

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



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow County Council

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This month:

CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. PAUL O'BRIEN OFFICIALLY OPENS WICKLOW'S FIRST DECARBONISED BUILDING ALONGSIDE TAOISEACH SIMON HARRIS

Bray Fire Station was officially launched as Wicklow County Council's first fully decarbonised building by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paul O'Brien alongside Taoiseach Simon Harris. Leas Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr. Erika Doyle also joined in the proceedings alongside other distinguished guests and staff from Wicklow County Council, who were involved in the project.

Wicklow County Council identified Bray Fire Station as one of the largest fossil fuel users in their building stock. Developing on energy measures completed over the previous 3 years, the Energy Office proposed a window replacement, new appliance bay doors and a complete overhaul of the heating system including a renewable air to water heat pump, new radiators and pipework.

This project was delivered with support from the SEAI Pathfinder Programme and Mid-East Energy Unit led by Wicklow County Council. The Mid-East Energy Unit consists of four local authorities Wicklow, Meath, Louth and Kildare County Councils. The unit was established to support the delivery of the 2030 public sector decarbonisation targets for the four local authorities.

Building on the work carried out in Bray Fire Station, Wicklow County Council will continue their decarbonisation journey through the identification and delivery of decarbonisation projects to meet their commitment to the 2030 targets.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/News-Events/cathaoirleach-cllr-paul-obrien-officially-opens-wicklows-first-decarbonised-building-alongside-taoiseach-simon-harris>

OVER 250 TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS ATTEND ROAD SAFETY EVENT

More than 250 Transition Year students from three schools in County Wicklow attended a Road Safety event on Monday 14th October. This event, organised by County Wicklow Road Safety Working Together Committee, is part of an ongoing education awareness campaign.

Students saw and heard about what happens when inexperienced and overconfident drivers get behind the wheel of a car without the necessary safety skills required.

The Road Safety Authority Shuttle was also present on the day which allowed the students to:

- Practice driving and hazard perception skills in a car, motorbike or bicycle simulators.
- Experience first-hand the dangers of driving and texting and driver fatigue.
- Try the brake reaction timer to see how driving environments and speed affect your braking distances.
- Learn about tyre safety.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	September 2024	September 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	105	158
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1373	1526
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	23
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	22	28

Allocation of Social Housing

	September 2024	September 2023
Wicklow County Council	23	15
Approved Housing Bodies	18	29

Social Housing Stock

	September 2024	September 2023
Tenancies Occupied	4999	4863
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€336,235.24	€321,558.93
Arrears	€3,018,622.51	€3,062,476.85

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Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/08/2024
Arklow	931
Ashford	394
Aughrim	43
Avoca	39
Ballinaclesh	7
Ballyconnell	5
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	109
Barndarrig	12
Blessington	247
Bray	1110
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	79
Conary	4
Coolboy	6
Delgany	224
Donard	17
Dunlavin	27
Enniskerry	50
Glenealy	13
Greystones	328
Kilcoole	52
Kilmacanogue	11
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	1
Knockananna	5
Laken	1
Laragh	11
Newcastle	10
Ntmk	62
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	63
Rathnew	131
Redcross	5
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	30
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	7
Tinahely	30
Wicklow	256
TOTAL	4364

Note: The Social Housing Needs Assessment 2024 is currently underway, and these figures will be subject to change

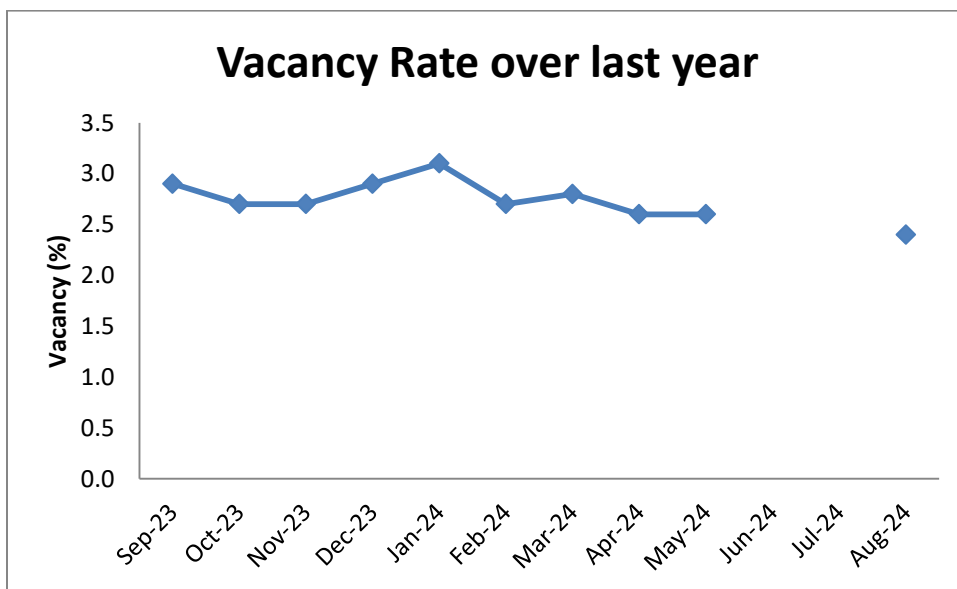
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Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	17 (+1)	6 (+3)	6 (-2)	15 (+12)	27(+15)
Baltinglass	22 (+1)	5 (+2)	2 (-3)	16(+4)	23 (+4)
Bray	32 (+1)	20 (+20)	5 (-17)	12 (+2)	37(+5)
Greystones	6 (+5)	2 (+2)	0 (-1)	0 (0)	(0)
Wicklow	25 (+9)	12(0)	24 (0)	2 (0)	38 (-6)
2024 Totals	102 (+14)	45 (-9)	37 (-2)	45(+16)	125 (+3)
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			

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

The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.



