

**Wicklow County Council
Chief Executive's Monthly Report - August 2024**



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - August 2024

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This month:

Community Recognition Fund 2024 - €694,300 to deliver 7 community projects across County Wicklow in first phase of funding

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

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

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

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

Wicklow County Council Supports the Tinahely Agricultural Show

The 2024 Tinahely Agricultural Show, which took place on Monday 5th August, is one of the largest and longest-running agricultural shows in Ireland and attracted over 20,000 visitors across the day and featured 400 trade exhibitors.

Wicklow County Council showed its support for the annual Tinahely Agricultural Show with a special marquee highlighting the Council's services and the county's attractions.

The show has been running since 1935 and continues to showcase the richness and diversity of rural life in County Wicklow with a huge range of entertainment, livestock competitions, equestrian events, arts and crafts, family fun and local food produce.

The show featured some of the best livestock in the country with over 1,000 entries in cattle, sheep, horses, ponies and poultry. It also hosted the Interbreed Cattle championships, sheep shearing and geese herding, along with an equestrian section which included show jumping, horse racing and pony games.

The wealth of creativity and talent within the local community and throughout the county was celebrated at the craft village which featured over 100 stalls selling handmade craft items including jewellery, pottery, woodwork and textiles. The show also had a food village where visitors could sample some of the finest local produce from County Wicklow and beyond.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	July 2024	July 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	104	164
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1378	1562
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	22
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	22	30

Allocation of Social Housing

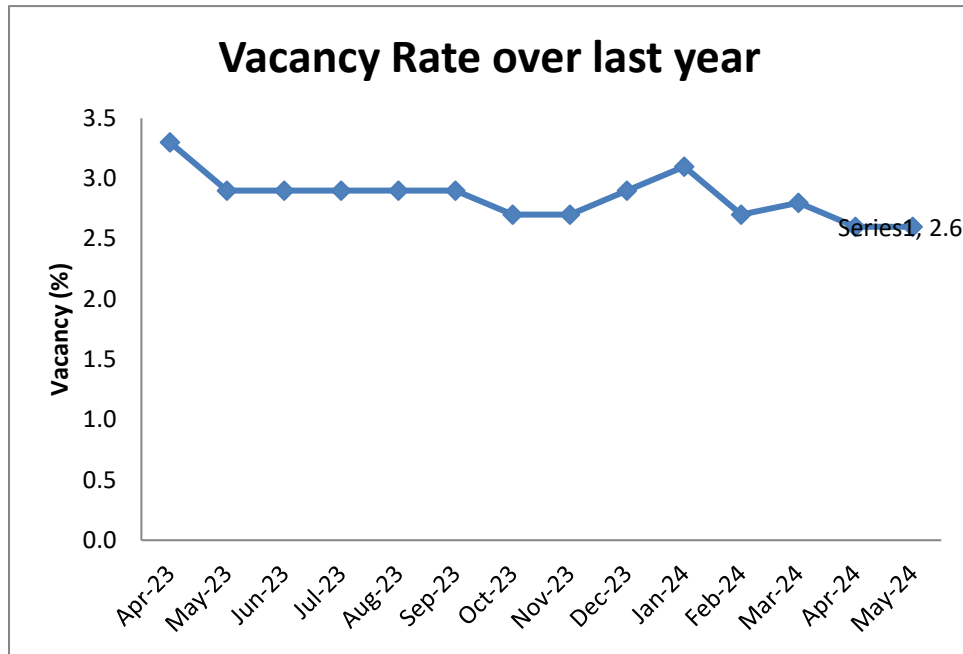
	July 2024	July 2023
Wicklow County Council	12	17
Approved Housing Bodies	02	18

Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	16 (+1)	3 (-1)	8 (0)	4 (+3)	15 (+2)
Baltinglass	21 (+7)	3 (-6)	5 (+1)	12 (+5)	20 (0)
Bray	22 (+9)	0 (0)	22 (-4)	10 (+2)	32 (-2)
Greystones	1 (0)	7 (0)	1 (+1)	0 (0)	8 (+1)
Wicklow	16 (+0)	18 (+3)	25 (-2)	2 (+1)	45 (+2)
2024 Totals	76 (+18)	31 (-4)	61 (-4)	28 (+10)	120 (+2)
2023 Totals	140				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	Occupied tenancies Data unavailable	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

Availability of contractors to carry out re-let refurbishment work continues to be the major limiting factor in turning around Voids/Re-lets. The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.

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According to CSO Census 2022 data:

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

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

Housing Maintenance

Planned Maintenance in the form of electrical remedial works is currently nearing completion at Parkmore in Baltinglass. Protech Electrical will then be moving on to Palladius Park in Donard.

Gas boiler maintenance Framework Agreements have been tendered on www.supplygov.ie for Baltinglass, Wicklow and Greystones MDs. Gaswise were successful tenderers for Greystones and Wicklow MDs and will start servicing on 29th of July. Bracken Plumbing & Heating were successful

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tenderers for the Baltinglass MD and have started gas servicing in addition to oil boiler servicing already underway in that MD. Heat Pump maintenance contract documents are currently being prepared.

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

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

So far in 2024, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

Notice Type	Served so far in 2024 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	30 (+1)
Prohibition Notice	8 (+3)

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

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

	2024 Budget	Amount Spent as of July 2024
Grant Funding for Private Housing	€2,728,709.00	€1,259,220.55
Grant Funding for Social Housing	€822,111.00	€704,886.28

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	294

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Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

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

Homeless Figures for July 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/07/2024	Year To Date	As at 31/07/2023
No of New Presentations	26	216	33
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	2	3
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	2	64	15
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	26	182	20
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	18	4
No. of Children	6	109	29
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	42	9
Family Circumstances	4	28	8
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	4	13	3
Mental Health	1	13	1
Risk of Homelessness	12	110	19
Arrears/Loss of Income	2	9	0
Addiction Issues	4	28	0
DV/DA	0	6	3
Medical Issues	2	7	1
Overcrowding	2	33	10
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	12	0
ASB:	0	7	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	15	1
Sofa Surfing*	7	20	5
Staying with Family*	8	55	11
Staying with Friends*	1	19	3

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/07/24	
Families	14
Adults	28
Children	42
Single individual	10

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	25	30	13	1	6	1	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	20	28	42	5	8	3	0	8

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 563 households (388 families & 168 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st July 2024. (225 homeless cases, 314 prevention cases to date and 23 direct provision). 142 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

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Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

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

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of July 2024, there are 1,698 Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

The breakdown of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection is as follows:

- Arklow MD: 225
- Baltinglass MD: 358
- Bray MD: 756
- Greystones MD: 178
- Wicklow MD: 181

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

Wicklow County Council is also working through a list of pledged properties within the county to match families with appropriate housing. To date, Wicklow County Council has housed 283 displaced Ukrainian individuals in pledged stand-alone 'Offer a Home' properties within the county.

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

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Community

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

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

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

Pride of Place 2024

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

This year, Wicklow County Council has entered 3 nominations:

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

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

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



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Older People's Council (OPC) next meeting will be held in September 2024 in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh where issues such as Health, Transport and Technology will be discussed.

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

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

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

Age Friendly Programme Manager and K.W.E.T.B. are organising a coffee morning regarding Digital Inclusion. Date to be confirmed.

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County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

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

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

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

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

"Beyond the Trees" Avondale and Rathcoran Housing Estate have been entered into the Business Recognition Awards. Shortlisting took place on the 12th of August 2024.

The Age Friendly Awards, which recognises business and companies who are mindful of Age Friendly will take place on the 7th of November 2024.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group (DISC)

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



The Sunflower Lanyard Programme

The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was launched in Wicklow County Council in April 2023. Members of the Customer Care Unit currently wear these Lanyards so that a person with a hidden disability can identify which member of staff will be able to provide additional assistance, if required.

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Healthy Wicklow

Period Poverty Project – Healthy Wicklow has collaborated with The Colour Club to provide an educational piece to include gynaecological health for women throughout all stages of life, covering puberty to post menopause. *My Girls Gynae* will facilitate a series of workshops with the first “All About Puberty” being rolled out on Saturday 10th August targeting 10-13/14-year-olds and a family member.

Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Machine – Due to the success of the Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Machines onsite visit to Carnew Mart, Healthy Wicklow arranged for it to visit Baltinglass Mart on Wednesday 28th August. There were two nurses on hand to provide a free health check to farmers attending the Mart on the day.

Drumming Workshop – Nationwide are due to visit Carnew Community Care Centre and as part of this they will be focusing on the transition year intergenerational drumming project that was funded by Healthy Wicklow earlier in the year. In preparation for this visit a refresher drumming workshop for day care visitors/residents/students and staff will take place on Thursday 29th August.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Trauma Training

A two day in-person trauma training course with *Connected for Life* took place on the 25th and 26th of July, aimed specifically for the workers of the Bray Family Resource and Development Project. The training equips staff with the skills to identify trauma-related behaviours, offer appropriate support, and create a safe and nurturing environment, ultimately fostering better outcomes for children and young people.

Feasibility Study

We have recently received the first draft of our feasibility study, which has been in development for over four months. This comprehensive study focuses on identifying and addressing the needs of the Little Bray Community Centre and its surrounding green spaces, with the aim of optimising these areas for the benefit of the local community. The insights provided by this study will be crucial in guiding our future initiatives for Wicklow County Council and Bray. Our next step is to establish a steering committee in early September to review the results and determine the best course of action moving forward.

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Local Authority Integration Team

Statistical Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1531
Of which are children	415

WCC LAIT Activity to date for 2024	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered to date	39
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	312
Total number of sessions with single adults	167
Total number of sessions with families	145

LAIT Integration Support Data for July 2024

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	12
No. of Advice & Info emails sent to clients	85
No. of singles	37
No. of adults (total from singles and families)	95
No. of families	43
No. of IPA's	87
No. with Refugee Status	3
No. with Subsidiary Protection	1
No. with Leave to Remain	3
Less than 1 month in Ireland	11
1-3 months in Ireland	38

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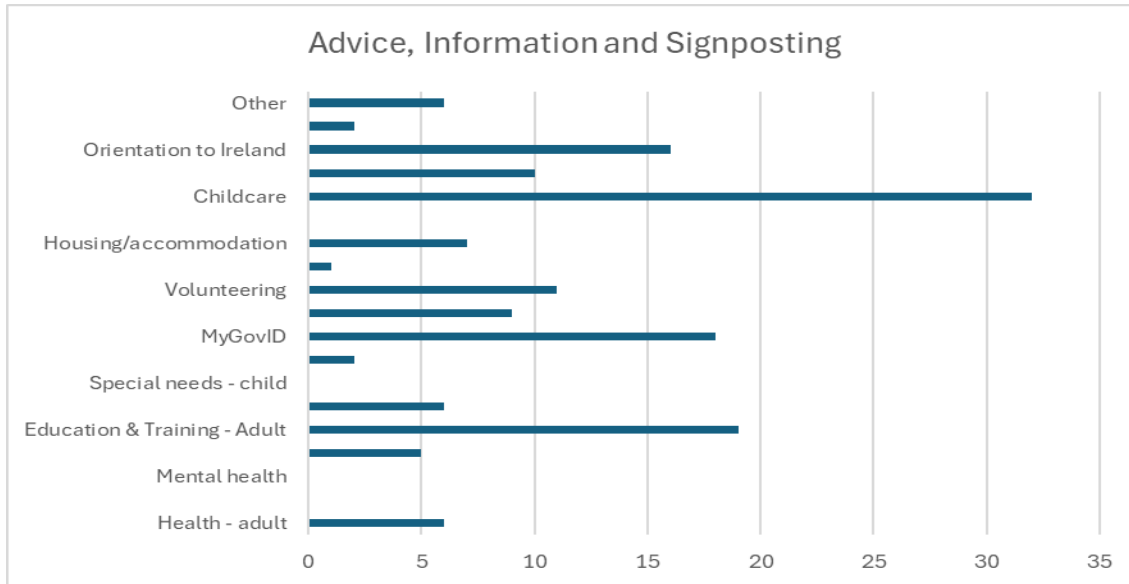
3-6 months in Ireland	26
6 months – 1 year in Ireland	7
1-2 years in Ireland	2
Over 2 years in Ireland	9

As can be seen from the figures above, the LAIT is meeting the aim of consistently targeting newly arrived International Protection Applicants to provide an initial period of orientation and integration support.

