane	Complete
R-760	Church Hill, Enniskerry	Complete
R-117-0	Knocksink Road	Complete
L-1002	Boghall Cottages	Complete

## Restoration Maintenance Works Completed in 2023

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
L-1017	Ballinagee Hill	Complete
L-1015	Onagh	Complete
L-1015	Deakin's Lane	Complete
R-755	Roundwood Road - Calary Lower	Complete

## Drainage Works Completed

Road No.	Scheme Location	Schedule
L-1020	Cookstown Road, Enniskerry flood relief	Complete
L-1019	Glencormick Road, Kilmacanogue flood relief	Complete
L-97551	Calary Lane, Kilmacanogue	Complete
L-1013	Waterfall Road, Ballycross, Enniskerry	Complete

## Footpaths

No footpath repair funding was allocated in 2023. However, road maintenance funding was used to carry out some footpath repairs around the town center, particularly repairs were carried out to loose paving slabs on Quinsborough Road, Florence Road and Main Street, Bray. Subsidence in the path on Church Road, Enniskerry was repaired and slippery slabs were retextured on Florence Road, Bray



Restoration of cobble channel in Enniskerry

## E-Bike Scheme

European shared mobility leader Bolt, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, officially launched its shared electric bike service in Bray in June 2023. The occasion was marked by an event at Bray's Civic Offices attended by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, members of Bray Municipal District and other public representatives.

The bikes can be found at a variety of designated locations throughout the town and rented by the minute.

The initiative is a significant step forward towards fulfilling Wicklow County Council's commitment under its Climate Action programme.

Bray continues to out-perform expectations and is one of Bolts most successful locations to date



## Car Sharing

Agreements were renewed in 2023 with GoCar for the use of parking spaces at the North Promenade and South Promenade car parks for a shared car service. Agreements have also been reached with GoCar and DriveYou to expand car sharing in Bray. There will shortly be 10 spaces available for GoCar and 8 spaces for DriveYou on public roads and car parks throughout Bray.

## Revised Speed Limits

Following the adoption of new speed limit bye-laws for the county, work was undertaken on the installing the poles and signs for the extended speed limits. A 30kph speed limit was created throughout most of the centre of Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue. The installation of poles was substantially completed and many of the signs were erected by year end.

## ORIS Projects

Cleaning work at Kilmacanogue Marsh and the development of a trail works at the marsh that were to be commenced in 2022 was completed in 2023. A ramped path with an entrance opposite the car park, a pond viewing area and trail surface enhancements have been completed. An information board was ordered and will soon be installed.

An application for funding a feasibility study of trail improvements at Bray Head has received approval.

Funding has been allocated for trail and car park improvements at the Great Sugarloaf. Information on the proposal will be presented by CCSD. A Part 8 public consultation is planned.

## Seafront Seatbacks

The Bray M.D. members allocated some of their discretionary expenditure to paint the Victorian seatbacks on the seafront.

230m of Victorian seatback painting has been com-

pleted. Further discretionary funding is proposed to complete the painting of seatbacks in 2024 south of the Finbees Coffee shop. This project will continue in 2024.



## Seafront Playground Accessibility Facility

The installation of an inclusive carousel into the seafront playground was completed in August.

## 5 Year Tree Replacement Programme

To date over 300 trees have been planted in housing estates and public spaces throughout Bray.

## Bray Harbour Improvements

Work on preparing tender documents for the appointment of engineering consultants to progress the scheme to a detailed design and the preparation of an EIAR etc. has commenced. This is a URDF project and a presentation to the Department took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> November to provide a status update on all of the county's projects. A business case was submitted to the Department outlining the projected funding requirements for both the marine and terrestrial elements and the timelines for the project and the outcome of this is awaited.

## In-road disability parking bay sensors

The piloting of in-road disability parking bay sensors for a 12-month period was agreed by Bray Municipal District members and commenced in September 2023.

The in-road sensors detect if the parking bay is occupied and users are able to see which disabled parking bays are occupied and which are free. The user can then use Google maps, or a similar mapping app, to direct them to the parking bay.

If the trial of the in-road disability parking bay sensors is successful they will be rolled out on an initial three-year contract.

### Seafront Toilets

Refurbishment of the lady's toilets at the aquarium building was completed in March.



has been twinned with Bray since 1985. This Partnership was reaffirmed in March 2023. Wicklow County Council took the opportunity of showcasing some of the county's prime tourist attractions taking the delegates to experience newly renovated Avondale House and the major tourist attraction Beyond the Trees in Rathdrum. Visitors also got to visit the beautiful village of Avoca and Glendalough monastic site.

The visiting delegation also met with the Senior Management Team of Wicklow County Council where the Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, gave the delegates an overview of the strategic projects the Council is involved in, followed by presentations from Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunt; Tourism Officer Fred Verdier and the Manager of the Council Screen Office, John Powderly.



### Civic Reception for Bray's Order of Malta

Bray's Order of Malta was honoured with a Cathaoirleach's Reception hosted by the Elected Members of Bray Municipal District on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The reception marked the Order's commitment to the community over the last 80 years in providing medical and humanitarian assistance to those in need. The Bray Unit of the Order of Malta was established in 1943 by Dr Jack Fleetwood as the first Officer in charge.

### Twinning

Twinning helps to develop a better understanding of other nationalities and cultures. In addition to educational, cultural and sporting exchanges, partnerships with international communities have led to lifelong friendships, to business exchanges and commercial opportunities.

Bray is twinned with:

- Würzburg, Germany
- Dublin California
- Bègles, France

### Delegation from Town City Dublin California

Bray Municipal District were delighted to welcome a delegation from its twinned city - Dublin in California - to Bray in July.

The delegation, which was led by the Mayor of Dublin California Cllr Melissa Hernandez and Vice-Mayor Michael McCorrison, included County Supervisor, David Haubert and Dublin California Council Members and Officials.

Dublin, California, which has a population of 72,932



### Bray Celtic Camino Mouteira

Bray Municipal District hosted the unveiling of the Bray Celtic Camino Mouteira on Bray Seafront in September. The Mouteira marks the start of the Bray Camino Coastal Route to St James's Church in Dublin City Centre.

The ceremony was performed by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, along with the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Melanie Corrigan; Spanish Ambassador HE Mr Ion de la Riva and President of the Provincial Deputation of A Coruña, Mr Valentín González Formoso.

The installation of the Bray Celtic Camino Mouteira, which is the first Camino Mouteira in Ireland, was a joint project between Bray Tourism, Bray Municipal District and the Ireland Camino Society.



### Events

Bray Municipal District continues to support events such as the Bray Air Display, St Patrick's Festival and Christmas in Bray.

# GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## Municipal District Staff

<b>District Manager</b>	Michael Nicholson
<b>District Administrator</b>	Tawnia Kearns
<b>District Engineer</b>	Ruairí O' Hanlon
<b>Executive Engineer</b>	John McGee
<b>Technican</b>	Position Vacant

## District Office:

Greystones Municipal District  
Civic Offices, Mill Road,  
Greystones, Co.Wicklow,A63 TX86

Tel: 01 2876694

Email: [greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## Greystones Area

Population of District: 26,323

Greystones Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Killadreenan. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in Co.Wicklow (64,840 KM).The number of social house within the district is in excess of 700.