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

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

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

Housing crews are also currently replacing fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in our housing stock following a request sent out for replacements needed at the end of 2023.

Energy Retrofit Program

As part of our ongoing energy upgrade scheme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. Number of houses retrofitted as of September 2024. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through SPC in 2023.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of September
Houses retrofit	125

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Mortgage To Rent

A total of 52 households are tenants of Wicklow County Council through the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and as such pay a weekly rent to WCC. WCC leases these properties for a 25-year period from Home for Life, all 52 properties have been inspected and our housing team administers the monthly lease payments to Home for Life.

MTR	Numbers of inspections and sign offs as of September
Mortgage to Rent Properties	38

Vacant Home Surveys

Housing Services have been completing vacant homes surveys on behalf of the Vacant homes officer in 2024. This maps locations of vacant and derelict properties around the county in coordination with other departments .

Vacant Homes Surveys	Numbers carried out as of September
Surveyed on app	380

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 (September)
Targeted and complaint inspections	34

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	33 (+1)
Prohibition Notice	7 (-1)

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

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Notice results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Under CAS, the Departments is accepting applications for capital funding for the delivery, through either construction or acquisition, of housing accommodation, to cater for priority groups including:

- elderly.
- homeless persons (including “care leavers” exiting State care on reaching the age of 18).
- people with a disability, with particular emphasis on moving people with disabilities from congregated settings into community-based living.

Assessment criteria

CAS funding operates in partnership with LA’s and Approved Housing Bodies.

LAs assess the specific need for CAS funded housing being cognisant of the actual housing need of the CAS groups identified in the latest Social Housing Assessment, consultations with suitable local inter-agency/co-ordination groups that deal with special needs, such as the housing and disability steering groups, national policies and guidelines, including the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People.

In 2023, Wicklow County Council delivered on 8 properties in partnership with Dublin Simon (4), Ark Housing Association (3) and Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL) (1).

Active projects 2024

Wicklow County Council is currently actively working with Ark Housing, Sunbeam housing association, National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (NAHVI), St John of Gods Housing Association, Newgrove Housing Association, and Peter McVerry Trust to drive projects to completion.

To date, September 2024, Wicklow have delivered 6 properties in partnership with Sunbeam Housing Services (3), Ark Housing Association (2) and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (1). Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	4	Delivery 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivery 2024	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivery 2024	CAS

Active CAS projects included a construction project with SJOG which will deliver 4 units to house persons with disabilities, 4 turnkey units & 1 acquisition unit with Ark Housing to deliver units to persons at risk of homelessness and 1 unit with Sunbeam Housing Services to deliver a home to a person with a disability.

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

Council Delivered Adaptions Works	Completed/Ongoing
Bray MD	34
Baltinglass MD	13
Wicklow MD	14
Arklow MD	24
Greystones MD	7
Total	81

Budget Spend

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

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	417

Local Authority Home Loans up to May 2024

Received	Approved in Principle
58	20

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2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	September 2024
Applications Received	448	6
Completed	109	0
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

Housing Acquisitions

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

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2023	2	24		26
2024 (to 30th September)	6	6	2	14



109 Knockmore, Arklow, closed 11th June 2024

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House Purchase Enquiries (To 30th September 2024)

Early Enquiries (no expression of interest form submitted)	Closed - did not Progress with Purchase	Sale Agreed	Due Diligence Ongoing	TOTAL
16	16	1	7	47

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

There are currently 98 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
52	46	7

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Homeless Figures for August 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/09/2024	Year To Date	As at 30/09/2023
No of New Presentations	20	252	28
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	10	1
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	6	74	3
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	22	277	28
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	21	2
No. of Children	7	120	22
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	2	50	3
Family Circumstances	3	94	11
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	16	4
Mental Health	0	15	10
Risk of Homelessness	8	122	17
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	9	0
Addiction Issues	0	29	1
DV/DA	0	6	0
Medical Issues	3	12	17
Overcrowding	3	37	7
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	41	4
ASB:	1	8	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	17	2
Sofa Surfing*	0	20	0
Staying with Family*	6	65	8
Staying with Friends*	1	20	1

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

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Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/09/24	
Families	13
Adults	27
Children	41
Single individual	8

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	19	27	23	9	5	4	4	10
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	26	27	23	7	6	3	3	7

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 578 households (399 families & 174 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2024. (230 homeless cases, 323 prevention cases to date and 24 direct provision). 145 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray, and Greystones, leased to Approved Housing Bodies, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. Six of these persons living in shared accommodation have now successfully

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moved into their forever homes and this in turn created space to move further people out of homelessness.