Areas of Support

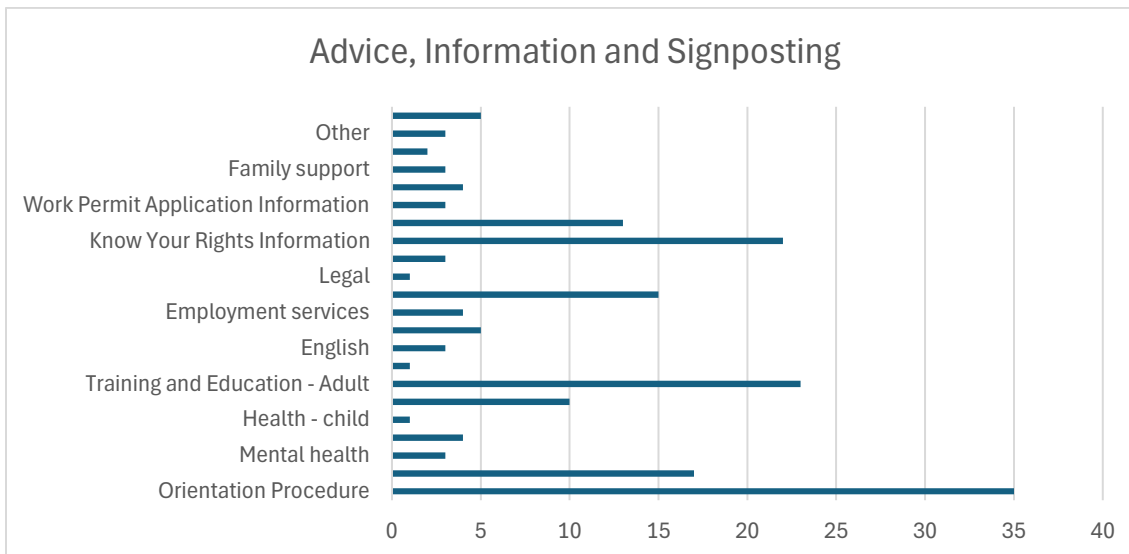
Main Theme	Incidence
Health - adult	5
Health - child	0
Mental health	0
Medical Card	4
Education & Training - Adult	12
Education - child	4
Special needs - child	0
English	1
MyGovID	9
Employment	5
Volunteering	5
Legal	1
Housing/accommodation	4
Transport	0
Childcare	16
Family support	5
Orientation to Ireland	14
Financial Supports	1
Other	3

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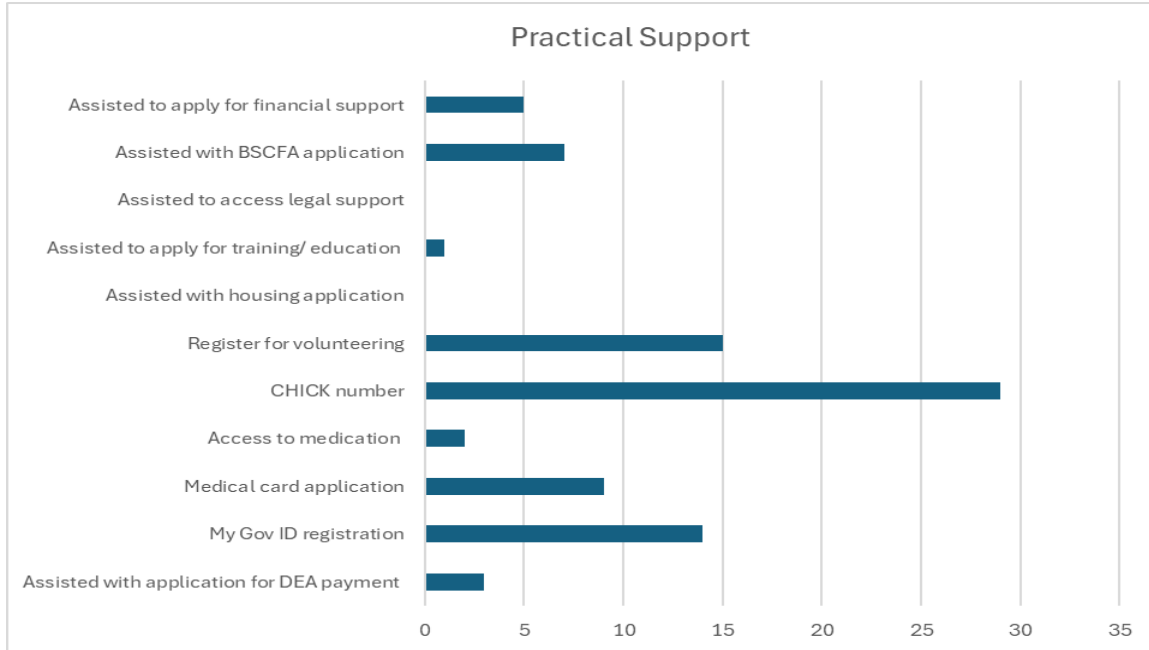
In-Session Categories of Support	Incidence
Advice, Information and Signposting	180
Practical Support	85
Referral and advocacy	41

- **Advice, Information and Signposting**

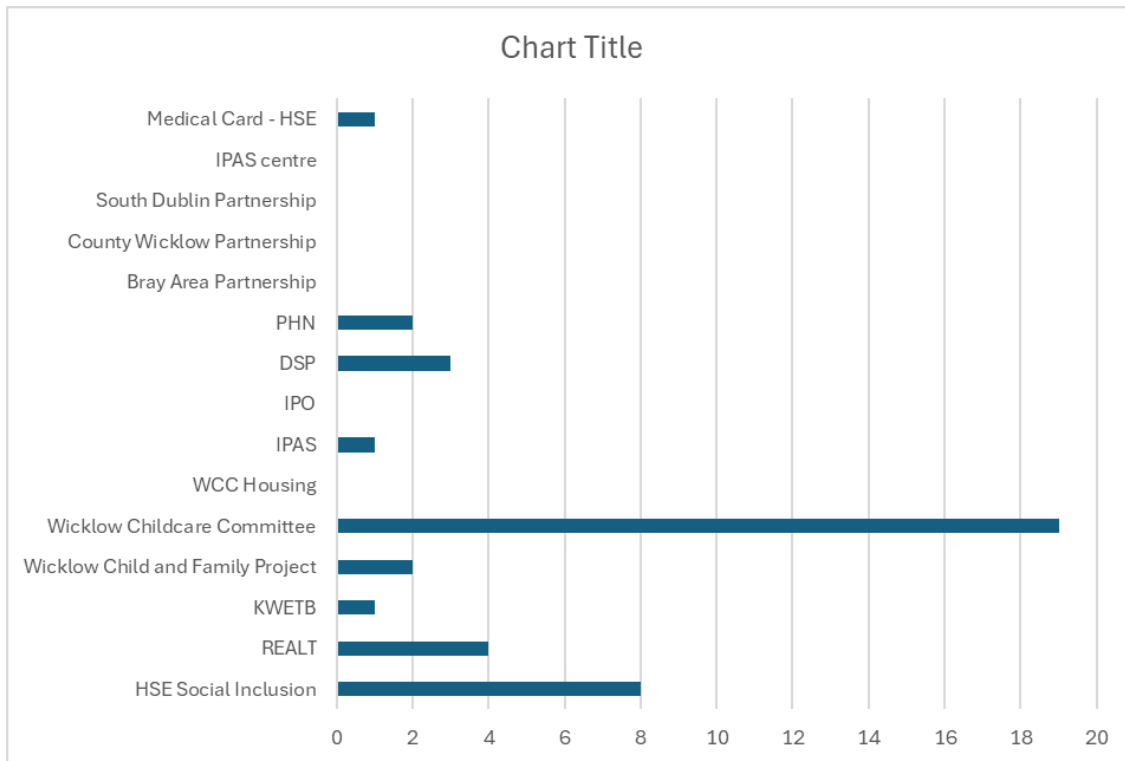


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- Practical Support**



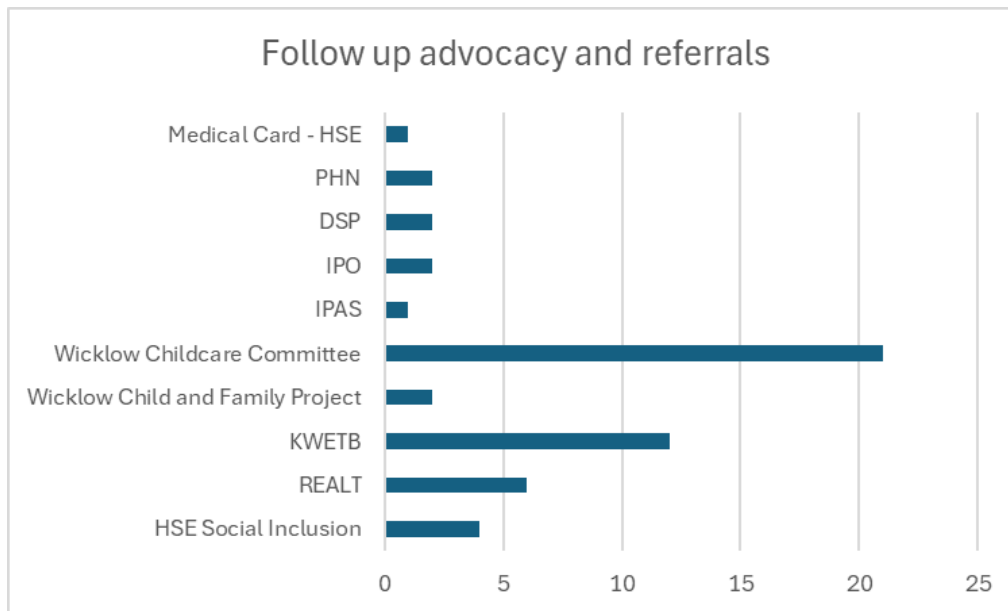
- Referral and Advocacy**



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Follow-Up Support	Incidence
Advocacy and Referral	53
Follow up Contact with Client	37

- **Advocacy and Referral**



Other Activity

- The Integration Support Workers provided an information, advice and support session to the volunteers with Fáilte Isteach who are involved in English Language supports to the residents in River Lodge, Newtownmountkennedy.
- Wicklow County Council hosted the first Integration Support Coordinator Network meeting for the Easter and Midlands region.
- The inaugural meeting of the Community Integration Forum took place in Wicklow County Council on 25th July.
- The LAIT, in collaboration with the Wicklow Child and Young People's Services Committee and the Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, delivered school camp placements for 91 children in IPAS centres across the county.
- The team arranged the first in a series of Further Education Information Sessions. The session was delivered by an Adult Education Guidance Counsellor with the KWETB. The session was attended by 9 IPAs, all of whom are interested in continuing education to improve their employment opportunities.