## District Members:

<b>Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Mark Barry (SD)
<b>Leas-Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Stephen Stokes (IND)
<b>Council Members</b>	Cllr. Tom Fortune (IND) Cllr. Derek Mitchell (FG) Cllr. Lourda Scott (GP) Cllr. Gerry Walsh (FF)

## District Meetings

Council Meetings are held at the Civic Office, on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except during the month of August when there is no meeting.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate throughout 2023, on a variety of issues and received presentations from Realt na Mara Offshore Wind, Community Led Housing Project, Safe Routes to School, Greystones Town Team, Go Ahead Ireland, WCC Roads Section including the Active Travel Team, WCC Town Regeneration Officer, WCC Arts Officer. Part 8's included the South Beach Boardwalk and Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme.

The work of the district is wide and varied and includes the following:

- Social housing maintenance requests
- Road maintenance requests
- Road, footpath and cycle lane improvement schemes
- Maintenance of outdoor recreational areas such as parks and playgrounds
- Street cleaning and waste management

Some completed projects during the year funded by the Department of Transport:

## National Transport Authority Active Travel Projects

### Kilpedder to Willow Grove Footpath Scheme

Provision of a new urban concrete footpath including public lighting completed and installed.

### Bellevue Hill Footpath

Works were completed at Bellevue Hill to provide a footpath and infrastructure put in place for public lighting. (Extra funding to install public lighting has been approved by the NTA).

### Priory Rd Footpath

Works to provide a public footpath along the length of Priory Rd from Eden Gate to Delgany Village were completed.

Safe Routes to school scheme installed at St Kevin's National School Greystones.

## Department of Transport Schemes

### Road Safety Improvement Works:

- Improvement of the junction of the L-1028 Windgates Rd/Templecarrig Road with the
- L-5028 Templecarrig Lower Road. Improved vehicle passing space and sightlines.

### Drainage Works

- Glen Road, Delgany
- Burnaby Heights
- South Beach Carpark & Southern Arch

### Outdoor Recreation Improvement Scheme:

- South Beach Boardwalk
- New benches have been installed in Burnaby Park

### Other works within the district include the following:

- Realignment works along R761 Kilcoole Road between Glenbrook Park and Archers Wood
- Charlesland Dual Carriageway roundabout name signs erected
- 35 redundant poles and signs removed from the R762 along Church Rd and Mill Rd, Greystones.
- New revised speed limits signs erected throughout the district following the speed limits review
- New cyclist minimum passing distance signs erected where applicable.

### Greystones Municipal District Supported Projects:

- Greystones Tidy Towns won a gold medal award in 2023.
- South Beach Greystones retained its Blue Flag status in 2023 as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality to environmental management and

education, as well as safety and services.

- The Elected Members of Greystones Municipal District agreed to provide funding contributions towards the following from their discretionary budgets:
  - Christmas Lights contributions were made to Kilcoole and Greystones.
  - Contributions were also made to Tidy Towns groups in Greystones, Delgany, Newcastle & Kilcoole.
  - Funding was provided towards a marram grass protection scheme on South Beach.
  - Kilcoole Music Festival
  - St Patrick's Day Festival
  - Christmas in Greystones – Lights parade
  - Christmas Market at the Plaza
- Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by facilitating free parking on the four Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.
- Greystones continue to support the Greystones Town Team and the initiatives they are involved with.

# WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## District Members:

<b>Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Irene Winters (FG)
<b>Leas-Cathaoirleach</b>	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (IND)
<b>Council Members</b>	Cllr. Shay Cullen (FG) Cllr. Gail Dunne (FF) Cllr. Paul O'Brien (LAB) Cllr. John Snell (IND)

## Municipal District Staff

<b>District Manager</b>	Brian Gleeson
<b>District Administrator</b>	Georgina Franey
<b>District Engineer</b>	Pat Clarke
<b>Executive Engineer</b>	John Dalton Alan Martin
<b>Executive Technician</b>	Lee Cullen

**District Office:** Wicklow Municipal District  
Town Hill, Market Square,  
Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 YO18

Tel: 0404 20173  
Email: [wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## Wicklow Area

Wicklow Municipal District covers an area of 43,240 hectares which includes the County Town of Wicklow, Rathnew, Ashford, Roundwood, Glenealy, Laragh, Glendalough and Newtownmountkennedy.

The offices of the Wicklow Municipal District are situated in the Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town and are open to the public from 9.00a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The regular functions that the District provides include local authority house maintenance, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, maintenance of parks and open spaces, operation & maintenance of Brittas Bay North & South Beaches and car parks, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

In addition to the general maintenance works in the district, the Wicklow Municipal District has responsibility for over 500 kilometers of road and the repair and the maintenance of almost 1,200 local authority houses in the district. 1,080 housing repairs were completed in the year.

The population of Wicklow Town census 2022 was 12,957 and the overall population of the Municipal District is 32,537 which accounts for more than 21% of the population of the County.

## District Meetings

The Members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 3:00 p.m. with the exception of August when there is no meeting held.

Wicklow Municipal District Members are represented on the following Strategic Policy Committees:

- Planning & Environment
  - Cllr Shay Cullen
- Transport Water & Emergency Services
  - Cllr Irene Winters
- Housing & Corporate Estate
  - Cllr Paul O'Brien
  - Cllr John Snell
- Community Cultural & Social Development
  - Cllr Gail Dunne
- Economic Development & Enterprise Support
  - Cllr Mary Kavanagh.
  - Cllr Irene Winters

Wicklow Municipal District Members are also represented on the following:

- Corporate Policy Group
  - Cllr Shay Cullen
  - Cllr Gail Dunne
  - Cllr John Snell
- Joint Policing committee
  - Cllr Shay Cullen
  - Cllr Paul O'Brien
  - Cllr Irene Winters

## Roads and Infrastructure Projects

In addition to general maintenance works in the district the following road improvement and surface dressing projects were completed during the year.

In advance of some of these projects considerable drainage works were completed. Other drainage works were complete in areas prone to flood.

## Restoration Improvements

- Raheenmore

- Cloghoge, Military Road
- Kilbride
- Monalin- Kilmurray (Slaughter Hill)
- Claramore
- Church Hill, Newtownmountkennedy
- Old Village, Rathnew
- Abbey Street, Wicklow Town
- Glenwood to Moneystown Hill
- Carrigower Quarry
- Powers Avenue Junction, Roundwood
- R772 Ashford and Rathnew overlays

## Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)

- Ballykeppogue
- Carrigower- Newtownmountkennedy
- Coolawinna, Rathnew
- Djouce – Sally's Bridge
- Garryduff Road
- Kilpoole – Magheramore
- Raheenmore- Threemilewater
- Shraghmore
- Tomdarragh Lane
- Wicklow Gap

## Drainage Projects

- Ballard, Laragh
- Ballymacara
- Ballymaghroe
- Callowhill Lower
- Church Road, Clara
- Knockrobin Estate
- Slaughter Hill, Newtownmountkennedy
- Three Mile Water, Brittas Bay

## Climate Adaptation & Resilience

- Ashford drainage
- Wicklow Gap, edge strengthening

## Safety Improvement Works

- Laragh, footpath and crossing
- Kilmacanogue to Hollywood
- Ramps at Ballynerrin
- Ramp and Footpath at St. Laurence's School, Roundwood

## Local Improvement Scheme

- Carrigower Road LIS
- Croneybyrne LIS
- Laragh LIS



## NTA Active Travel

- Footpath between Glenealy & Rathnew
- Footpaths at Reservoir in Roundwood

## Other Projects funded from the Members 2023 Discretionary Budget:

- Footpath Ashtown Lane
- Mountain View pedestrian Crossing Djouce Safety Signage
- Port Road Benches
- Seaview Heights footpath repairs
- Sycamore Drive Footpaths



Newtown Community Centre overlay

## Brittas Bay

Upgrade works to hugely increase the water capacity to reduce water shortages during the Summer season. Upgrade to toilet facilities as part of project.