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

Housing First

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

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

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

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

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Community

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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 4 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

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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

Over two days at the end of August, each entrant had 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.



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County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

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

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

The programme continues to support older people to live in their home for as long as possible. Due to the high rate of interest in the programme, there are a high number of referrals and the waiting times to be seen by the coordinator are longer than originally anticipated.

The programme's ambition is based on four key objectives:

1. Enable older people to continue to live in their homes, or in a home more suited to their needs
2. Live with a sense of independence and autonomy
3. Feel part of, and be part of, their community
4. Support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long-term residential care

The County Wicklow coordinator, Marion Van der Wel, is carrying out at least seven visits per week arranging supports for participants such as fall detectors, housing adaptation supports from Care & Repair, Housing Adaptations and linking with Community Services.

The programme **accepts referrals from a variety of sources** including from:

1. The older person themselves
2. Family and friends
3. Elected Representatives
4. Local Authority Staff
5. Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
6. Community Organisations

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

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

046-924 8899 or healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

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

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

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

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

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

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

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

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

"Care and Repair" for the Arklow Area – This is a programme aimed at helping 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 Train Station has been nominated as the first train station within the County to receive Age Friendly Status. A Committee has been formed and the next stage of the project will be a walkability which is due to take place in October 2024.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group

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

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

Access Officer

Training for Access Officer will commence in October 2024

Comhairle na nÓg

The position of co-ordinator is to be filled.

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CLÁR 2024

On the 7th of October over €240,000 funding was announced under the scheme by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD.

The six projects in receipt of this funding in Wicklow are:

1. Annacurra GAA: Carpark Accessibility Upgrade Works - €50,000
2. Ballinacor Mountain Walkers Parking: Tarmacking, and associated works, of parking area at beginning of Ballinacor mountain walking route - €37,980
3. Askanagap Community Hall Renovations: Flooring, wiring, projector and sound system - €50,000
4. Knockananna Amenity Area: Development of a green space within the existing amenity area - €29,215
5. Ballymanus Community Field: Provision of an All-Weather AstroTurf - €50,000
6. Knockananna Community Hall: Energy Upgrade - €24,588

Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Scheme (LSSIF)

Wicklow Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre received total funding of €1,796,600 and the Charlesland Athletics Track Scheme received total funding of €436,032 under the LSSIF scheme.

Tender documents for the refurbishment of Wicklow Swimming pool are currently being drafted and it is expected they will be published by the end of October.

Refurbishment works commenced at Charlesland track in early July and are nearing completion. Waiting on lane marking to complete the project, which is a specialist job and very weather dependent.



Healthy Wicklow

Period Poverty Project

Healthy Wicklow in collaboration with The Colour Club provided a third workshop “All About Menstrual Health” targeting 17+ year olds on Saturday 12th October under the educational piece of the Period Poverty initiative.

The Recovery Village Newcastle

The Recovery Village empowers people to take an active role in their own mental health recovery, or the recovery of others by providing therapeutic services. Healthy Wicklow is funding an 8-week dance tuition programme for The Recovery Village service users which commenced on 2nd October.

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An Exploration of Food Poverty in County Wicklow

The Healthy Wicklow fund will be providing an opportunity for workshops to take place across the County to enable collaboration, interaction and the sharing of information between voluntary groups and community organisation that are directly or indirectly supporting families and individuals experiencing food poverty. The first workshop took place in Arklow Library on 17th October.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Pre and Post Evaluation

Sláintecare Bray is currently completing a procurement process via RFQ in to seek a third level institution to conduct a 6–9-month pre and post evaluation of our 'Theraplay' project in the Bray Family Resource Development Project. E-Tendering will start in October with hopes that researchers will begin in November/December 2024.

Feasibility Study

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

Bray Area Partnership Health and Well Being Fair

BAP and Sláintecare Healthy Communities held a Health and Wellbeing Fair in Little Bray, which took place on Tuesday, 22nd October. The event featured guest speakers and interactive sessions.

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Sláintecare Funding Opportunities

Sláintecare has submitted a funding application to the Genio Trust, a non-profit organisation in Ireland focused on improving the lives of marginalized and disadvantaged communities through innovative, person-centred solutions. This specific funding request aims to support the Traveller community in Bray, with a focus on enhancing both mental and physical health outcomes. We expect to receive further updates in November regarding the success of this application.

Additionally, we have applied for funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund on behalf of Sláintecare. We will provide more information in November once the outcome of this application is confirmed

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Completed election process for vacant seats for the Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental seats listed in the New (Draft) SPC Scheme.

Connection Communities Roadshow events open to the public: Baltinglass MD 1st October, Bray MD 10th October, Wicklow MD 14th October, Greystones MD 22nd October, Arklow MD 24th October.

National PPN Conference- Limerick, October 17th & 18th with Wicklow reps in attendance.

Presentation made recently to TDs and Senators in Leinster House in relation to improving funding for PPNs.

Consultations: WCC Sustainable Drainage Systems Policy and WCC Corporate Plan.

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

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Annual Plans 2025: Guidelines for the development of the SICAP Annual Plans 2025 have become available from Pobal and the Local Development Companies have between now and November 15th to complete their Plans and submit for assessment on IRIS by the LCDC and Pobal.