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Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

SPC Representatives: Wicklow PPN is working with its members to fill the seats for the Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental seats listed in the New (Draft) SPC Scheme.

Consultations: Information circulated, and submissions encouraged in relation to two local consultations- Wicklow County Council Draft Strategic Policy Committee (SPCs) Scheme; WCC Draft Polling Scheme.

Community information expo and training events being organised across the Municipal Districts in collaboration with Older People's Council, Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre and Arklow Community Excellence.

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

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP Mid-Year Reports 2024: The mid-year review of SICAP assesses progress on the SICAP Annual Plans from January 1st to May 30th. The mid-year assessment was very positive for both Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership with all actions and key performance targets on or ahead of schedule and budget spend on track.

Additional New Arrivals Funding: Additional SICAP funding has been announced by the Department for work with the New Arrivals cohort i.e. International Protection Applicants, Ukrainians and recent Refugees requiring supports. Bray Area Partnership have been awarded €14,348 and Co. Wicklow Partnership €18,508.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028

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

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

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

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

Local Area Plans

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

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan closed on 28 September 2023 with 84 submissions received. A well-attended public information day was held on 14 September 2023. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. Once the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q3 2024.

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

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

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

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

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

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

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

Blessington Local Area Plan

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

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

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024.

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

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

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

Work has commenced on the review of the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan. We are currently preparing an online consultation portal and are aiming to commence the pre-draft consultation in Q3 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP for these Bray is available to view here

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

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

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

Vacant Site Levy

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

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More information can be found online at the following link

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

Heritage Office

Heritage Week in Wicklow: National Heritage Week takes place 17-25th August. Co-ordinated for County Wicklow by the Heritage Office. There are over 70 events registered on www.heritageweek.ie over the nine days and widely dispersed throughout the county, the majority are free of charge and family friendly

County Heritage Plan Review: The process of preparing a new Heritage Plan has commenced and public submissions are advertised and invited via e mail and/or online questionnaire by 30th July. A series of drop in clinics took place in each MD, May-June

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

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) – Five new community groups have signed up to the *Our Wicklow Heritage* network and are currently receiving training in setting up their digital archives. Training for Wicklow groups took place 11th and 12th June.

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

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

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Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th June 2024	To 30 th June 2023	% difference
Received (Valid)	654	644	2.5%

A total of 102 valid applications were received during July as follows:

Type of Development	31 st July 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	20 (19 Rural)
Housing Developments*	04
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	03
Other Developments**	71
Total	102

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

Decisions issued in respect of 86 applications in July 2024

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	01
Other Developments	83
Other Developments Requiring EIA	02
Total	86

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

	31/07/2023	31/07/2024
Total Number of decisions issued	613	539
Total Number of decisions to grant	513	453
% Grant Rate	84%	84%
No of applications withdrawn		11 (5 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

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

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

Substitute Consent

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

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

E-Planning Project

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

For the **month of July 2024**, a total of 111 planning applications were received of which 28.8% were hard copy applications and **71.2% were received online**.

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From 1st January 2024 to 31st July 2024 a total of 777 applications were received of which 40.3% were hard copy applications and **59.7% were received online.**

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

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of an energy storage facility at Templeraíne, Arklow.
- Construction of sites for 8 additional mobile homes at Brittas Bay
- Reclamation of land for the purpose of improvement of land for agricultural use, Arklow
- Demolition of industrial units and construction of new replacement industrial units, Glenealy

Planning Enforcement

New Files	14
Advisory Letters	21
Warning Letters	27
Enforcement Notices	3
Legal Files	0
Closed	15

Short Term Letting – 01/07/2024 - 31/07/2024

Applications received for Registration in July 2024	6
Complaints received in July 2024	2
Warning Letters issued in July 2024	3
Enforcement Notices issued in July 2024	1
Legal proceedings in July 2024	0
Files under investigation as of 31/07/2024	76

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Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

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Economic and Rural Development

Town Regeneration

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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

Funding Schemes

Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

Newtownmountkennedy has been announced under Phase 2 as one of the next 26 towns approved to develop Town Centre First Plans and has recently been approved for funding of € 30,000.00 under **Town Centre First Measure 2** Suite of Supports. This Town Centre First Plan must be completed and reports submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

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

The Town Centre First Measure 3 Application closed on the 8th April. Two applications have been submitted for this Project funding,

1. Blessington - measures to include enhancement to the Square with tree planting and rain garden, spaces for dining and fixed seating.
2. Wicklow town – Further enhancement at the Black Castle area to encourage more tourism and attractions for locals with installation of picnic tables, seating and a sculpture park. A decision has not yet been received from the Department on this application

Thrive

Under the new Thrive Town Centre First Heritage Revival Strand 2 for Bray Courthouse and Heritage Centre an application was submitted to Thrive on the 3rd May. This application has not been recommended for funding by the THRIVE Evaluation Committee.

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Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and walls; Lacken to renovate the old school house to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section, and; Wicklow Town's Murrough BMX pump track to develop into a best- in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities. The Acceptance Agreements have been signed and the commencement of the tender process will be discussed with the associated Town Team /Community Groups in early September.

Town Teams

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

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

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

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects

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

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

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Baltinglass RRDF: The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow has come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are underway.

Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7th February 2024. However, the submission was not successful.

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

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

URDF Call 3: Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow). An information gathering notice has been published on a number of the properties seeking information to be directed to the Council.

Another property has been identified in Arklow and approval is awaited from the department to consider this property under this funding scheme.

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

Tourism

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

PR Campaign: The extensive PR campaign being run by Wicklow County Council in partnership with Wicklow Tourism is proving very successful. To date, the campaign has secured 29 pieces on various media including print, digital, radio and TV. The PR value is estimated at €758,640. The traditional media reach is estimated at 6,146,600 while the digital reach is thought to be around 173 million. There is currently a competition running on the independent.ie with two more competitions planned in August and September on the RTE Guide print and digital editions.

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Wicklow Passport: In July, focus has been given to promote South Wicklow with a special itinerary around the villages of Carnew, Shillelagh, Tinahely and Aughrim. A short video was produced and promoted through the various VisitWicklow social media accounts achieving extensive reach and engagement. A similar campaign is planned for West Wicklow featuring stamping locations in Blessington, Hollywood, Donard, Baltinglass and Dunlavin.

Seasonal Stamps: Plans are being put in place to produce and promote seasonal stamps such as Halloween or Christmas Stamps. A special Tinahely Show stamp was produced and given to visitors wishing to start their journey around Wicklow.

Wicklow Outdoor Promotional Videos: Wicklow County Council has commissioned the production of a series of videos to showcase some of the great outdoor activities available in Wicklow. During the month of August, shooting will take place with a focus on Mountain Biking, Trail Running and Fast Hiking. Further productions will include sea swimming, equestrian, surfing and more.

Best Golf Holes in Wicklow: The first video showcasing the Best Wicklow Golf Holes has been shot and features The European Club. Over the next few months, the project will shoot a minimum of nine golf holes from various other Wicklow golf clubs. The objective of the project is to create content to help promote Wicklow as a world class golf destination.

Wicklow's Historic Gaol Operational Review

CHL & Associates have been appointed to conduct an extensive review of Wicklow's Historic Gaol. Commissioned by Wicklow County Council, this review will include the current tourism offering and identify potential quick fixes. This project will compare the Gaol with similar experiences nationally and internationally and identify opportunities and future developments.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

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

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

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

A Working Group comprising representatives from all stakeholders has also been formed and has commenced work on short term actions for 2024, along with longer term actions. As community

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consultation and participation is a central tenet of the masterplan, a Local Advisory Group has been established to keep the local community informed and ensure their input to the process.

Improvements to traffic management and the additional car parking spaces provided with kind permission of the Brockagh Resource Centre and Laragh GAA have been welcomed by both visitors and locals alike. Directional signage has been erected to ensure an easier flow of traffic and this is supplemented by a dedicated social media campaign advising visitors where to access car parks.

Special Projects

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

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

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Preliminary drawings have been received with a final design agreement expected in mid-August. Where Part VIII planning permission is required, an application will be made before the end of the year.

Marketing Plan: MarketingCoach are working on promotional materials for the Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points under the campaign idea "Choose Wicklow". The marketing campaign will begin late in September.

Offshore Renewable Energy

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow. A plan for 2024 based around three work-streams (skills, ports/harbours, and supply chain) has been agreed. A networking/information event for suppliers and other interested parties will be held in the 3rd quarter of this year.

Skills Strategy

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow has been adopted and is available on the website to read. The Skills Taskforce will now begin implementation of the actions contained within the Skills Strategy.

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Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally – Tinahely Show:

Once again, Wicklow Naturally was a key attraction at the Best of Wicklow tent at this year’s Tinahely Show. The mobile kitchen entertained visitors with five food demonstrations by top chefs, including Catherine Fulvio.