Brittas Bay beach

## Annamoe



Annamoe bridge lighting

## Promotion of Interests of Local Community

### Tidy Towns

Wicklow Municipal District Members support the 7 Tidy Towns Committees in Wicklow Town, Roundwood, Ashford, Newtownmountkennedy, Laragh, Glenealy and Rathnew each year by contributing €11,000 from their discretionary fund.



Glenealy Tidy Towns initiative

### Twinning

The Eichenzell Brass Band returned to take part in the 2023 St Patrick's Day parade. A large number of members of the Twinning Committee also attended.

Wicklow Municipal District welcomed a delegation from the French town of Montigny-le-Bretonneux to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of town twinning with Wicklow. The delegation arrived to a "jailers welcome" at Wicklow Gaol for the Gates of Hell Virtual Reality Tour.

Wicklow Municipal District held a small reception to honour the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning while showcasing the new library in Wicklow Town and promoting Wicklow Naturally produce.

During the visit the delegation also visited Glendalough where local historian, Joan Kavanagh provided them with a tour outlining the history and heritage of the area.

Members of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann provided a fantastic evening of entertainment. Le Maire, Lorrain Merkaert delighted them by extending an invitation to the group to visit Montigny to perform.



### The Taste of Wicklow

The 2023 Taste of Wicklow was organised by the Chamber of Commerce and supported by Wicklow Municipal District.

What started during the height of the national recession with the sole purpose of generating a feel-good atmosphere and to help promote the town and its local producers, restaurants and pubs has grown into the most visited event in Wicklow Town and Taste of Wicklow has now become the largest family focused food festival in the South East.

### Estate Development Grants

A total sum of €10,000 was awarded to housing estates throughout the district to assist in the upkeep and maintenance of the estate to benefit all residents and the wider community.

### Civic Reception

Wicklow Municipal District hosted a Civic Reception to honour twelve sporting groups and individuals in the district for their outstanding contributions to sports.

The individuals honoured at the event were:

- Adam Sinnott – boxing
- Amy Davies – badminton
- Anmarie Kenny – athletics
- Catherine O'Connor – running
- Dominic Horan – athletics
- Fionnuala Britton McCormack – running

- Josh Van de Flier – rugby
- Mason Melia – soccer
- Ray Kenny – athletics
- Sheena Doyle – powerlifting
- Wicklow Surf Lifesaving
- Wicklow Ladies Rugby Team



### Retail/Business

#### Christmas Lights

The Wicklow Municipal District provided the annual contribution of €20,000 towards Wicklow Town Christmas Lights. 2023 also saw the WMD Members contribute an additional €3,000 to the County town and a further €6,500 from their Discretionary Fund to Roundwood, Ashford, Laragh, Glenealy, Annamoe and Newtownmountkennedy.



#### Parking

Free parking is available in Wicklow Town between the hours of 9.00am and 10.00am and thereafter there is a 15 minutes courtesy period to allow the customer to purchase a parking ticket. The District helps to support the commercial and retail sector by providing 2 hours free parking on a Saturday and free all day on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

### Town Team

Mission Statement: Make Wicklow Town a better place to live, work and play.

### The Wicklow Murals – South Quay Connectivity Project

The connectivity project was a joint collaboration between Wicklow Municipal District and Wicklow Town Team to improve, enhance and revitalise the network of laneways between Main Street and South Quay.

There was a full working committee in place to spearhead the project, which was made up of staff members from the Municipal District, Town Team members, local residents and a representative of the business community.

Six murals were completed along the connectivity route:

1. Anchor House by Shane O'Driscoll,
2. The Scouts Hall by Curtis Hylton
3. Upper end of Salthouse Lane by Zabou
4. Doctors Steps and South Quay by Mariana Duarte Santos
5. Quarantine Hill by Beerens
6. Lower end of Salthouse Lane by Nean



Under this project, a Corten fabricated steel ship was been mounted to the wall on the side of the Town Hall which leads to the port area. This is softly lit from behind to ensure it will not impact on wildlife.



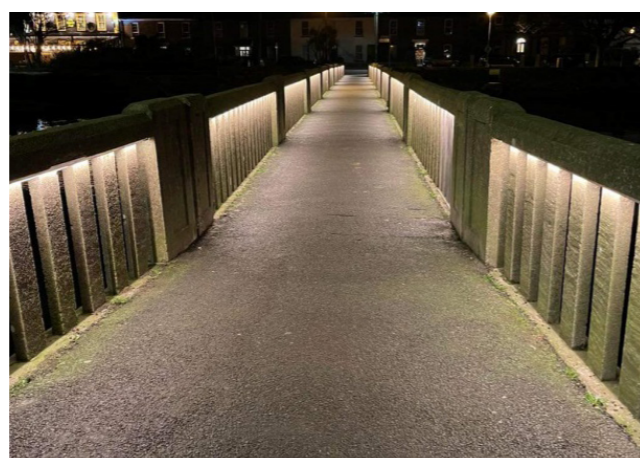
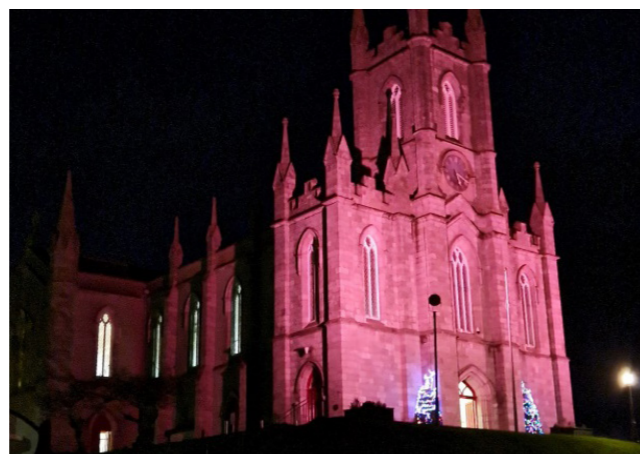
A steel and bronze wire sculptor Heron by local Wicklow Artist, Emma Jane Rushworth was also installed as part of the project.



### Historic monument lighting

The project to light up historical monuments in the town delivered back lighting to eight sites:

- Billy Byrne monument
- Parnell Bridge
- St Patrick's Church
- The Black Castle
- The Orchard
- The Town Hall
- Wicklow Church of Ireland
- Wicklow Gaol



The 2023 achievements of the Wicklow Town Team included the following:

#### Tourism Group

Weekly guided walking tours are now provided in Wicklow Town on the completed Heritage Trail. As well as it being an attraction for tourists and residents alike it is also proving a history of Wicklow to the local Primary and Post Primary Schools in the town.

Other walking routes are being explored by the team including a Pilgrim Walk.

#### Sustainable Energy

The SEC held the first Energy Awareness Day in June 2023 showcasing innovative ideas, products, and technologies that promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

#### General

##### Defibrillators

Wicklow Municipal District became the first Council to purchase defibrillators for housing estates. The elected members teamed up with local voluntary group, Beating Hearts to distribute 14 defibrillators and cabinets to housing estates within the district.

The scheme was funded through the Members discretionary monies.



### Abbey Gardens

Through Destination Town funding received from Fáilte Ireland Wicklow County Council has engaged a multidisciplinary team to prepare high quality design proposals for the Abbey Grounds incorporating the public open space surrounding the extant Friary ruins and the redevelopment of the former Coach House. The aim of the project is to enhance this key open space in order to maximize its function as a public amenity and heritage asset.