Key Performance Indicators to remain at 2024 levels i.e. Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership will support 26 local community groups, and 488 individuals and Co. Wicklow Partnership will support 15 local community groups and 402 individuals.

LCDC members have opportunity at this time to propose any additional engagement or supports they see a need for inclusion in the local SICAP Programme next year.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028 (as varied)

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>

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

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. An online consultation portal has been created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation will go on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November with submissions invited.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-2-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

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

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

Proposed Variation No 4 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Greystones / Delgany & Kilcoole LAP)

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 4 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 Greystones /Delgany & Kilcoole 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.

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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 in the following order.

Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 will go on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024 with submissions invited. An online consultation portal has been created to present the draft Local Area Plan and associated CDP Variation No. 2.

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-Process>

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. The draft plan will commence display in Q4 2024.

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

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 -

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

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

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

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

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

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

The current LAP for these Bray is available to view here

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

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

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

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

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VACANT SITE LEVY

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

More information can be found online at the following link

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

Heritage Week in Wicklow:

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

County Heritage Plan Review: The Heritage Forum meeting took place on 24th Sept. The issues raised during the public consultation phase of the Heritage Plan along with suggestions for incorporating these into the emerging draft plan were discussed and agreed.

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

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

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

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

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3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Development Management

Planning Applications

	To 30 th September 2023	To 30 th September 2024	% difference
Total valid applications received			
Received (Valid)	848	793	

A total of 83 valid applications were received during September as follows:

Type of Development	30 th September 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	19 (15 Rural)
Housing Developments*	04
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	05
Other Developments**	51
Total	83

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

Decisions issued in respect of 71 applications in September 2024

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	01
Other Developments	70
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	71

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

	30/09/2023	30/09/2024
Total Number of decisions issued	774	690
Total Number of decisions to grant	650	586
% Grant Rate	84%	85%
No of applications withdrawn		5 (1 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill

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

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

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

Substitute Consent

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

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bonded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (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.

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For the month of September, a total of 96 planning applications were received of which 31% were hard copy applications and 69% were received online.

From 1st January 2024 to 31st September 2024 a total of 963 applications were received of which 38% were hard copy applications and 62% were received online.

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

- Change of use from domestic to Bed & Breakfast
- Construction of a Community Centre in Coolboy, consisting of a multi-sue games room, gym area and physio room
- Development of 45 residential units in Kilcoole
- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Construction of a mixed use property in Kilcoole
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Developments at a sporting ground in Bray for 4 new Padel courts

Planning Enforcement

New Files	11
Advisory Letters	29
Warning Letters	5
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	1
Closed	11

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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

Short Term Letting – post vacant

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1. 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.

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

Funding Schemes

Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

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

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

Town Centre First Measure 3. Two applications have been approved for this project funding;

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

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

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

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

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walls. Lacken to renovate the old school house to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section and Wicklow Towns, Murrough BMX pump track to develop into 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 was discussed with the associated Town Team /Community Groups in early September. Meetings will be organised with the respective Community Groups when they have their tender documents prepared for review.

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 has commenced for the formation of a new Town Team in Newtownmountkennedy, with the aim of having the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team established by the end of November 2024.

The process will then commence for Rathdrum, Kilcoole, Baltinglass and Carnew in December 2024 & January 2025.

1. Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects

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

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

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

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

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

URDF Call 3: Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow) and the process has commenced in acquiring these properties. The two properties identified in Wicklow have since had refurbishment works commenced on them by their owners and are no longer available for purchase. Two further properties are now to be identified and this process has commenced.

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

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

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3. TOURISM

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

PR Campaign: Wicklow County Council's Summer PR campaign was completed at the end of September. The campaign ran from May to September to promote the Destination Wicklow through various national media.

Wicklow Passport: The Wicklow Halloween Stamp was launched in early October. The stamps are available in many locations around Wicklow with the objective of encouraging interest in the many Halloween events on offer. The design of the stamp offers a great visual that brings a new angle to the seasonal event. Online promotional activities have been scheduled to promote the stamp and the events. Early November, focus will be given to the 'Christmas in Wicklow Stamp' and campaign.

Wicklow Outdoor Promotional Videos: Shoot for Sea Swimming and Road Cycling is taking place this October. The project will include videos and images of many activities in Wicklow: The project includes edited short promotional clips, photography and b-rolls for each of the events. All content will be used for promotion and will be available for anyone to use from the WCC Tourism online media library.

Best Nine Golf Holes in Wicklow: Shooting of the first nine featured holes is finalised and editing is underway. Participating golf clubs include The European, Woodenbridge Golf Club, Macreddin Golf Club, Blainroe Golf Club, Druids Glen Golf Club, Wicklow Town Golf Club, Powerscourt Golf Club, Tulfarris Golf Club and Rathsallagh Golf Club. The Wicklow Best Nine Holes project will help showcase Wicklow as a world class golf destination. Plans are underway to extend a further nine holes to the project for next year.

Tourism Accessibility Webinar

Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee, DISC, organised a free online information session on Thursday October 3rd dedicated to tourism providers in Wicklow. The session included info on the following topics:

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

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EcoTrail Wicklow

The fifth edition of EcoTrail Wicklow proved the most popular of all, attracting more than 1500 participants from 64 different locations around the globe.