Wicklow Naturally has also commissioned the production of short videos featuring the various Wicklow Naturally members. The videos will be featured on social media and the website. The project is to be carried out over the next 5 months.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a ‘First Stop Shop’ for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	13 €357,202 5 €12,500
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	40	60	26

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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2023	2023/2024	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1028	1100	1358
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	76
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	540
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	15

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	581	500	311
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	528	390	356

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	36

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Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	16
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	14
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	3
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	5
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-

July 2024 Activities:

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

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

Wicklow County Council

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

- **Climate Action Committee** established (First meeting to take place, these structures are monitored as a Climate NOAC KPI figure for all LA's, This Committee will provide a stronger focus on the cross service delivery of the Actions within the Climate Action Plan)
- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme**
Expression of interest for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow issued and two submissions received. Bolt and Moby have expressed an interest.
Letters have issued, Currently within Standstill Period.
Additionally Civil works for bike stands and spaces will be required.
- **Coastal Erosion**
 1. The ECRIPP consultant engineers are reducing their design life, which will see less Rock Revetments. Public Consultation could commence early 2025.
 2. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly and have commenced a condition survey.
 3. RPS Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study.
 4. Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)
- **Glyphosate Policy** – Wicklow County Council joining a Service Level Agreement for the Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces project with various third level institutions (such as Maynooth University and Trinity), agencies, and ten other local authorities (some with large park departments). This SLA commenced in 2020 and there is already some findings which will be shared with Wicklow County Council very shortly.
- **Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete** going for public consultation in September with Workshops
- **Greystones MD - Active Travel Scheme with NB SuDS Rainwater Garden scheme taking place**– Part Funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Rainwater Management Plan drafted** for area in Redford Park. An initial design has been completed, Detailed design to be completed.
- **Arklow MD Office, Civic Centre, Depot and Harbour Office** – Solar PV to be added and funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Bray MD EV Mower demonstration Day** – The District reviewed EV mowers with the Climate Action Team – A mower is tendered on etenders and will be funded for the Bray MD from the Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Baltinglass MD** – Community Notice Board to be trialled in Blessington.
The option of a shared mobility scheme for Blessington will be reviewed.
- **Wicklow MD - Brittas Bay** – 1000m of Chestnut Fencing Ordered, to be erected by Wicklow MD funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund

Climate Action Officer Update:

- Community Gardening Expression of interest received 39 to date with a good graphical spread with Wicklow Town with highest demand.
- Currently investigating Available Sites.
- Tinahely Show – Representation from Climate Action Team, Biodiversity Officer and EAO.

Wicklow County Council

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- Working on Green Events Policy

Biodiversity Officer Update

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

Community Climate Action Programme

- Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow.
- 20 applications submitted to the department broken down as follows:
- Approval Letter received from Department.
- Decision letters and agreement issued to applicants.
- All applicants have returned signed contracts.
- Letter to issue with start date.
- WCC will complete press release shortly.
- Julie will provide information workshops in September providing Feedback to interested groups.

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

Environmental Awareness

- Currently working on Kids Sea Safari Workshops been held in Bray, Greystones, Brittas Bay and Arklow
- Audio Devices funded and installed to reduce litter and dog fouling
- Tidy Towns & Sustainable Development Awards 2024 application process closed
- Developing a composting workshop for Greystones MD. To be delivered September.

Climate Networking

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

Wicklow County SEC's

- Wicklow Town SEC held a successful Energy Awareness Day on the 24th June. This event was sponsored by The Climate Action Team of Wicklow County Council.
- The Arklow SEC completed an insulation meithal, with 11 dwellings signed up to undertake an assessment to have attic and cavity wall insulation installed in their homes.
- Carnew Community Care Energy Master Plan is now completed

Wicklow County Council

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour

New ladders for swimmers have been installed on the West (New)Pier.

Swim marker buoys have been realigned in the harbour to better delineate the designated bathing area.

A new waste compound has been installed for use by harbour users.

CCTV and Access Control

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

Arklow Harbour

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

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	7	5	2	9	7	2
Feb-24	6	5	1	7	5	2
Mar-24	8	7	1	9	7	2
Apr-24	10	9	1	11	9	2
May-24	8	8	0	8	6	2
June-24	8	6	2	10	6	4
July-24	8	6	2	10	7	3

Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	170
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	121
No of Litter Fines Issued	5
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	23
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	15
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	8
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	4
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	13
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	0

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No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	5
Income - Litter	€330.00
Income- Waste Management	€1,250.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 7 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 4 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

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

Bathing Waters

- Excellent: Identified bathing waters:
 - Bray South, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Silver strand, and Clogga
 - 22 bathing water samples taken
 - 10 river/stream samples taken
- Highest quality: Other monitored waters:
 - Greystones Cove, Kilcoole, Murrough, South of Bray The Cove Arklow and Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area Harbour
 - 15 other bathing waters samples taken
- The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2025 season.
- A precautionary advice against bathing was issued on 23/07/24 and lifted on 25/07/24 for South of Bray Harbour and Bray South Promenade due to stormwater overflow from Bray Sewage Pumping Station Uisce Eireann

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

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Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

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

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 2 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems and were found compliant with advisory notices.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

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

Well Grants

- 12 New Water Grant application received
- 1 New Well granted
- 5 New Pumps granted
- 5 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 22 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

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

Solid Fuel Regulations

- 1 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Planning & Development

- 4 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 13 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 4 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

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Control of Dogs

240 reminders were sent out for licences due to expire during the month of July. A total of 491 licences were purchased during July, with 220 purchased on-line. Dog wardens are continuing to do weekly patrols and during July one of their places to visit was Ashford, where a total of 34 dog licences were purchased. For the same time in 2023, i.e. the month of July 2023, only 3 licences were purchased.

Blue Flags & Green Coast Awards

The Blue Flag and Green Flag seasons kicked off on 1st June and runs until 15th September. The three beaches in County Wicklow awarded the Blue Flag are: Brittas Bay North & South and Greystones South. After an absence of 4 years Arklow South Beach regained the Green Coast Award. An Taisce will monitor the beaches for compliance with Blue Flag criteria.

Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project

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

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.



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Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

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

Wicklow Arts Office

Strategic Project Award Scheme 2025

Wicklow Arts Office is pleased to announce the 12th edition of its Strategic Projects Award Scheme and invites applications from artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and/or artist collectives to propose projects which will nurture practice, enhance connectivity, generate new perspectives and support new voices within County Wicklow.

There are two funding streams available under the 2025 Strategic Projects Award Scheme:

Stream A - Open for applications for new artistic projects

Stream B - Open for applications for the consolidation or development of strategic projects previously awarded under Stream A of this Award Scheme

A separate Application Form is available for each Stream.

The Scheme is open for applications from Monday 19th August 2024 to Friday 13th September 2024. The application Guidelines and Budget Templates are available on the Arts webpage.

Creative Places Baltinglass

TRACKS artist Eoin O'Malley



Photographer: Freddie Greenhall



Photographer: Freddie Greenhall

Artist Eoin O'Malley presented a unique, inclusive wheel painting event titled TRACKS on 28th of July in Baltinglass, Co Wicklow. Originating from experiments using his wheelchair as a mark making tool Eoin developed the idea for this public event thanks to a Creative Places Baltinglass seed funding grant. The receipt of a 2024 Strategic Projects award and the support of Wicklow Arts Office allowed Eoin to bring this ambitious project to completion. All members of the community were invited to join Eoin in creating large scale floor paintings using all types of wheels that included: skateboards, bicycles, rollators, buggies, roller skates, mobility scooters and even a motorbike, to make their unique track marks. By its nature TRACKS reverses the more usual model of inclusivity where a minority may be invited to join the normative group, quite often resulting in by-standing. Through finding the common denominator of 'wheels', this event created an opportunity for everyone to come together in a creative activity that reaches out across all ages and abilities and into every corner of the community.

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Wicklow County Library Service

Summer Stars Update

Our Summer Stars reading initiative has hit the ground running this year, with **3334** from all around the county registered to the programme. Reports from all our libraries indicate that children around the county are very busy reading and listening to books and are regular visitors to our libraries, in fact according to our statistics - 56,385 items have been borrowed by children since the beginning of June! It's not too late to participate; the initiative will run until the 31st August. Children can visit their local library to pick up a Summer Stars reading card and track their progress. Our library branches across the county have been busy hosting a variety of engaging Summer Stars events over the past few weeks including draws for prizes so keep those cards coming in!

Summer Stars celebrations!

Congratulations to our Golden Ticket winners for July at **Ballywaltrim Library**



Enniskerry Library

Tinahely Library

Wicklow Library

Summer Stars August Events

Arklow Library

Arklow Library hosted Spotlight Studios for a wonderful Pirate Party on Tuesday, 13th August.

Children set sail on a thrilling voyage with our Pirate Party to uncover a world of hidden treasures, daring challenges, and boundless imagination. The Pirate Party was designed to transport little hearts to the high seas, where every activity is

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an exciting escapade waiting to be discovered. From crafting intricate treasure maps that lead to untold riches, to engaging in a pirate training camp where they learned the ways of the sea.



Arklow Library will host Spotlight Studios for a visit to the Enchanted Forest on **Tuesday, 20th August, from 10-11am**. Fancy dress is optional but very welcome! Step into a world of wonder and magic with our Enchanted Forest Party! Immerse yourself in a realm of enchantment and adventure, where every corner holds a delightful surprise and every moment sparkles with imagination. The Enchanted Forest Party is designed to transport children to a mystical land where dreams come true. From the moment they step into our enchanting setting, they'll be swept away on a journey of pure joy and delight!

Suitable for ages 4-10. Places are limited so book in advance to avoid disappointment. Phone: 0402 39977. Email: arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie



Summer Stars finale in Arklow Library:

Blast out of summer and into school at **Arklow library** for their Summer Stars finale event.

Pop in anytime between 2-4pm on Friday, August 23rd for Star ship crafts. Every child that comes along will get a free set of markers/crayons.

There will also be Summer Stars medals and certificates available for collection.

No booking is required and all ages are welcome.

Ballywaltrim Library

As well as a number of regular events Ballywaltrim Library is continuing its roll out of the Summer Stars National initiative with a busy programme in August.

Summer Stars finale: On Friday August 23rd, the town's Cathaoirleach will visit the library to present prizes to lucky draw winners, book reviews, and art display participants. Two events by Luke's Deadly Dinosaurs will close the Summer Stars programme for 2024.

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Blessington Library

On Monday 12th August, Blessington Library hosted a special session of Music and Song for children aged 3-6 years with Rachel Drew.

A very successful Comic Writing Camp was held in Blessington Library on the 13th and 14th August.



Plan It Play will be in [Blessington](#) Library on Friday 16th August (1pm for ages 4-8 years and 2.30pm for ages 8 years plus) doing two workshops where art meets science.

Children will learn about the lifecycle of toy production, consumption and waste. They'll become toy designers and make new toys from old ones. Maybe even a superhero for climate action?

Booking is essential!

Contact [Blessington](#) Library at 045 891740 or blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie to reserve your spot!



Greystones Library

Summer Stars Finale: On 31st August, Greystones Library will celebrate the end of the Summer Stars reading initiative with a Storytime from Niall de Burca. Children who participated in the Summer Stars initiative will be invited along and medals and certificates will be presented by Tom Fortune, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District.

Rathdrum Library

Baby & Toddler Storytime every Friday morning 10 - 10:30 for 0-3yrs.
Storytime 1st & 3rd Saturday 11:00 - 12:15 for 3-8yrs.