### Filming

Wicklow has been chosen as a popular location for filming in 2023 namely:



Title	Type	Area
Harry Wild	TV Series	Glendalough
Small Things Like These	Film	Wicklow Town & Ballinastoe
Freud's Last Session	Film	East Pier
Murder in G Major	Film	Clermont House & Travelahawk Beach
The Tourist (Season 2)	TV Series	Brittas Bay, Glenmalure, Djouce & Sallygap
Bodkin	TV Series	Lough Tay
Rockshore	Commercial	Wicklow Town
The Watchers	Film	Sallygap & Ballard
Moonflower Murders	TV Series	Ashford
Small Town Big Story	TV Series	Wicklow & Ashford
Bad Sisters (Season 2)	TV Series	Black Castle & Sallygap
Bord Fáilte	Commercial	East Pier
Der Irland Krimi	TV Series	Sallygap, Black Castle, The Murrrough



## Information Systems

The Information Systems (IS) Section is responsible for the maintenance and support of Wicklow County Council's information technology and communications infrastructure, including the Council's business systems, server infrastructure, data network and computing devices.

Over the past year, the Section has continued to enhance the Council's ICT infrastructure, business applications and security posture. Cyber threats are an ever-increasing risk and maintaining the security of all ICT systems and infrastructure is of paramount importance and will continue to be a priority in 2024.

### Key achievements for 2023 include:

#### ICT Support for Staff and Councillors

- The ICT service desk dealt with 11,163 tickets from staff.
- Support was provided for the provision and maintenance of laptops, PCs, mobile phones and tablets for staff and Councillors.
- Assistance was provided at all Council meetings.
- A tender was run for the replacement of printers and provision of a Managed Print Service. Tender submissions were received in December and are currently being evaluated.

## ICT Infrastructure

- Enhanced the Council's Infrastructure to improve performance, reliability, and security.
- Enhanced data security and protection policies and supporting processes.
- Enhanced network performance and protection from external and internal threats.
- Monitored and upgraded wide area network sites and equipment.
- Ran tenders and procured hardware and software.

## Applications

The Applications Team continued to support business critical applications across the Council.

- Supported a 'digital first' culture.
- Enhanced technologies to support a productive blended working environment.
- The Financial System was upgraded.
- The Law Department's Case Management system was upgraded and moved to a cloud hosted environment.
- The National e-Planning system was deployed to allow for online planning applications.
- A new Parking Fines System was deployed.
- Continued engagement with and support of Regional & National IT projects and initiatives.

## Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

- Provision of enhanced data analysis software - New Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software was procured and rolled out to staff. This software allows staff to explore, visualise, and analyse data; create 2D maps and 3D scenes; and share their work via a centralised database.
- Upgraded the Internal GIS portal for staff.
- Promoted innovation and transparency through the publication of Open Data.
- The GIS Team created a mobile app which assisted planners with the collection and analyses of Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) data.
- Local Area Plans (LAPs) - The GIS Team developed and deployed digital "Online Consultation Hubs". These hubs provided members of the public with access to information relevant to the future development of their local area. The hubs also supported the electronic submission of observations.
- A Barn Owl spatial management application was developed to systematically document sightings and analyse the distribution of barn owls within the County. The application also incorporates a Barn Owl nesting management tool.
- The GIS & Applications Development Team has been assisting the County Archaeologist and Environment Office with the provision of a historic graveyards' application. ESRI's StoryMap platform was used to develop an interactive map showcasing tombstones with historical context, allowing users to explore and learn about each graveyard.

## Broadband Officer

- Championed the use of technologies and innovation to ensure we are more agile in our use of technologies so that we deliver more customer-driven innovative services.
- Supported the implementation of the National Digital Strategy, Harnessing Digital.
- Investigated how new technologies can help to build a resilient workforce that supports business requirements and a sustainable service delivery in an increasingly digital world.
- Acted as single point of contact for engagement with the Department and telecommunications operators in the delivery of telecommunications infrastructure, including the National Broadband Plan (NBP), in Wicklow.
- Attended all relevant Broadband related meetings as required by the Council and actively coordinated, supported and delivered

on the requirements of the various Council substructures set up to assist in the delivery of the NBP.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

## Financial Statement

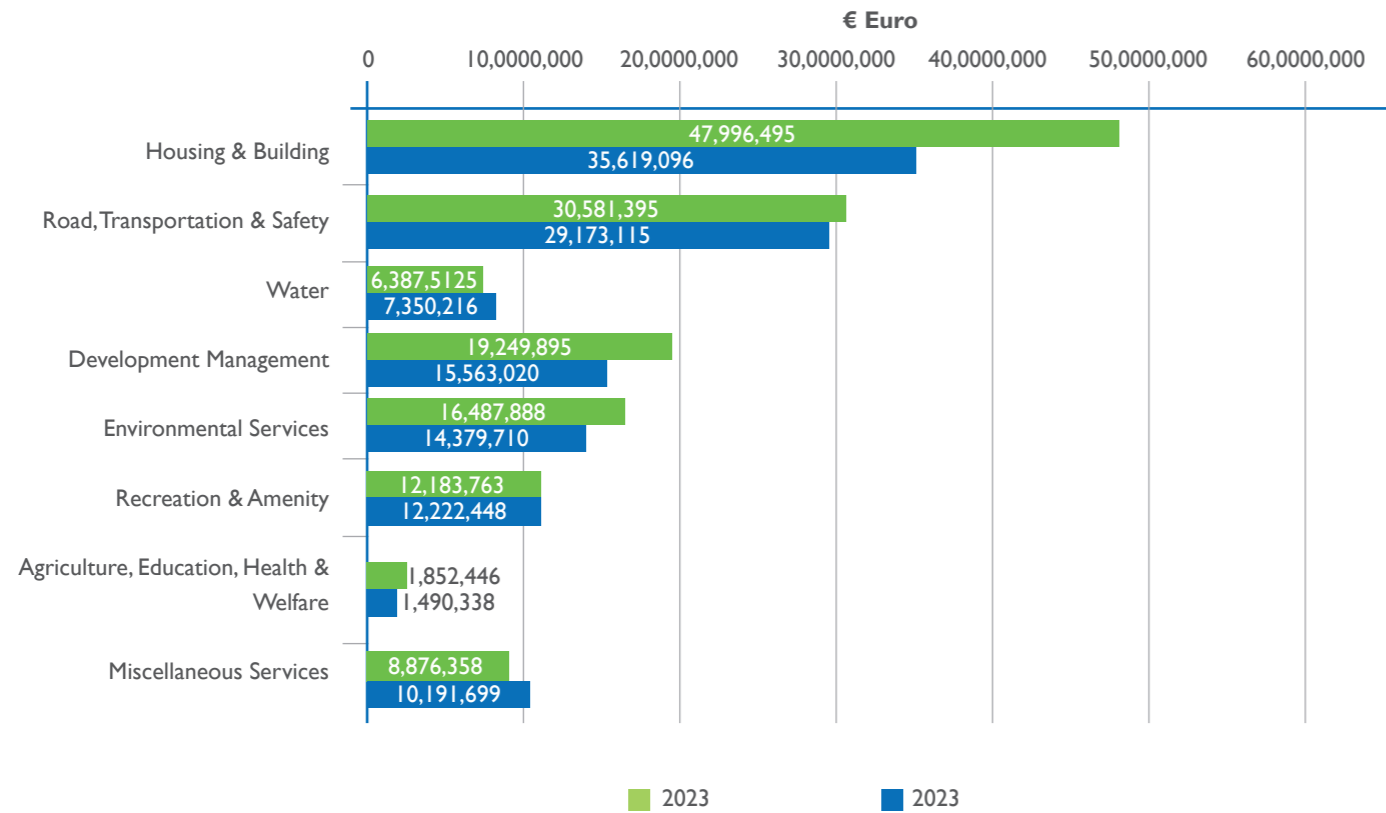
The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure. It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.

Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023				
Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2023	Income 2023	Net Expenditure 2023	Net Expenditure 2022
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	47,996,495	47,092,758	903,736	(1,289,084)
Road Transportation & Safety	30,581,395	19,249,073	11,332,322	10,625,407
Water Services	6,387,512	6,162,397	255,115	595,835
Development Management	19,249,895	11,298,612	7,951,283	7,401,330
Environmental Services	16,487,888	2,640,675	13,847,213	11,975,496
Recreation & Amenity	12,183,763	1,492,255	10,691,508	10,043,008
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,862,446	875,296	987,150	654,106
Miscellaneous Services	8,876,358	13,230,000	(4,353,642)	(1,623,903)
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>143,625,751</b>	<b>102,041,066</b>		
Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			41,584,685	38,382,194
Rates			31,047,298	31,522,691
Local Property Tax			13,821,572	13,068,906
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			<b>3,284,185</b>	<b>6,209,403</b>
Transfers From/(To) Reserves			(2,943,246)	(5,860,162)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			340,938	349,241
General Reserve @ 1st January			(938,828)	(1,288,070)
General Reserve @ 31st December			(597,890)	(938,828)

Capital Account Statement of Balances				
Expenditure By Programme Group			2023	2022
			€	€
Housing & Building			(13,566,712 )	(17,814,239 )
Road Transportation & Safety			41,551,755	37,383,838
Water Services			6,530,052	13,023,496
Development Incentives & Control			32,037,828	26,681,391
Environmental Protection			936,699	(276,031 )
Recreation & Amenity			2,144,873	2,034,378
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare			2,046,613	2,040,366
Miscellaneous			10,410,645	10,515,300
<b>Total</b>			<b>82,091,754</b>	<b>73,588,498</b>

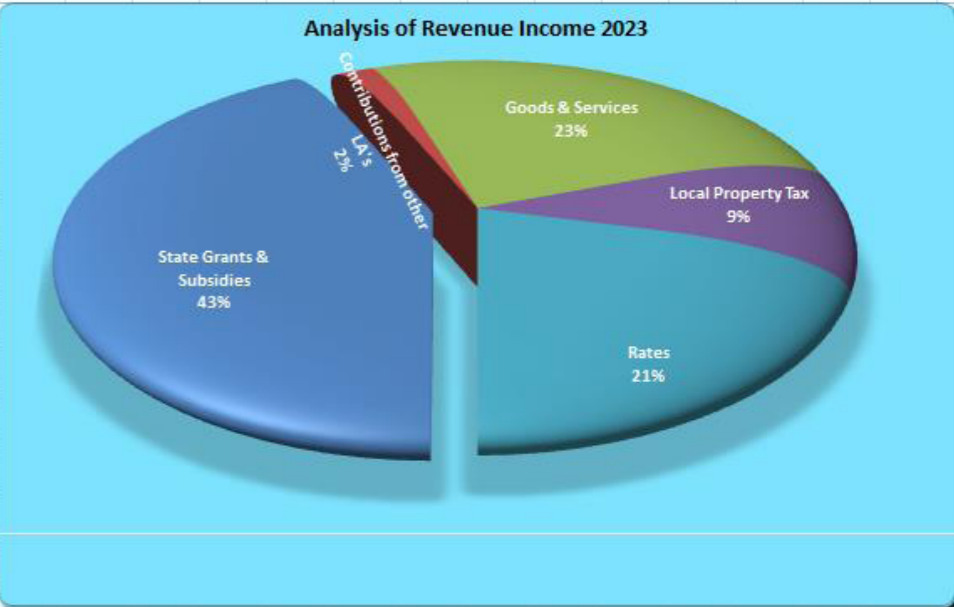
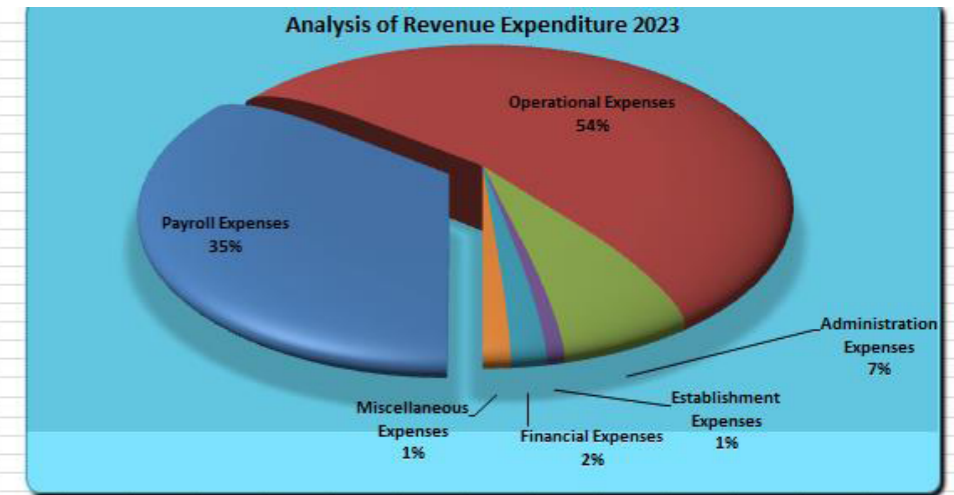
Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023				
			2023	2022
			€	€
Fixed Assets				
Operational			1,283,039,863	1,249,148,275
Infrastructural			1,548,597,847	1,549,866,341
Community			18,943,387	18,943,387
Non-Operational			220,010	220,010
			<b>2,850,801,108</b>	<b>2,818,178,013</b>
Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses			91,942,249	57,600,031
Long Term Debtors			133,577,918	99,349,381
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stock				
Trade Debtors And Prepayments			40,014,711	37,389,523
Bank Investments			69,043,480	79,933,272
Cash at Bank			27,763,822	14,578,025
Cash in Transit			400	400
			<b>136,822,413</b>	<b>131,901,220</b>
Current Liabilities				
Bank Overdraft				
Creditors & Accruals			35,674,162	43,856,073
Finance Leases				
			<b>35,674,162</b>	<b>43,856,073</b>
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)			101,148,251	88,045,147
Creditors ( Amounts greater than one year)				
Loans Payable			58,332,924	58,388,564
Finance Leases			-	-
Refundable Deposits			24,980,477	21,856,374
Other			97,627,818	63,742,929
			<b>180,941,219</b>	<b>143,987,867</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>			<b>2,996,528,307</b>	<b>2,919,184,705</b>
Represented By				
Capitalisation			2,850,801,108	2,818,178,013
Income WIP			88,296,319	63,806,774
General Revenue Reserve			(597,890 )	(938,828 )
Other Specific Reserves				
Other Balances			58,028,768	38,138,746
<b>Total Reserves</b>			<b>2,996,528,306</b>	<b>2,919,184,705</b>

Revenue Account 2023 V 2022/Comparisons at a Glance



	2023	2022
	€	€
Miscellaneous Services	8,876,358	10,191,699
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,862,446	1,490,338
Recreation & Amenity	12,183,446	12,222,448
Environmental Protection	16,487,888	14,379,710
Development Incentives & Control	19,249,895	15,563,020
Water Services	6,387,512	7,350,216
Road Transportation & Safety	30,581,395	29,173,115
Housing & Building	47,996,495	35,619,096
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>143,625,751</b>	<b>125,989,643</b>