Thanks to the support of Failte Ireland, EcoTrail and Destination Wicklow will be present at the International Festivals des Templiers in the South of France. The trail running festival attracts 13,000 participants and more than 30,000 people to the extensive trade show that is part of the event.

4. ABBEY GROUNDS, WICKLOW

Work is progressing on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds. Failte Ireland has given an extension of funding until the end of the year.

5. GLENDALOUGH MASTERPLAN AND WICKLOW VISITOR ORIENTATION STUDY

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

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

Directional signage and extra parking, along with a social media campaign to highlight responsible parking in the area has now discontinued following a successful summer tourist season. The focus of social media has now moved to promotion of the area as a destination.

Expressions of Interest have been sought from local landowners to provide land for parking as part of the masterplan. The deadline for receipt is 23rd October.

6. SPECIAL PROJECTS

Greystones Enterprise Hub: Now named the GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District), the official launch will be 25th October and engagement with potential tenants is now ongoing.

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

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Design drawings have been reviewed and are being finalised. It is hoped to make an application for Part 8 planning approval before the end of the year.

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Marketing Plan: MarketingCoach continue to work on promotional materials for the Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points under the campaign idea “Choose Wicklow”. The marketing campaign will be launched in November.

7. 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 is planned for 28th November.

8. SKILLS STRATEGY

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow has been adopted and is available on the website to read. The Skills Taskforce will meet regularly over the coming months to drive implementation of the actions contained within the Skills Strategy.

9. FOOD AND BEVERAGE STRATEGY

Wicklow Naturally:

October Feast: The annual Festival was launched on the 2nd of October at the Glenview Hotel and will run from 12th to the 31st of October with more than 30 events to choose from. These will include two flagship events: The first event will be held at Daisy Cottage Farm in West Wicklow with cooking demo, tasting and tour for media and press. The second event will be in partnership with the Climate Action office in Wicklow Co. Co. with focus on Venison cooking demo.

New Website: the new wicklownaturally.ie website is being finalised. The beta version is ready and final touches are being made. The new website has four objectives to help users find Wicklow producers, where to eat, where to shop and visits and tours of the Wicklow Naturally's network members. Launch for the new website will be scheduled in November, just in time for Christmas. This new development is supported by the Department of Agriculture.

Content Creation: There are already more than 20 short videos produced showcasing food producers in Wicklow. The October Feast will create many more videos.

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LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) FOR OCTOBER 2024:

LEO Objectives			
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	21 €650,174 4 €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	47
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	91
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	779
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	18
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	581	500	348
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	528	390	420

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

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Number of transfers	5	5	4

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	60

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	16
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	16
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	3

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	7

New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-

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September 2024 Activities:

- On 6th September we had a full house at Clermont for the Doing Business Better information event with MC Sean Gallagher and guest panel Celine Stephenson of Wicklow Way Wines and David Hartigan of Mushh & Co.
- Three Wicklow Businesses got to shine at LEO tent at the National Ploughing Championship. JTM Energy, Le Paysan and Olanmor were supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, to exhibit their wares in the Local Enterprise Village from 17-19 September.

October 2024 Activities:

- National Women's Enterprise Day celebration will be held on Thursday 17th October at Clermont House with local female entrepreneur Margaret Hctor, MC, Catherine Bray of Brady's Coffee and Lyndsey Cavanagh of One Dame Lane. Over 90 participants have booked in.
- Start Your Own Business started with a full house on 1st October.
- On 2nd October the Winter Export Development Programme started with 6 participants.
- On 25th October the launch of the Greystones Regional Innovation District will take place.
- Preparations are underway for an Offshore Renewable Energy Network Showcase which will take place on 28th November at Wicklow County Campus to highlight the opportunity for local businesses to get involved with supplying the development of three large offshore wind parks in the coming years.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

Training scheduled for October:

- Effective Use of Social Media For Your Business- Intermediate 16/10/2024
- Effective Marketing for SMEs 17/10/2024
- How to Sell Food and Craft Products at Markets and Pop-Ups 24/10/2024
- How to create content to tell your brand story 30/10/2024

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

Climate Action Week (14th – 20th October):

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

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

Climate Actions Focus:

- **Climate Action Committee** established and first meeting is expect in November
- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme**
Expression of interest for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow issued and two submissions received. Bolt and Moby have expressed an interest.
Letters have issued.
During the standstill period, we received a query from one of the parties which we are reviewing.
- **Coastal Erosion**
 - 1.The ECRIPP consultant engineers are meeting Management Team in October and Members in November Meeting.
 - 2.Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly, And have commenced a condition survey.
 3. RPS Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study and have submitted an Inception report.
 4. Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)
- **Glyphosate Policy** – Wicklow County Council [has joined](#) a Service Level Agreement for the Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces project with various third level institutions (such as Maynooth University and Trinity), agencies, and ten other local authorities (some with large park departments). This SLA commenced in 2020 and there is already some findings which will be shared with Wicklow County Council very shortly.
- **Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete** is out for public consultation.
- Bottle Fill Stations – 6 number ordered to be implemented in four MD's
- **Greystones MD - Active Travel Scheme with NB SuDS Rainwater Garden scheme taking place**– Part Funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Rainwater Management Plan drafted** for area in Redford Park. An initial design has been completed, Detailed design to be completed.
- CCTV survey to be scheduled for drains.
- **Arklow MD Office, Civic Centre and Depot**– Solar PV to be added and funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Bray MD EV Mower demonstration Day** – The District reviewed EV mowers with the Climate Action Team – A mower is tendered on etenders and will be funded for the Bray MD from the Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Wicklow MD - Brittas Bay** – 1000m of Chestnut Fencing, To be erected by Wicklow MD funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund in November

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- **Baltinglass MD** – Community Notice Board to be trialed in Blessington.
The option of a shared mobility scheme for Blessington will be reviewed.