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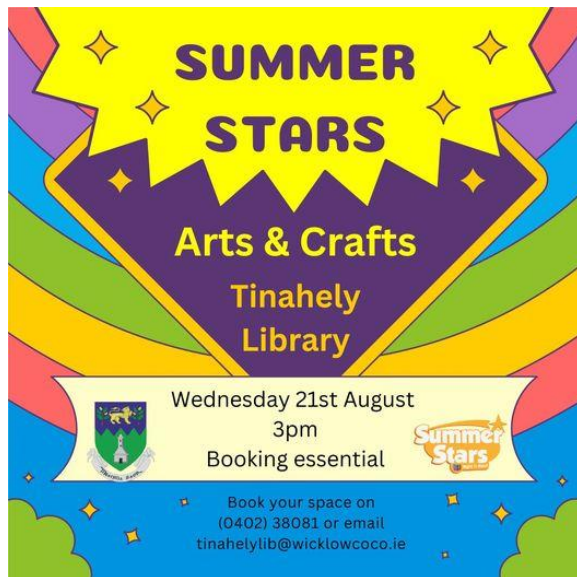


Tinahely Library

Come to [Tinahely Library](#) for a Summer Stars arts and crafts session with Simona on Wednesday, the 21st of August from 3pm. Book a spot by calling 0402 38081 or email tinahelylib@wicklowcoco.ie

Summer Stars finale event:

Saturday 31st, 12:00, Puppet Show and end of Summer Stars draw.



Wicklow Library

Summer Stars finale event

In Wicklow Library, Summer Stars is finishing up this month with a magic show and celebration ceremony where all the children will receive medals. This year Wicklow Library signed up over 510 children – an almost 50% increase on last year. The children were given booklets to colour and fill in with the books they've read this summer. The children returned their booklets and were entered into a weekly draw where fantastic vouchers were given out supporting local businesses.

As part of Summer Stars, Wicklow library facilitated very popular events such as a 'LEGO Build from a Book Workshop' for children of all abilities (those masterpieces are on display in the library). The library also hosted a 'Fun with Numbers Bingo' (great prizes again), Arts and Crafts sessions such a butterfly feeders, a Circus Skills Workshop where children learned clown skills such balancing using a tight rope, how to spin plates, making balloon animals, juggling, and general

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hilarity. Plan-It-Play hosted a toy recycling session, where children brought in their old toys and learned how to create new ones.



Heritage Week at Wicklow County Council Library Service



The Wicklow Seed Ark will be making a mini appearance at Dunlavin Library for Heritage Week!

As part of Wicklow County Council's mission to preserve and share the incredible biodiversity of our region, we'll be offering a small selection of seeds for you to take home and plant. You'll also have the option to order more from our main Seed Ark at Bray Library.

We encourage everyone in the community to contribute to the Seed Ark by collecting seeds from your own garden. To ensure your seeds are ready to be harvested, they should either fall naturally from the plant or make a gentle rattling

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sound in their pods. Once collected, store your seeds in a brown envelope or a homemade packet that keeps out light. Don't worry about sorting them—leave that to us when they reach the Seed Ark.

The Wicklow Seed Ark is a self-sustaining project, and it thrives on the generosity of seed donations. If you take seeds from us, we ask that you return a portion of your harvest when your plants reach the end of their life cycle. This way, we can continue to grow and share this precious resource with the wider Wicklow community.

Heritage Week in Wicklow County Council Library Service offers an exciting array of events that celebrate the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region. Highlights include the **Wicklow Barn Owls: Connecting Pellets, Poo and Library Cards** at Rathdrum Library, where attendees can learn about these majestic birds in their natural habitat. **Birdwatching in County Wicklow with Conor O'Brien** is another must-see event, offering insights into the diverse avian life of the area, perfect for both seasoned birdwatchers and curious beginners.

Carnew Library and **Tinahely Library** are hosting exhibitions that showcase the history of County Wicklow. These exhibitions provide an enriching experience for all ages, offering a glimpse into local history through engaging displays

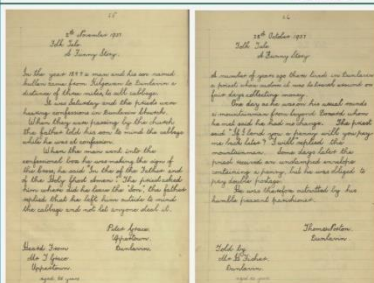
Carnew Library and **Tinahely Library** are hosting exhibitions that showcase the history of County Wicklow. These exhibitions provide an enriching experience for all ages, offering a glimpse into local history through engaging displays.

Dunlavin Library will also be hosting a **Mini Seed Ark** and the local **Dúchas Schools collection** from the area.


Don't miss this opportunity to connect with Wicklow's heritage through these informative and engaging events!

Dúchas School Collection

Dunlavin Schools collection



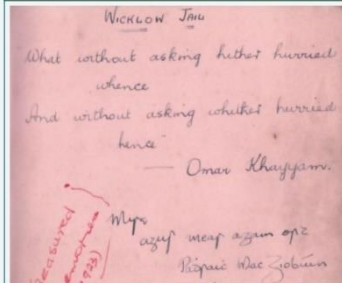
17 - 25 August
2024




Dunlavin
Library

Wicklow Gaol Comrades

Exhibition for **Heritage Week**



17 - 25 August
2024



Tinahely
Library

Wicklow Barn Owls

Connecting Pellets, Poo and Library Cards



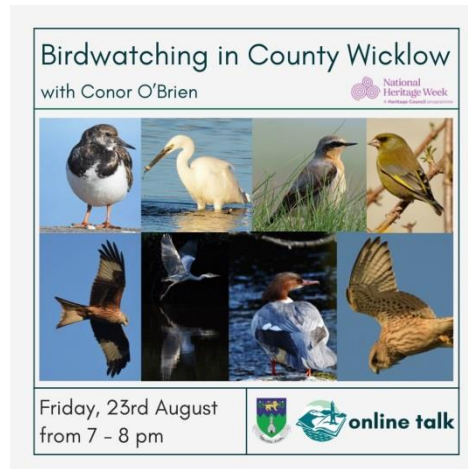
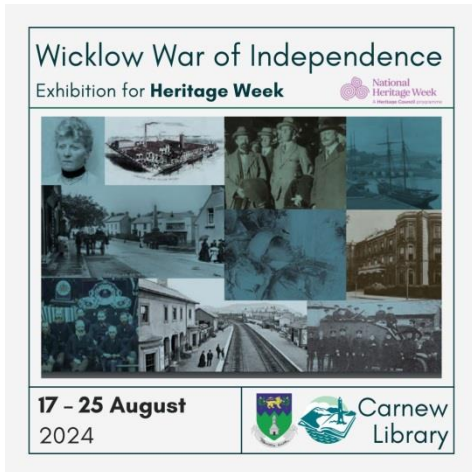
21st August
at 6pm





Rathdrum
Library

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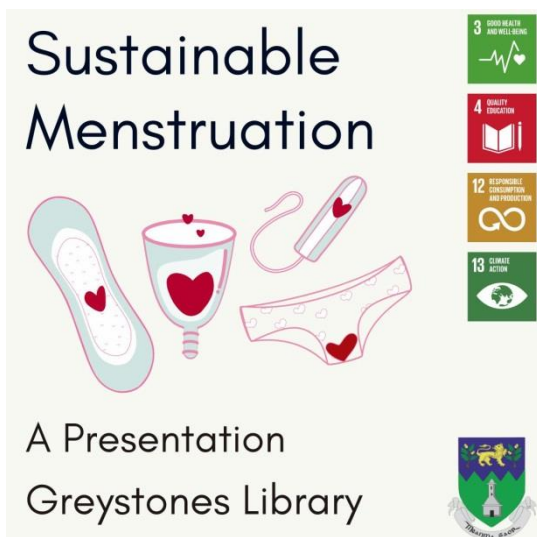
Sustainable SDG events presented by Students at Greystones Library

An exciting addition to the #Greystones Library Sustainability event on Friday, 16 August!

First up was: Sofia McDarby (Eco UNESCO Ambassador), who provided valuable insights into fast fashion—explaining what it is, who and what it affects, and how it can be easily avoided.

And last but not least: Sofia, Mae, and Chloe gave an informative presentation on Menstrual Sustainability, discussing its importance, the negative environmental impacts, and the various products available to help address the issue.

This event took place from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



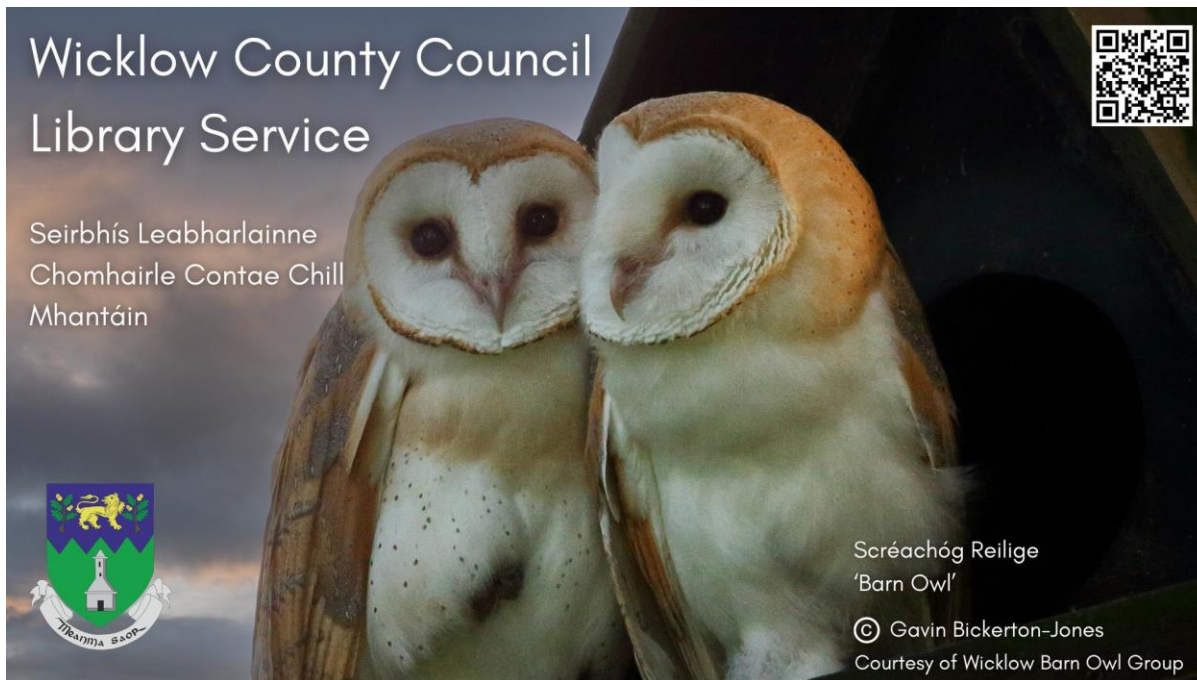
Launch of new limited edition library card

Wicklow Library Service, in partnership with the Wicklow Barn Owl Group and County Wicklow Heritage are about to launch a new library card. This new card celebrates the Barn Owl, a bird of conservation concern, and reminds us of the importance of protecting and understanding our local wildlife. A QR code on the card will take library users to the County Wicklow Heritage page to find more information about the Barn Owl Project.