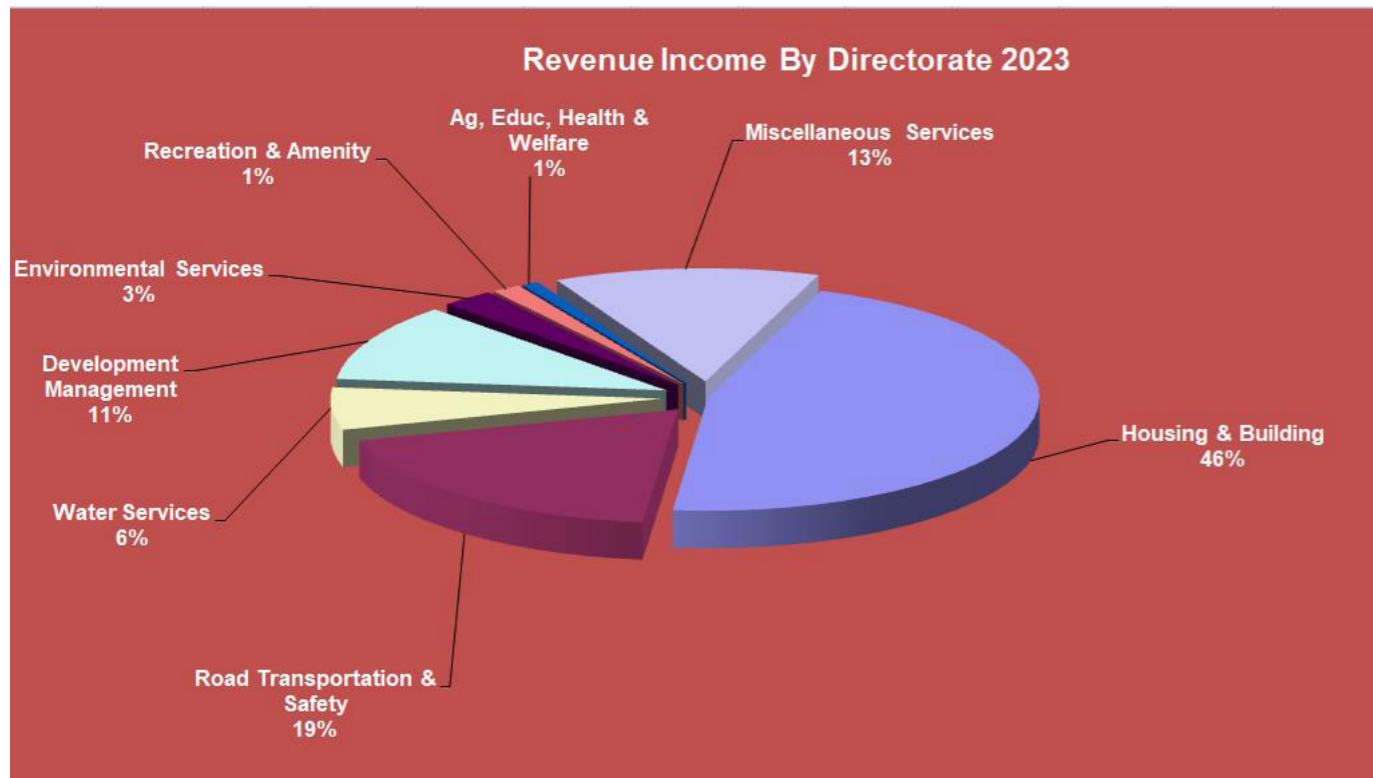
Revenue Income	2023
<b>Analysis of Revenue Income</b>	<b>1</b>
State Grants & Subsidies	63,683,482
Contributions from other LA's	2,330,178
Goods & Services	36,026,736
Local Property Tax	13,821,572
Rates	31,047,238
<b>Total Revenue Income</b>	<b>146,910,206</b>
<b>Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Analysis of Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>1</b>
Payroll Expenses	50,367,422
Operational Expenses	77,248,276
Administration Expenses	3,638,025
Establishment Expenses	1,277,341
Financial Expenses	2,522,574
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,971,513
<b>Total Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>143,625,751</b>



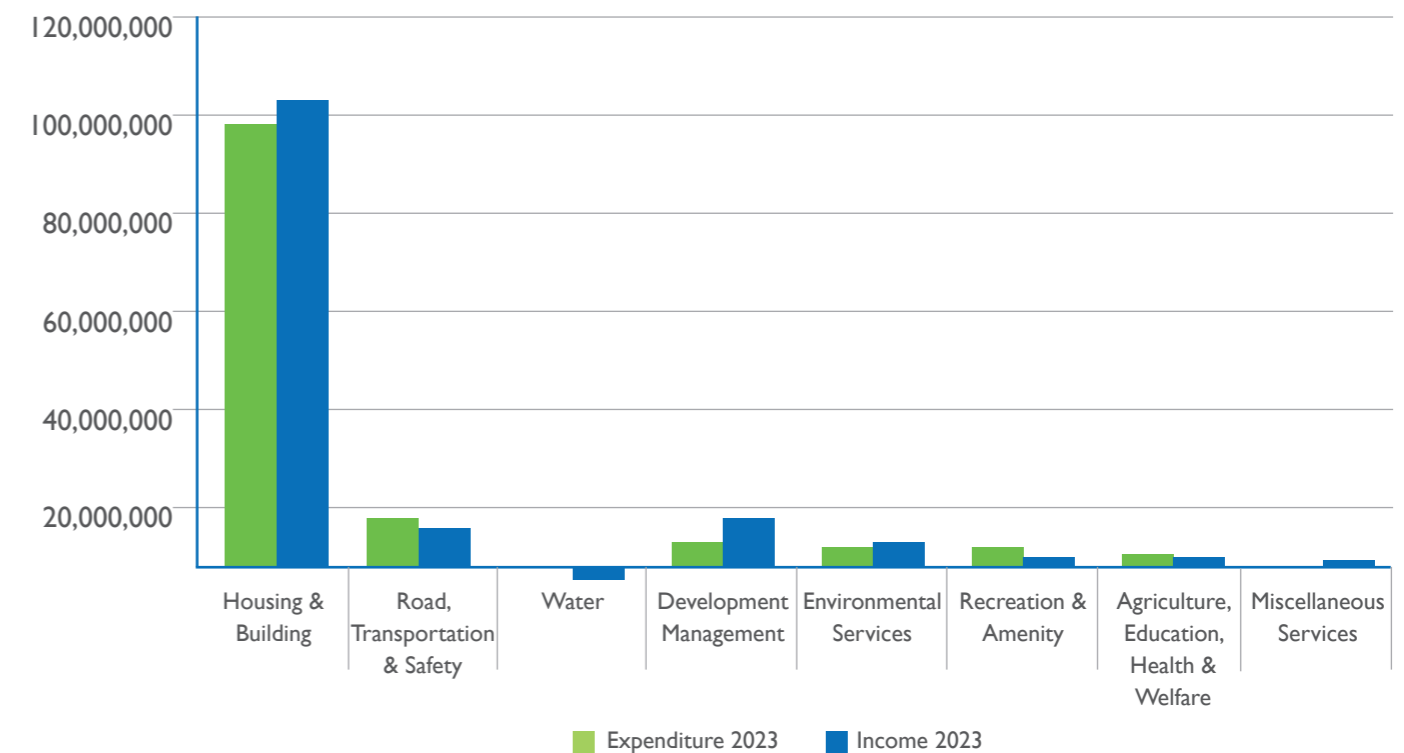
	Rev Expenditure	Rev Income
	€	€
Housing & Building	47,996,495	47,092,758
Road Transportation & Safety	30,581,395	19,249,073
Water Services	6,387,512	6,162,397
Development Incentives & Control	19,249,895	11,298,612
Environmental Protection	16,487,888	2,640,675
Recreation & Amenity	12,183,763	1,492,255
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,862,446	875,296
Miscellaneous	8,876,358	13,230,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>143,625,751</b>	<b>102,041,066</b>



	Expenditure 2023	Income 2023
	€	€
Housing & Building	98,194,295	101,925,555
Road Transportation & Safety	12,723,752	11,205,520
Water Services	188,476	-1,429,061
Development Incentives & Control	5,943,876	11,453,531
Environmental Protection	4,783,435	5,254,196
Recreation & Amenity	3,257,810	1,835,349
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,716,079	1,309,153
Miscellaneous Services	353,671	1,167,161
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>127,161,395</b>	<b>132,721,405</b>



Capital Expenditure & Income 2023



## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

### Introduction

I, Emer O’Gorman, Chief Executive (CE) of Wicklow County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the unaudited financial statements of Wicklow County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the local authority under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Wicklow County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Wicklow County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Wicklow County Council.