Climate Action Officer Update:

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

Biodiversity Officer Update

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

Community Climate Action Programme

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

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

Environmental Awareness

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

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

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

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- Bike repair workshops during SDG & Climate Action week being finalised

Climate Networking

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

Wicklow County SEC's

- Carnew Community Care Energy Master Plan is now completed

Harbours and Ports

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

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Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	139
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	103
No of Litter Fines Issued	8
No of Fixed Penalty Notice issued	4
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	10
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	5
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	5
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	18
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	4
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	4
Income - Litter	€750.00
Income- Waste Management	€3,650.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 2 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 7 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.
- 64 Private Water Supplies Monitored.
- 45 Private Water Supplies were compliant with drinking water parametric limit values.
- 8 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parametric limit values.
- 11 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with pH parametric limit values.
- 4 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with chemical parametric limit values.

- 1 Boil Water Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to microbial failures.
- 2 Boil Water Restrictions lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results.
- 1 Do Not Consume Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to chemical failures.
- 0 Do Not Consume Restriction lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results

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Bathing Waters

- Excellent: Identified bathing waters:
 - Bray South, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Silver strand, Clogga and Greystones Cove.
- Poor: Identified bathing waters:
 - Silver strand and Clogga.
 - 9 bathing water samples taken
- Advice against bathing notices were issued for Silver Strand and Clogga on 04/09/24 and lifted on 06/09/24.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations 2 Catchment engagement activities was undertaken

- 1 Catchment assessments carried to assess risk and impact.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 0 Inspection Plan prepared
- 0 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

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

Well Grants

- 4 New Water Grant application received
- 0 New Well granted
- 3 New Pumps granted
- 4 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 15 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

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

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 5 Paint Retailer inspected.
- 3 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 2 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued letters.
- 3 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued compliance certificate.
- 5 Dry Cleaners installations inspected.
- 0 Dry Cleaners installation issued compliance certificate.

Solid Fuel Regulations

- 6 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
- 1 Wholesalers/distributors/retailer follow-up inspections.

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Air Pollution Act

- 1 Inspection of Licenced bitumen plant.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 61 River 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.
- 6 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations was completed concerning housing development.
- 2 environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

Control of Dogs

The Regulations in relation to the keeping of XL Bully breeds has come into effect. Owners have until the 1st March 2025 to apply for a certificate of exemption to own or keep an XL Bully dog after which time it will be an offence.

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 Tigrooney 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

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

Artists 1 to 1 Coaching Programme

Wicklow Arts Office artist coaching programme for 2024 has been completed. Fourteen artists were selected to receive individual one to one coaching sessions from professional experts in the arts field. The personalised coaching sessions offered artists a unique opportunity to engage in a profound process rooted in deep listening and active reflection. Designed to foster personal, professional, and artistic growth, the sessions provide a secure and open environment for artists to explore their experiences, aspirations, and potential areas for development. Through this collaborative journey, participants could identify goals, create informed and sustainable plans, and gain the confidence to realise their strategies. The programme was open to artists at any career level; the initiative aims to provide direction, energy, and creative resilience for those seeking positive change and growth in their artistic journey.

Wicklow Artists Salon

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

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

Creative Places Baltinglass

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

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Creative Ireland

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

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

Music Teaching Programme for over 55s

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

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Wicklow County Library Service

Library Updates

Wicklow Libraries
Achievements 2023



Joint 1st with Cork City for library visits
600,172



Items Borrowed:
629,640

Wicklow is 1st in the country for items borrowed



Wicklow has the **2nd** highest number of members in Ireland
31,967 Registered



Wicklow County Council

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In 2023, Wicklow Library Service achieved outstanding results, ranking **Joint 1st with Cork City** for library visits, with **600,172 visitors** throughout the year. We also proudly secured **1st place in the country** for items borrowed, with a remarkable **629,640 items** loaned. Additionally, Wicklow Libraries held the **2nd highest number of registered users**, with **31,967 people** accessing our services. These achievements underscore the continued importance of our libraries in supporting education, literacy, and community engagement across Wicklow.

October in Wicklow County Council Library Service

October has been an exciting and impactful month for Wicklow Library Service, with a strong focus on community engagement and inclusivity through key events like the Children's Book Festival, Climate Action Week, and Social Inclusion Week. These initiatives reflect our commitment to fostering learning, sustainability, and social cohesion across the county.