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The unique card will be launched at a Heritage Week talk in Rathdrum Library on Wednesday 21ST August from 6-8 pm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to attend an engaging workshop titled "Poo & Pellets," where they can learn about the unique digestive system of Barn Owls and examine the regurgitated pellets that provide insights into the birds' diet.



Archives & Genealogy Service

Digital project

John Tate's Charity: A Rathdrum Trust: Telling the story of this special charity formed as a condition of the last will and testament of John Tate of Glenmalure in 1787. Supported by the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship grants scheme 2024. The project has produced a descriptive catalogue, making accessible to researchers this incredible collection. An exhibition and online resources will follow, providing context and interpretation reaching as wide an audience as possible.

Exhibitions

Wicklow Gaol Comrades exhibition in Tinahely Library and Wicklow and the War of Independence exhibition in Carnew Library

Talks

Local historian Therese Hicks presents a talk in Wicklow Library on the Wicklow Archives Corporation Minute Book project. The digitised minute book of the Wicklow Borough Corporation is now available to access on Wicklow.ie with resources at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow-county-archives-service/wicklow-borough-corporation-collection>. The minute book dates from 1662 to 1707 and is one of the earliest items in the County Archives. Written in the old secretary hand style, it has been transcribed into modern English and this transcription is also on Wicklow.ie. Local historian Therese Hicks produced the transcription for the County Archives along with an essay placing the minute book in historical context. The minute book opens a door into the world of Wicklow Town as it developed in the 17th and 18th centuries, detailing the proceedings of the meetings of the town burgesses.

Outdoor Recreation

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Wicklow Coast Blueway

The Wicklow Coast Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities. Blueway promotion, links and signage being developed with a Press release issued on the 19th July to our social media channels and to media outlets. Project completion due in March 2025, with signage works a priority and works currently at various stages of completion on the selected Blueway Nodes:

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

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

Wicklow Town – New outdoor showers, upgraded toilet facilities and path upgrading at Harbour area. Works are in progress until the end of August.

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

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS current host

The next meeting will be held on the 22nd August 2024 online.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	The TIDES Project team are providing support to Greystones MD with the preparation of CPO maps for the Cliff Walk realignment. The CPO process is progressing with the landowners, and it is likely to be finalised before the end of 2025, with some works able to commence before then on some sections of the trail.	Extension requested to DRCD
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Alter structure of tender to include specifics around access, materials and any other areas. Tender in progress.	In progress. Extension granted to August 2024.
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair 2021 Scheme</i>	Works commenced in July along Section 1 and 2 of the Sugarloaf. Some sections of the path at the Cone area are now completed.	In progress. Extension to Oct'24
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment RFQ sent and contract appointment due shortly.	Completion due June'24
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Russborough Parklands & House Trail</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter being installed at the end of the trail near the main House.	Trail completed.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	<i>Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area</i>	Upgrade of existing trail, boardwalk replacement with a path. Contractor works commencing first week in September.	Completion due July'24

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		Play Equipment RFQ sent and contract appointment due shortly.	
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	Construction of equestrian trail and associated access. Licence Agreement with landowners in progress.	In progress. Extension to Dec'24
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	Roundwood Recreation Area	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed in early July. Play Equipment RFQ sent and contract appointment due shortly.	In progress

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

Funding of €45,000 was awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to two Project Development Measures in Wicklow. Six Measure 1 projects with total funding of €174,780 were awarded and will commence in quarter 2 of 2024. In addition, three Measure 2 projects were approved for funding for County Wicklow in June with a total budget of €594,000.

This brings the total funding allocated by the Department for 2023 ORIS projects in Wicklow to **€858,780**.

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

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Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Summer Camps for IPAS Centre children & young people

Wicklow Sports partnership in conjunction with the LAIT have secured €17,000 through CYPSC to facilitate summer camps for youths currently living in direct provision centres throughout the county.

Her Outdoors Week

Wicklow was thrilled to announce the return of HER Outdoors Week, celebrating females of all ages and abilities embracing the outdoors. This year delivered an even more exciting line-up with increased collaboration from local clubs, offering a wide range of events designed to inspire and engage. This year's theme, **#EmbraceYourSpace**, encouraged women to get outside and embrace the unique outdoor opportunities that Wicklow has to offer.

This week ran from August 12th - 18th, 2024. Wicklow was one of only 4 sites nationally that host a Her Outdoor Festival. On Thursday August 15th, a Her Outdoors Beach Festival took place on Greystones South Beach from 5pm to 8pm.

Funding:

- Open Sea Swimming
 - €15,000 has been awarded to Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership for the provision of additional ladders at Wicklow Pier, Accessible Beach Mats for Wicklow Swimming Club and swim distance markers for Greystones South Beach.
- LSSIF Applications have been submitted for the following sites;
 - Coral Arklow Sports Hall renovation
 - Ballywaltrim Sports Grounds
 - Coral Wicklow Extension
 - Blessington Swimming Pool

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Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (15/07/2024) outstanding stands at **369 – 2.37%** of total stock of 15,561. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults over the previous weeks.

Notice was received that the public lighting maintenance contractor is leaving the market, with a final date of 24th July. This is making maintenance very difficult as staff leaves the company, the existing electricians are currently on strike. A new tender was issued and two tenders were received, Killaree Lighting Services Ltd., 55 Hebron Industrial Estate, Hebron Road, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny, were awarded the contact.

Status	Arklow MD	Baltinglass MD	Bray MD	Greystones MD	Wicklow MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	6	1	4	16
Cable Fault (Attended)			4		1	5
ESB Interface Required			1	1		2
ESB Required (Attended)	16	14	9	15	19	73
Knock Down (Attended)	1			1		2
Materials Required		4	7	1	1	13
No Supply		1	1	1	23	26
On Hold	4	4	13	1	11	33
Submitted	21	39	41	29	50	180
TMR	5		7		2	14
Tree Cutting Required			5			5
Grand Total	49	65	94	50	111	369
Percentage Not Working	1.59%	2.68%	2.78%	1.70%	2.98%	2.37%

Date	04/06/2024	10/06/2024	17/06/2024	24/06/2024
Access Issues (Attended)	14	14	14	14
Cable Fault (Attended)	5	5	5	5
ESB Interface Required	2	2	2	2
ESB Required (Attended)	76	76	76	81
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1	1	1
Materials Required	13	13	13	13
No Supply	26	26	26	26
On Hold	34	34	34	31
Submitted	119	130	145	157
Traffic Management Required	12	12	12	12
Tree Cutting Required	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	305	316	331	345
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	1.96%	2.03%	2.13%	2.22%

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Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The initial survey element of the above project has been completed. This is the initial phase of the project; the design is currently ongoing. The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in Arklow MD.

Periodic Speed Limits

PWS Signs Ltd. has substantially completed the erection of the signage for the periodic speed limits at schools. An audit

Speed Limits

New guidelines for managing speed limits have been announced. The initial proposal is for all rural local roads without an existing special speed limit in rural areas will be reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h, this is due to introduced in November with signage to be installed prior to that date. A tender for the poles (c. 420) for the required signage has been issued.

Noise Action Plan

The Wicklow Noise Action Plan is currently being assessed for SEA & AA. Public consultation will commence following this assessment.

The public consultation for Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan (NAP) has been completed. This plan includes the majority of Bray town.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Solicitors Queries	838	1026	699	120	111	132
Road closure applications	78	42	41	6	0	3
Road Opening licences	1414	1956	913	126	98	136
Abnormal Load applications	60	54	37	4	3	4

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

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

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

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

A significant negative response was received during the public consultation to the proposed closure of the N11 access to the Herbert Road.

Further environmental studies and traffic analysis have been completed on elements of the emerging preferred option.

As a result, further consideration is being given to the preferred options at J8 Kilmacanogue, J7 Bray south (including Herbert Road access) and J6 Fassaroe (including the R117 access).

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

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

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N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27th March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The period for submissions ended on Friday 26th April 2024. The next steps are to further develop the options in order to establish the emerging preferred option.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

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

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28th March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14th May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) are being prepared in advance of tendering for a contractor for construction.

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

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

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

Arklow Public Realm

The Parade Ground Public Realm works are complete on site. Following a meeting with DoHLGH, Project Completion Reports were submitted with additional funding requested in December 2023. The OGP Inflation Payment has been agreed with the contractor with payment completed.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

We are in the final stages of Phase 2 Options Selection, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway. The Draft Phase 2 Options Report has been submitted by the project consultant Roughan O'Donovan to the Roads

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Project Office and is currently under review before submission to TII. Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following completion of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Enabling works started in Baltinglass in mid-February with the WCC Direct Labour crew completing site investigation works and starting on utility works. The consultants are actively engaged in preparing final construction documents for the delivery of the town centre works.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

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

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

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

Blessington eGreenway

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we have formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála granted an extension to the submission deadline for additional information to January 29th, 2024. As this information has been deemed significant additional information by ABP we were required to undertake a public consultation period taking place in May and June 2024 for a 6 week period and are currently waiting on an update from ABP.

Projects under Construction

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

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

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction works are progressing well on site, with 400m of footpath completed and public lighting has been installed. Drainage and accommodation works are ongoing.

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Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Footpath and cycle track on eastern side are largely complete with kerbing and base laid for cycle track on western side. Upgrade works have commenced on Knockmore roundabout.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are completed. Works have commenced on the construction of the laneway linking the school to Church Lane.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. Works have commenced on site.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

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

Phase 1 - Church Road Improvement Works

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

Phase 2 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Tenders were invited for contractors to carry out the upgrade works. Tender assessment has commenced. It is hoped that a contractor will be appointed in September.

Phase 3 - Greystones Marina to Charlesland Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. The preliminary design has been prepared by Arup Consulting Engineers and has been issued to the NTA for comment.

Project Updates

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

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

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. Discussion is ongoing with the landowner on the purchase of lands for the construction of the vehicle set down/parking on the northern side of the rail lines. A design review is currently being undertaken and Part 8 report is being prepared for submission to the Council Members.

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

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Preliminary Design has been prepared and issued to the NTA for approval.

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Meeting held with landowner to discuss accommodation works. A design has been prepared and issued to the landowner for agreement. Once the design is agreed a tender will be run to appoint a Contractor. It is hoped to begin construction in Q3 this year.

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Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work on 3 new bridges was completed in June/July.

Works "in-stream" has been completed at 2 locations on the Sally Gap

Winter Maintenance

The changeover to brine has commenced with fleet upgrades. Remainder to be tendered.

Surface Dressing

Works continued in June/July. 30 sites complete. 13 sites remain.

Poor weather conditions have contributed to a slower output than normal.

Machinery Yard

Large truck (HCV) tender to be advertised in August.