The key sources of income for Wicklow County Council are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Goods & Services	36,026,796	37,633,060
Grants & Subsidies	63,683,492	47,272,285
Rates	31,047,298	31,522,691
Local Property Tax	13,821,572	13,068,906

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2023 is as follows: Income in 2023 has increased by c.€16m versus prior year. This is mainly in the areas of Housing and Buildings and Development Management.

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Income	146,909,936	132,199,046
Expenditure	(143,625,751)	(125,989,643)
Transfers to Capital	(2,943,246)	(5,860,162)
Surplus/(Deficit) for	340,938	349,241
Opening Revenue Reserve	(938,828)	(1,288,070)
Closing Revenue Reserve	(597,890)	(938,828)

The outturn in the revenue account for 2023 shows a surplus of €340k including transfers to reserves. This has reduced the closing general reserve deficit to €598k.

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) represents the closing financial position of the council at year-end, together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings

- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets Wicklow County Council at the end of 2023 total €2,996m and are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Fixed Assets	2,850,801,108	2,818,178,013
Works in Progress	91,942,249	57,600,031
Long Term debtors	133,577,918	99,349,381
Current Assets	136,822,413	131,901,220
Current Liabilities	35,674,162	43,856,073
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	101,148,251	88,045,147
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	180,941,219	143,987,867
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	2,996,528,307	2,919,184,705

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

### System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Wicklow County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Wicklow County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Wicklow County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

### Financial control environment

As CE of Wicklow County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

### Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Wicklow County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

## Procurement compliance

Wicklow County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

## Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Wicklow County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Wicklow County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Wicklow County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- i. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- ii. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- iii. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- iv. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- v. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Wicklow County Council.

### Risk and control framework

Wicklow County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.



7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Chief Executive

Dated

## Appendix I

## Performance Indicators Jan - Dec 2023

Table I: Housing H1, H2 &amp; H4 Approved

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	5048	
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023 (whether constructed or acquired)	111	Total dwellings excludes 4 Traveller Specific properties (1 TA acquisition and 3 TA construction) which have been omitted as per NOAC guidelines, hence discrepancy with Dept. expected NOAC returns.
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	12	
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	2	
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2023	5,145	
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2023	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2023	2.84 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2023	146	
	A. Expenditure during 2023 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2023, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€1,603.00	
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€8,247,444.57	



**Table 2: Housing H3 & H5 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	5,048	
	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2023 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2023	48.64 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2023, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2023	€32562.47	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2023 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	138	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	6712 wk	Increase due to multiple refusals on properties, also shortage of contractors giving longer lead in times.
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€4493620.46	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2023		
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023	325	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2023 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	99.70 %	
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	146	
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2023	572	

**Table 3: Housing H6 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2023	92.86 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2023 as recorded on the PASS system	42	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2023, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	39	

**Table 4: Housing H7 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H7 Approved	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	94	
	A. (2) Number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	64	
	A. (3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	54	
	B. Total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	1453.4 MWh	
	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	357.1	

**Table 5: Roads: RI & R2 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Roads: RI & R2 Approved	A. (a) The percentage of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	99.33 %	
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	99.55 %	
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	99.73 %	
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	94.70 %	
	B. (a.1) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	0.39 %	
	B. (a.2) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	10.15 %	
	B. (a.3) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	41.88 %	
	B. (a.4) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	46.92 %	
	B. (b.1) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	0.39 %	
	B. (b.2) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	16.22 %	

B. (b.3) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	42.29 %	
B. (b.4) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	40.65 %	
B. (c.1) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	5.75 %	
B. (c.2) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	24.66 %	
B. (c.3) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	35.77 %	
B. (c.4) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	33.54 %	
B. (d.1) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	6.04 %	
B. (d.2) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	15.89 %	
B. (d.3) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	47.64 %	
B. (d.4) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	25.13 %	
A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2023	8.7 km	
A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2023	€2,234,915.00	
A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€37.08	
B.1 Kilometers of regional road resealed during 2023	28.3 km	
B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2023	€1,035,584.00	
B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€5.98	
C.1 Kilometers of local road strengthened during 2023	51.1 km	
C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2023	€5,837,721.00	
C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€23.46	

D.1 Kilometers of local road resealed during 2023	54.6 km	
D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2023	€1,381,741.00	
D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€5.23	

**Table 6: Motor Tax: R3 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Motor Tax: R3 Approved</b>	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2023	87.79 %	

**Table 7: Water W1 & W2 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Water: W1 &amp; W2 Approved</b>	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements		
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100 %	
	How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2023	116	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2023	116	

**Table 8: Waste: EI Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Waste: EI Approved</b>	A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2023	31,172	
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	88.95 %	

**Table 9: Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved</b>	A.Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023	1,392	
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	1,486	
	A.Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2023	449	
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2022	543	

**Table 10: Litter Pollution: E3 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Litter Pollution: E3 Approved</b>	A1.The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was unpolluted or litter free		
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was slightly polluted		
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was moderately polluted		
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was significantly polluted		
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was grossly polluted		

**Table 11: Green Flag Status: E4 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Green Flag Status: E4 Approved</b>	A.The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2023	34.26 %	
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2023	4	
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2023	16	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2022 and therefore do not require renewal until 2024	17	
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was grossly polluted		

**Table 12: Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved</b>	A.The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)		

**Table 13: Public Lighting: E6 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Public Lighting: E6 Approved</b>	A.Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	4562.17 MWh	
	B.Average wattage of each public light	72.76 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	64.62 %	
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	9,916	
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	5,429	

**Table 14: Climate Change: E7 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Climate Change: E7 Approved</b>	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	Yes	
	1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	Yes	
	2. Does the local authority have a climate action team?	No	

**Table 15: Planning: P1 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Planning: P1 Approved</b>	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	21.57 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 by a builder or developer on the local authority	1,270	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2023 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2023 undertaken by the local authority	274	

**Table 16: Planning: P2 & P3 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3 Approved</b>	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2023	52	
	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	75.00 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	39	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 that were investigated	130	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2023	179	
	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	32.96 %	
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	8.94 %	
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	58.10 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2023	468	
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	59	
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	16	
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	104	

**Table 17: Planning: P4 & P5 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Planning: P4 &amp; P5 Approved</b>	A. The 2023 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€30.59	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2023	€4766774	
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	73.49 %	

	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	21.69 %	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	83	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	61	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	18	

**Table 18: Fire Service: FI Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Fire Service: FI Approved</b>	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€42.98	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2023	€6698336	