Greystones Library, in keeping with our Library of Sanctuary status, has launched a new Winter Coats plan. This initiative invites people to bring their gently used winter coats to the library, offering them to those in need. It's a thoughtful way of promoting the circular economy: take one if you need one, bring one if you can. By encouraging the sharing of resources, this initiative not only helps keep our community warm this winter but also highlights the importance of sustainability, echoing the sentiment of our Halloween costume swaps—yet with an equally meaningful purpose.

Here's a photo of Wicklow Hospice receiving a cheque from Librarian Loretta, representing the proceeds from the recent Afternoon Tea event held at Wicklow Town Library.

A big thank you to Gallaghers SuperValu, Flannerys Newsagents, and Anne Kinsella's Country Shop for their generous support in making this event a success.

The new hospice in Wicklow is an invaluable resource, providing essential care and comfort to those in need of hospice services and their families. Their work is immeasurable and we were honoured to be able to do something to support all they do.



In October, Wicklow Library Service continued to champion sustainability with Halloween Costume Swap Shops at both Greystones and Tinahely Libraries. These events provided families with a fun and eco-friendly way to celebrate Halloween while minimising waste.

At **Greystones Library**, on October 12th, Cllr Lourda Scott led the event, where parents and children could exchange last year's costumes for new spooky attire—be it for a Little Monster or a Little Witch. The success of last year's event inspired this year's return, offering a sustainable alternative to buying new costumes.

Tinahely Library hosted its own costume swap, complete with a children's fashion show, adding an extra layer of excitement for the little ones. Both events promoted sustainability, creativity, and community, making Halloween both fun and environmentally responsible.

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These swap shops, in keeping with our commitment to reducing waste, showcase how small changes can have a big impact—much like our broader focus on the circular economy across library initiatives.



Library users experienced pure relaxation at **Bray Library's** Harp Music Meditation Morning with the talented Aisling Ennis. Held before the library opened, this beautiful session offered participants a peaceful start to their day, with soothing harp music creating a serene atmosphere. Yoga mats were available, allowing everyone to fully unwind and immerse themselves in this calming experience. A truly magical morning of music and meditation.



On October 12th, **Greystones Library** hosted a special *Seal Talk* by **Seal Rescue Ireland** as part of Climate Week, inspired by the beautiful seal pups frequently spotted along the Wicklow coast, particularly in Greystones. The informative morning provided the community with valuable knowledge on what to do if they come across a seal pup in

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need. Attendees learned about the important role these marine creatures play in our coastal ecosystem and how they can help protect them. It was a fantastic event for nature enthusiasts and those keen to support local wildlife!

Seal Talk
with Seal Rescue Ireland



Sat, Oct 12th
from 10 am



Greystones Library



As part of our commitment to health and well-being, **Greystones Library** will host an event for **World Menopause Day** on Friday, October 18th at 12:30 PM. Titled *Understanding Menopause: A Guide to Symptoms, Management &*

Well-Being, this session aims to provide valuable insights into the menopause experience, including symptom management and overall well-being.



Understanding Menopause



Greystones Library

Friday, October 18th
from 12.30 pm

01 287 3548
greylibewicklowcoco.ie

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Local History Talk at Wicklow Town Library Branch

Our new season of local history talks kicks off on Thursday 24th October @ 7pm with historian John Goodman's captivating talk, 'Wicklow men and women in World War 2'. During his talk, John will tell the stories of some of the men and women, the casualties and survivors of the conflict.



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Climate Action Week

The community events scheduled for October align perfectly with Climate Action Week. Initiatives like the gardening courses promote sustainable practices that contribute to carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. The Halloween costume swap shop encourages resourcefulness and reduces waste. The Climate Culture Café provides a platform for discussing climate change and exploring solutions. The workshop on field notebooks fosters a deeper connection with nature and inspires environmental stewardship. Finally, the discussion on food poverty highlights a pressing social issue exacerbated by climate change and explores potential solutions. These events collectively demonstrate the community's commitment to addressing climate challenges through education, action, and collaboration. We were pleased to collaborate with the Wicklow Climate Action Team on these events.

Gardening Course for Biodiversity & Climate Change
Blessington Library

Sat, October 19th
from 10am - 4pm

Booking Via
Eventbrite

Includes icons for: 11 Climate Action, 12 Biodiversity, 13 Energy, 15 Green Buildings.

Gardening Course for Biodiversity & Climate Change
Greystones Library

Thurs, October 17th
from 10am - 4pm

Booking Via
Eventbrite

Includes icons for: 11 Climate Action, 12 Biodiversity, 13 Energy, 15 Green Buildings.

GARDEN BIRDS
A talk by Declan Murphy

Dunlavin Library
Saturday, October 19th
from 12 noon

Thursday 17th October 2024 | 9.30-11.30am | Arklow Library

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
An Exploration of
Food Poverty in Co. Wicklow

All welcome! Come along and join the conversation over a cuppa and refreshments.

CLIMATE CULTURE CAFE

Food for Thought: Energy Efficiency & our Local Food Movement

FRIDAY
18th October

Coffee Morning

10am - 12pm
Wicklow Town Library

Climate Action Week 2024

HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP SHOP
Tinahely Library

OCT 19TH FROM 11.30

Donate your old costume into the library
Change your Little Monster into a Little Witch

THE ART OF FIELD NOTEBOOKS

Climate Creative Talk & Workshop with ecological artist Ashleigh Downey

Tuesday
15th October


2pm - 4pm
Wicklow Town Library

Partners: Wick & North Wicklow Area Partnership, Wicklow Museum, Pobal, Wicklow Council, Wicklow County Council.