Lease contract (various size vehicles) to be advertised in coming weeks.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	567,219.32
Greystones Municipal District	178,542.54
Wicklow Municipal District	260,466.86
Arklow Municipal District	139,709.38
Parking Permits	55,823.66
Parking Fines	362,112.20
Wicklow County Council	1,563,873.96

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Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing update

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- 1 offered awaiting documentation (has been given until the end of July to submit all documentation)

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 22 Houses – Phase 1

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

Phase 2

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

- 80 applications received
- 32 offers made (letters sent)
- 15 income too high (letters sent)
- 1 withdrawn
- 6 accepted so far awaiting 1 more

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

Rathnew – 44 houses

- Advertised - Wicklow Times is Monday 27th May 2024 and Wicklow People is Wednesday 29th May 2024
- Portal to open on the 10th June 12noon until the 22nd July 2024. The affordable Section is currently working through all applications received with a view to have offers letters out early August.

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court, Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Contractor on site
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Construction on going
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	On site completion anticipated Q1 2024
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	About to commence Section 179a

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Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing tender documents
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	To be re-tendered
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Section 179a withdrawn
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Design stage.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date Nov 2024
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – new site selection is being investigated

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 has been carried out and the 2023 have commenced.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been completed and it is hoped to complete 90 before the end of 2024.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivery due Q3 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	3	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Rathnew	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Greystones	8	Delivery due Q3 2024	WCC
Wicklow	3	2 Delivered Q1 2024, 1 Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Rathdrum	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Delgany	8	3 Delivered Q3, 5 due Q3 2024	WCC
Blessington	6	4 Delivery Q2 2024, 2 Delivered Q3	WCC
Rathnew	4	Delivery due Q3 2024	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2024-2026. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2024:

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

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 31st July 2024.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

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

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible completed in April.
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Section 179A commenced 27th March 2024. Display period ended 27th May 2024.

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Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

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

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
2.	100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
3.	41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	Works completed house to be allocated.
4.	30 South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
5.	5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
6.	6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
8.	53 South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
10.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
11.	108 Charnwood, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
12.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
13.	36 Wheatfield Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
14.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Compensation/Vesting Still Pending in the PRAI.
15.	27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	Negotiations under way.

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

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

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

A grant of up to €70,000 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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


Number of Applications	133
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	12
Applications Approved	62
Applications paid	11

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Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/payment	12
Applications withdrawn/Rejected	36

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely,

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



KIERSEY WALKER & ASSOCIATES
AUCTIONEERS - ESTATE AGENTS - VALUERS
BUILDING ENERGY RATING (BER) ASSESSORS

Ref. 827

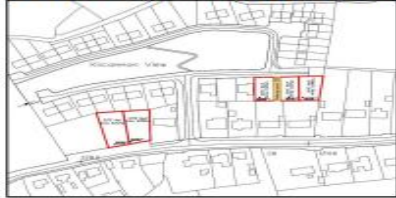
For Sale

READY TO BUILD SCHEME

5 Serviced Sites for New Homes

@

Kilcommon, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow.




Five serviced sites within a short distance of Tinahely town centre situated on the Tinahely to Shillelagh Road. These sites are subject to planning permission and proposed purchaser must qualify for the Ready to Build Scheme. For further information please see [Application Form](#) and [FAQ's](#).

Site No. 1 – 0.217 acre (0.088 ha)	Site No. 3 – 0.121 acre (0.049 ha)
Site No. 2 – 0.200 acre (0.081 ha)	Site No. 4 – 0.117 acre (0.047 ha)
	Site No. 5 – 0.140 acre (0.057 ha)

Guide Price: **Site No.'s 1 & 2 – €50,000**
 Site No.'s 3, 4 & 5 – €35,000

Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, County Wicklow
Tel: 0402 38899 | Email: info@kwa.ie
<http://www.kwa.ie>
A.M Kiersey Limited, C.R.O. reg no: 409002, VAT, reg no: 6429002V, PSRA Registration No: 001217



Wicklow County Council

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Emergency Services

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics July 2024

There were **67 incidents** attended during the month of July 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **85 occasions** including 4 mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of July 2024 **decreased by 24% (minus 27 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (June 2024: 112 mobilisations). There was a decrease in domestic house fires (-11 mobilisations) and a decrease in RTCs (-20 mobilisations). There was an increase in "false alarm good intent" calls where members of the public mistakenly alert the fire service in good faith (+8 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of July 2024 **decreased by 35% (minus 45 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (July 2023, 130 mobilisations). Year on year there was a decrease in all types of buildings fires (-20 mobilisations), RTCs (-14 mobilisations), rural fires (-17 mobilisations) and malicious outdoor fires (-5 mobilisations) but there was an increase in false alarm good intent" calls where members of the public mistakenly alert the fire service in good faith (+13 mobilisations).

Examples of Incidents attended:

- 12/07/2024 Carnew and Tinahely crews attended a 2 vehicle RTC with patients trapped in a car.
- 27/07/2024 Wicklow town and Arklow crews attended an RTC involving an overturned car near the Beehive.
- 29/07/2024 Rathdrum and Tinahely crews attended a single car RTC in Aughrim.
- 30/07/2024 Greystones and Bray crews attended a domestic fire in Redford Park where 2 patients were treated for smoke inhalation.
- 31/07/2024 Wicklow town and Arklow crews attended an RTC involving an overturned car at Blainroe.

Incidents in County Kildare (3-incidents total):

- 05/07/2024 Dunlavin and Blessington crews attended a single car RTC at Silliothill, Kilcullen.
- 18/07/2024 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a 2-car RTC with 5 potential casualties at Moone.
- 21/07/2024 Baltinglass crew were mobilised to an RTC at Knockcor.

General Update

- Following the appointment of a new Assistant Chief Fire Officer in June, a second Assistant Chief Fire Officer will join in September.
- New fire stations for Baltinglass and Dunlavin have proceeded to Part 8 Planning, following a presentation to Baltinglass MD on 22nd July 2024.
- 5 New Recruits completed and passed their training in Galway and Sligo during July and started in the service on 31st July in Rathdrum (1), Greystones (1), Arklow (1) and Carnew (2).
- 2 x 2-Day Emergency First Responder Refreshers took place in Blessington Fire Station (14 students).
- 3 x 1 day Emergency Traffic Management training took place in Greystones Fire Station (36 Students).

Fire Prevention Statistics July 2024

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	9				7
Revised FSCs	1				1
FSC 7-Day Notice	6				10
Regularisation FSCs	0			2	2
DACs	12	1			6
Revised DACs	0				2
Dispensations / Relaxations	1				0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 27 planning files during the month of July 2024.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 22 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	10	0	0	0	0
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act	1	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	1	0	0	1	0

Building Control Statistics July 2024

Commencement Notices for July 2024:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 44

- 5 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 22 Opt Out Declarations
- 12 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 5 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 50 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 72 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 20 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 5 with Compliance Documentation (15.3%)
 - 17 are Opt Out (53%)
 - 5 Without Compliance Documentation (15.3%)

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5 Seven Day Notice (15.3%)

- 28 Valid Commencement Notices
- 14 new build residential Units and additional 18 Extensions

- 11 Non Res new builds

- 2 Invalidated CNs

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

- 17 New No. of CCC submitted
- 14 Required Revised Information
- 23 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 121 new Residential units and additional 4 Apartments
- 1 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

23 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 2 No. CCCs submitted in May 2024
- 9 No. CCCs submitted in June 2024
- 12 No. CCCs submitted in July 2024

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

14 new residential houses and 18 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 121 newly completed residential units plus 1 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in July. There has been an increase in both Commencement Notice particularly in Opt Out Submissions and Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions compared to the same period in 2023. As speed of construction increases with seasonal changes, CCC submissions increased in July.

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

Building Control continued with site inspections in July to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in July for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 72% of Commencement Notice submissions & 82% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated. Building Control have observed numerous Commencement Notice Submissions that are currently 'Revised Information' status on BCMS and awaiting validation.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. Wicklow Building Control continues to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during construction. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

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Civil Defence

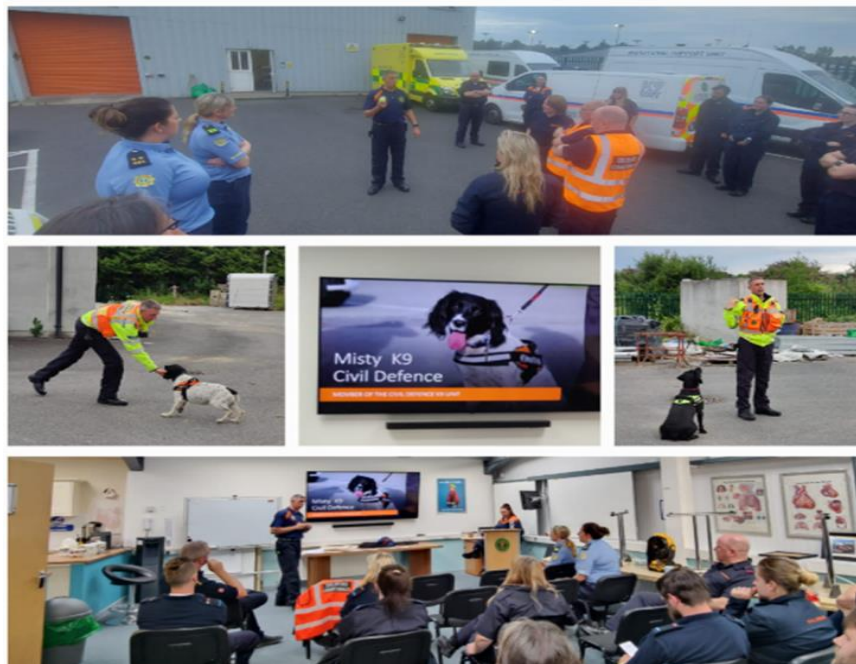
Tasking

Shelton Abbey Open Day consists of local emergency services and local organisations displaying their equipment and engaging with members of the public. This open day provides exposure for Civil Defence to the public spending awareness of our organisation.



Local Emergency Services display their equipment and preform demonstrations for the public, services included, Wicklow Civil Defence, Wicklow RNLI, Wicklow Fire Service, Wicklow AGS, Greystones Coastguard.

Last night, we had special guests from Dublin Civil Defence who demonstrated the invaluable resources of the K9 unit. Joined by Greystones Community Gardaí and our Volunteers we witnessed first-hand the dedication of both handlers and dogs. Thanks to Paul, Jen, Misty 🐾 & Storm 🐾



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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

The following interviews were held in July 2024:

- Shortlisting Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
- Shortlisting Assistant Staff Officer
- Interviews Part-Time Retained Fire Fighter (Countywide)
- Interviews Facilities Manager
- Interviews Temporary Senior Engineer

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
Managerial/Administrative	318	319	323	337
Professional/Technical	143	150	150	146
Outdoor	263	265	261	259
Temporary/Seasonal	64	43	44	87
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	793	782	783	834

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

Freedom of Information

July 2024: 8	July 2023: 11
January – July 2024: 83	January – July 2023: 70

Ombudsman Requests

July 2024: 0	July 2023: 2
January – July 2024: 11	January – July 2023: 14

Press Releases

July 2024 – 13

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and the backlog of applications received following the closing of the register in preparation for the Local and EU elections on 7th June 2024 have now been processed. Work is continuously ongoing on the register itself to improve and update the data sets on the Register. The Franchise Section are commencing work to contact 'unable to establish' electors, the annual contact of nursing homes and in early September sending Register to Vote forms to secondary schools in Co Wicklow. Assistance is also being provided by the Franchise Section to the Department of HLGH and An Post in relation to testing and updating their records, particularly in terms of Eircodes.