**Table 19: Fire Service: FI Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3 Approved</b>	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire		N/A Wicklow does not have any full time fire stations.
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.52 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents		N/A Wicklow does not have any full time fire stations.
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	6.04 min	
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	42.19 %	
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	48.50 %	
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	9.30 %	

	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	33.15 %	
	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	55.26 %	
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	11.59 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	602	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	254	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	292	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	56	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	371	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	123	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	205	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	43	

**Table 20: Library Service: LI Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Library Service: LI Approved</b>	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	3.86	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	629,640	
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.25	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	31,967	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per automatic counters if used	601,235	

**Table 21: Library Service: L2 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Library Service: L2 Approved</b>	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€37.74	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	€1.77	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2023	€5881259	
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€276440.49	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per automatic counters if used	601,235	

**Table 22: Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2 Approved</b>	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	84.00 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2023	25	
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2023	21	
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	17.54	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2023	422	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2023	28	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	74	

**Table 23: Corporate:C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A.The whole time equivalent staffing number as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	751.15	2022 did not include temporary staff
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	2.74 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	0.32 %	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	5300.5 day	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	555.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2023	8.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2023	637 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	45 staff were on absences of 20 days continuously or more.	
	A.All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023, divided by the WTE no.	€4,078.89	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2023	€306,3856	
	A.All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.13	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 before transfers to or from reserves	143625751	

**Table 23: Corporate:C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Corporate: C3 Approved	A.The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023	0.99	
	B.The per capita total number of followers at end 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.89	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	154641	Total views for the period Jan 1, 2023 to Mar 13, 2023, was 154,641 captured by Google Analytics. However following the cessation of Google Analytics in July 2023, as no other analytical tool was installed to capture this information, there is no other means of capturing this data to the end of December, 2023.
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2023, were following the local authority on any social media sites	138604	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	37	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	The cookie policy was updated at the start of October 2022.	

**Table 24: Finance: M1 to M4 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Finance: M1 to M4 Approved</b>	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2052474	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1646264	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1288068	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-938828	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-597890	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-0.41 %	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023	€921.56	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure		
	The 2023 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€146909935	
	The 2023 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€143625751	
	The 2023 Revenue expenditure excluding county/shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services and is only applicable to Dublin City, Laois and Limerick		
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	87.0 %	
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	88.0 %	
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	80.0 %	
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	70.0 %	
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	85.0 %	
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	80.0 %	
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83.0 %	
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	85.0 %	

C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83.0 %	
D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	88.0 %	
D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	84.0 %	
D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	84.0 %	
E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	91 %	
E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	83 %	
E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	90 %	
E. (d) Collection level of HAP SSC for 2023		
A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2023	€8.11	
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2023	109	
IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2023	76	
IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2023	€1,264,571.69	
Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2023		N/a - included in above
Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2023		''
Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2023		
Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2023		
A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	15.27 %	
B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	35.49 %	
Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€21927484	
Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2023 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€50967422	

**Table 25: Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved**

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	44.27	
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	69.0	
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population	41.71	
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population	14.76	
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023	65	
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023	23	
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	340.71	
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	531	
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population	€107.38	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023	€16735647	



## Appendix 2

### Conferences Attended by Wicklow County Council Members in 2023

Name	Conference Name	Date	Venue	Conference Cost	Travel/ Subs	Total Paid	Total per Councillor to December 2023
Cllr. Vincent Blake	LAMA Spring Seminar	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork	€160	€564.00	€724.00	
	AILG Module 3	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Mullingar Park Hotel	€80	€252.27	€332.27	
	AILG Module 4	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Radisson Blu Hotel, Cork	€80	€331.25	€411.25	
	LAMA Autumn Seminar	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Ard Ri Hotel, Tuam	€160	€660.67	€820.67	€2,288.19
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke	AILG Module 4	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2023	Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo	€80.00	4€40.90	€520.90	€520.90
Cllr. Shay Cullen	LAMA Spring Seminar	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork	€160	€678.38	€838.38	
	AILG Autumn Seminar	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Sligo Park Hotel	€165	€378.73	€543.73	€1,382.11
Cllr. Gail Dunne	Local Authority Procurement Process Celtic Conferences	20 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	€100.00	€770.22	€870.22	
	AILG Module 1	22 <sup>nd</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023	Tullamore, Co. Offaly	€180.00	€320.38	€500.38	
	LAMA Spring Conference	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Bantry, Co. Cork	€160.00	€672.91	€832.91	
	AILG Module 3	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Mullingar Park Hotel	€80.00	€380.00	€460.00	€2,663.51
Cllr. Derek Mitchell	AILG Module 3	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Mullingar Park Hotel	€80.00	€112.96	€192.96	€192.96
Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Regions is Focus 2023	7-9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan		€441.22	€441.22	
	AILG Module 2	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	Whites Hotel, Wexford	€80.00	€246.85	€326.85	
	AILG Module 3	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Mullingar Park Hotel	€80.00	€242.67	€322.67	
	AILG Autumn Seminar	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Sligo Park Hotel	€165.00	€493.47	€658.47	
	Irish Planning Institute	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2023	Online	€195.00		€195.00	
	AILG Module 6	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Tower Hotel, Waterford	€80.00	€167.68	€247.68	€2,191.89

## Appendix 2

Continued...

Cllr. Anne Ferris	Local Authority Procurement Process	20 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co, Cork	€100	€650.39	€750.39	
	AILG Module 2	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	€80	€263.68	€343.68	€1,094.07
Cllr. Patsy Glennon	AILG Module 2	24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	€80	€278.19	€358.19	
	Suck Valley Way Conference 2023	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon	€140	€305.13	€445.13	
	AILG Module 3	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Mullingar Park Hotel	€80	€82.91	€162.91	
	AILG Module 4	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2023	Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo	€80	€368.35	€448.35	
	AILG Autumn Seminar	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Sligo Park Hotel	€165	€378.93	€543.93	
	LAMA Autumn Seminar	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Ard Ri House, Tuam, Co. Galway	€160	€530.31	€690.31	€2,648.82
Cllr. Paul O'Brien	Local Authority Procurement Process - Celtic Conferences	20 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork	€100	€646.48	€746.48	
	LAMA Spring Seminar	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork	€160	€639.77	€799.77	
	AILG Module2	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	€80	€393.00	€473.00	
	AILG Module 3	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Mullingar Park Hotel	€80	€364.50	€444.50	€2,463.75

## Appendix 3

### Wicklow County Council Members appointed to Committees and other bodies 2023

Committee/ Other Body	Name	Amount Paid 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023
31st December 2023		
Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	€366.41
	Cllr. Avril Cronin	€495.95
	Cllr. Tom Fortune	
Regional Health Forum (Dublin – Mid Leinster)	Cllr. Vincent Blake	
	Cllr. Gerry O'Neill	
	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	
	Cllr. Joe Behan	
Local Authority Members Association	Cllr. Vincent Blake	
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
	Cllr. Joe Behan	
	Cllr. Shay Cullen	
Bray Area Partnership	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	
	Cllr. Grace McManus	
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	Nil
Board of Wicklow Enterprise Park CLG	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
Board of Mermaid, County Wicklow Arts Centre	Cllr. Anne Ferris	Nil
	Cllr. Melanie Corrigan	

	Cllr. Erika Doyle	Nil
Arklow Business Enterprise Park (ABEC) CLG	Cathaoirleach of Arklow MD Ex Officio	
Wicklow Enterprise Park	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd.	Cllr. Gerry O'Neill	
Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	
	Cllr. Tom Fortune	
	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	Nil
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	Nil
	Cllr. Anne Ferris	Nil
	Cllr. Edward Timmins	
East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force	Cllr. Peir Leonard	Nil

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Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council