Wicklow County Council have prepared a Draft Polling Scheme which takes into account the changes made by the Electoral Commission. The Draft Polling Scheme was on display up to the 19th August 2024 with representations

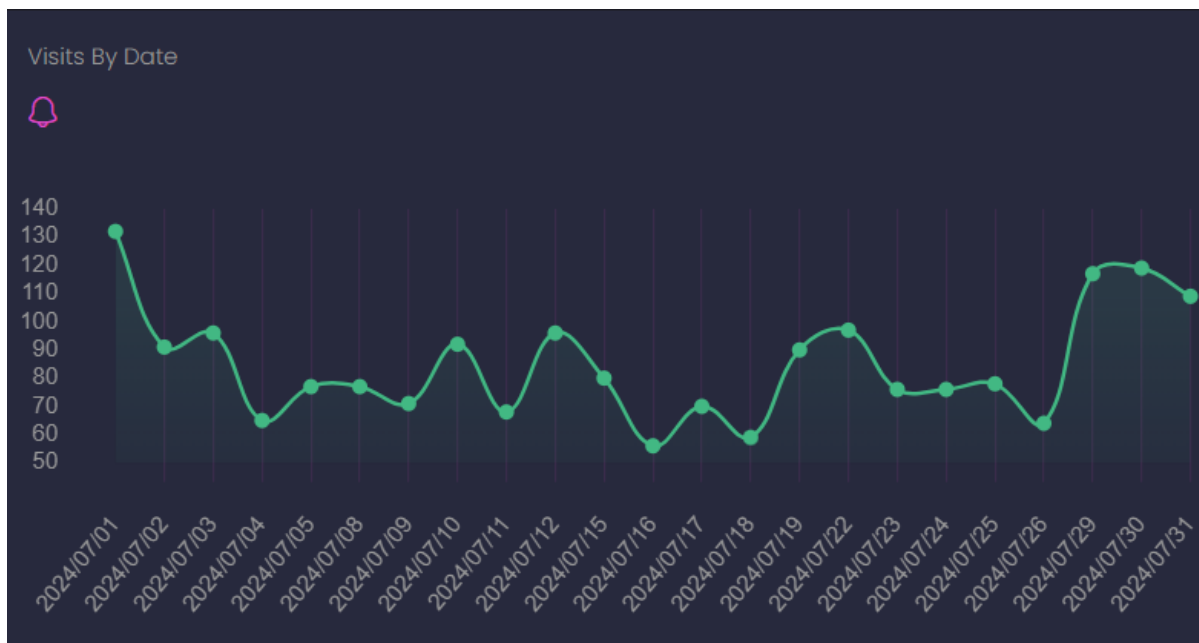
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considered up to and including Wednesday 21st August 2024. The Draft Polling Scheme is listed on the Agenda for adoption at the September 2024 meeting.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – July			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	Not available	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,981
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,138	Revenue Transactions	1,516
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	32	Housing Counter Visits	703

Total in person visits for July 2024 – 1,956



Communications

#YourCouncilDay

Organised by the LGMA (Local Government Management Agency), Your Council Day is the annual national event to highlight, promote and celebrate local government and every local authority in Ireland.

Wicklow County Council's role in supporting quality living within Wicklow was highlighted, promoted and celebrated on Your Council Day 2024, which took place on Friday 5th July.

We posted over the day:

- Facebook 14 posts (incl. 4 videos)
- Instagram: 10 posts (incl. 2 videos)
- LinkedIn: 4 Posts (incl. 3 videos)

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- X 21 posts (incl. 4 videos)

Overview

- Our most popular channel for interaction was Facebook.
- Our reach over the day was: 23,472K
- Most popular video: Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman, viewed by 6,059 people for an average length of 9 seconds.
- Most popular post: Opening Hours of Hub Counter: 3,597K

Top Post – Video Viewed: 6,059K times

- Facebook 1,463
- Instagram: 1,438
- LinkedIn: 1,166
- X 826

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JULY 2024							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	25,916,291	53,458,479	48%	(28,208,707)	(57,560,824)	49%	(2,292,416)
Road Transport & Safety	10,778,914	25,608,536	42%	(6,514,286)	(18,366,119)	35%	4,264,629
Water Services	2,789,554	4,809,015	58%	(3,299,095)	(5,729,978)	58%	(509,542)
Development Management	15,381,056	15,877,727	97%	(11,878,110)	(10,024,717)	118%	3,502,946
Environmental Services	8,184,126	15,632,861	52%	(1,306,593)	(4,087,049)	32%	6,877,533
Recreation and Amenity	5,409,221	9,440,065	57%	(553,097)	(1,079,718)	51%	4,856,124
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,199,850	2,283,534	53%	(507,110)	(1,104,228)	46%	692,740
Miscellaneous Services	5,508,964	9,997,953	55%	(7,322,816)	(13,219,706)	55%	(1,813,852)
Central Management Charges	13,250,242	22,890,755	58%	(697,453)	(1,050,000)	66%	12,552,789
Local Government Fund				(9,847,076)	(16,880,701)	58%	(9,847,076)
Commercial Rates				(18,393,637)	(31,045,885)	59%	(18,393,637)
	88,418,219	159,998,925	55%	(88,527,979)	(160,148,925)	55%	(109,761)

Cashflow/Overdraft

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

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JULY 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/07/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,566,712	30,445,787	(17,526,401)	(237,120)	26,248,978
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	6,209,202	(2,092,912)	(226,000)	(37,661,465)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	761,284	(752,017)	72,500	(6,448,285)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	10,020,885	(23,751,111)	(47,750)	(45,815,804)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	2,020,546	(1,693,594)	(195,000)	(804,747)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	2,611,739	(727,071)	(47,000)	(307,205)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	259,641	0	(56,317)	(1,843,289)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	(376,963)	(745,819)	1,670,322	(9,863,106)
	(82,091,754)	51,952,122	(47,288,926)	933,635	(76,494,923)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JULY 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/07/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	31,556,899	0	10,129	0	35,024,394	(22,793,198)	12,231,195	611,094	66%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	10,655,853	0	(5,518)	0	14,085,240	(10,397,494)	3,687,746	0	74%
Housing Loans	276,649	1,446,966	0	0	0	1,723,615	(1,240,481)	483,133	0	72%

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

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2024

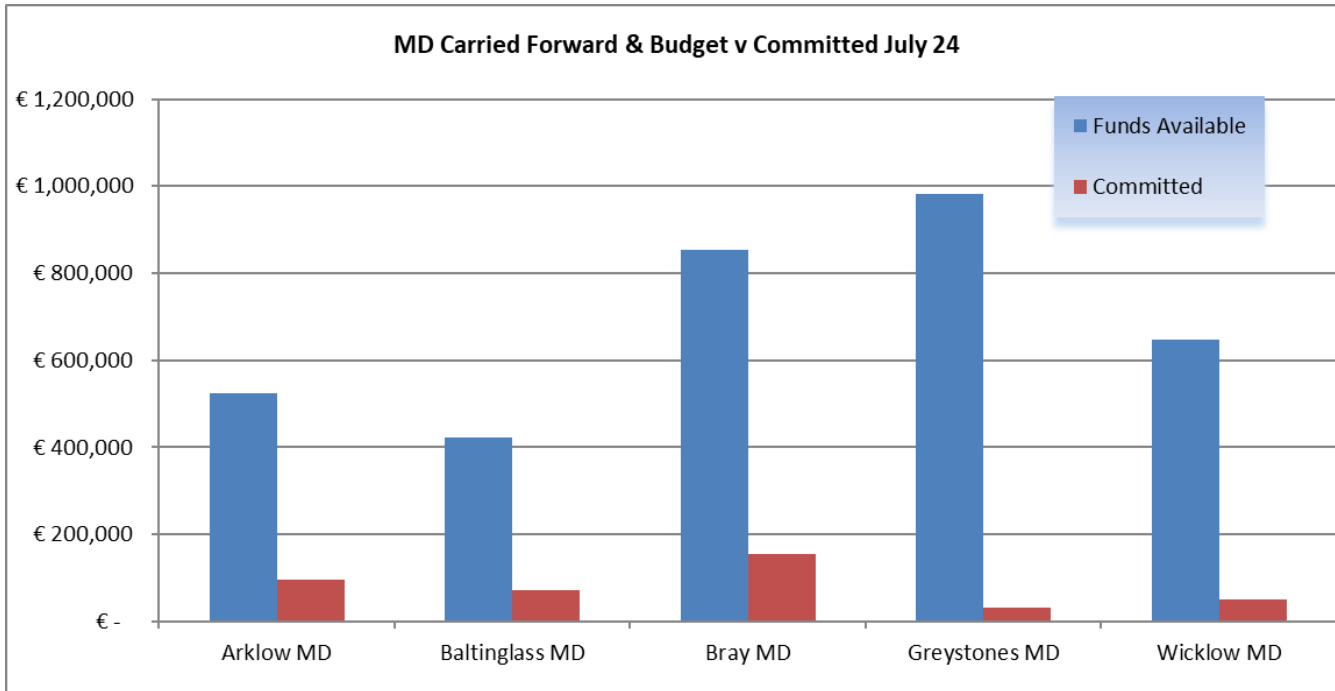
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General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

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

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	238,944	284,028	522,972	95,159	427,813
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	72,821	348,382
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	154,578	697,958
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	32,701	948,918
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	50,126	596,338
Total	1,912,812	1,511,982	3,424,794	405,384	3,019,410

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Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026

The Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 8th 2024. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

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

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

Wicklow County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Report - August 2024

Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Local Area Plans** - Data Extraction: BlueSky aerial imagery has been applied to support the development of the Greystones-Delgany-Kilcoole Local Area Plan.
- **Green Infrastructure Maps** - Green infrastructure maps have been prepared for the Arklow & Environs LAP, Wicklow-Town Rathnew LAP, and Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole LAP.
- **Zoning Updates** - Zoning information has been updated for the Arklow & Environs LAP and Wicklow-Town Rathnew LAP.
- **Wicklow Heritage Data** Extraction - Extracted data for the Record of Protected Structures and Local Area Plan Boundaries
- **Planning Application Monitoring** - The Planning Application Monitoring Viewer has been updated with new data received from KPMG.
- **Commercial Floor Areas** - Coordinated with the Valuations Office to extract data on commercial floor areas in Bray.
- National Transport Authority (NTA) and KPMG Future Analytics - **National Planning Forecasts**. Additional amendments to development areas for Wicklow-Rathnew, Greystones-Delgany and Bray.
- Creation of employment infill and school sites on **NTA Data Hub viewer**.
- **Climate Action** - Preparation of large format maps - Slaney and Wexford Harbour Catchment with Rivers (EPA) for display at Tinahely Agricultural Show.

Infrastructure

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