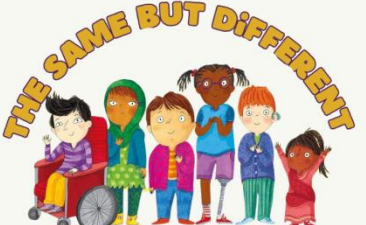
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Social Inclusion Week


Stories, Crafts and Music
With Agata Lojek



THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT



Wednesday,
October 16th
from 3pm



**Blessington
Library**

Connection Through Song
With Mags from Blessington Choir




Thursday,
October 17th
10 am



**Blessington
Library**

Support Group
For parents/Guardians/Carers of
Neurodivergent children




Friday,
October 18th
from 10 am



**Blessington
Library**

**Social Inclusion Week
At Wicklow Town Library**

Wednesday 16th 11-1pm
Coffee & Tea with Irish biscuits
Irish Traditional Music with Sean Olohan
Digital Services at the Library
demonstrations with Halley






Quilling Workshop
for adults



Wed, Oct 16th
from 12 noon



**Dunlavin
Library**

Crochet Workshop
for adults




Fri, Oct 18th
from 3pm




**Baltinglass
Library**

**COFFEE
MORNING**



GREYSTONES LIBRARY



For **Social Inclusion Week**, Wicklow Library Service is hosting a range of events aimed at building connections and supporting all members of the community. These include library tours, workshops on how to use our technology and e-services, a neurodivergent support group for parents, *Connection Through Song*, coffee mornings, and arts and crafts workshops in villages with new communities. We are also offering *English Language Conversation Groups*, breastfeeding support groups to help new mothers from diverse communities build connections, and inclusive storytimes for all children. Ongoing initiatives like our *Period Poverty Initiative* and the *Sunflower Lanyard* for hidden disabilities continue to break down barriers, ensuring our libraries remain welcoming spaces for everyone. These activities reflect our commitment to promoting social inclusion, fostering community engagement, and supporting diverse needs year-round.

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Blood Pressure Monitors for Borrowing

We're excited to announce that Wicklow Library Service has added five blood pressure monitors to our Library of. These monitors are available for borrowing to help promote health awareness in our community. Depending on the demand, we plan to increase the number of monitors available. With many Irish adults potentially living with undiagnosed high blood pressure, this initiative aims to make monitoring accessible to everyone. The monitors will come with a record sheet for you to track your readings, helping you stay on top of your health from home.



Chamber Awards 2024

We're thrilled to announce that the 'St. Patrick's Day Parade Sensory Space' project, a collaboration between [#Arklow](#) Library, [#AllKindsofAmazing](#), Little Warriors, The House, Arklowlittlevikings, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade Arklow team, has been shortlisted for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024!

This project grew out of community conversations with the [@MakingArklow](#) project earlier this year, and it's a wonderful recognition of community collaboration at its best. The sensory space is a fantastic example of an inclusive initiative that can be easily replicated by other communities.

**The Sensory Space was in Arklow Library and it used the My Open Library access to provide a safe viewing space and sensory area for those who needed it.

Chambers Ireland announced the shortlist today (October 8th), with 98 projects across 15 categories highlighting the incredible work happening in local government.

We're excited to be part of it!



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Archives & Genealogy Service

Schools programme

The County Archives and Local Studies Services welcomed a visit from the Transition Year students of the Dominican College Wicklow. The students explored the collections, with a special emphasis on our Wicklow Town items and our school registers and photographs collections. Our digitised collections and online student resources on Wicklow.ie were also highlighted to the students. A visit by Dominican College 5th year history students is scheduled for October also.

Outreach

Wicklow County Archivist chaired a talk by Professor Maurice Bric on Daniel O'Connell at the Parnell Ivy Day Symposium 2024, Woodenbridge Hotel. Organised annually by the Parnell Society, the three day event concluded with a wreath laying and graveside oration for Parnell by Taoiseach Simon Harris at Glasnevin Cemetery.

Local Government Archivists publication

Marking the 125th anniversary of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage collaborated with the Local Government Archivists Group to produce a publication on county council archives, charting the evolution of local authorities and the services they provide. The publication and launch video: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/636ef-125-years-of-irish-local-government/>.

Outdoor Recreation

Wicklow Coast Blueway

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

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

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

Wicklow Town –Harbour area: path upgrade completed. Toilet facilities upgrades 90% completed. New outdoor showers, ground works have commenced and showers installation due in early November.

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 when agreements are in place, consisting of: installation of a changing screen with seating area, bike stand rack and planters with shrubs to be installed along the Roadstone site fence by the car park.

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS host

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

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ORIS 2021- M3 – The Sugarloaf Repair Project – Images October 2024:



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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. Marc Devereaux, DOS, liaising with Bray MD on project funds' allocation decision.	Extension requested to DRCD
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. New tender in progress. Trial hole work by contractor to check grounds near bridge has been approved by NPWS.	In progress. Extension granted to August 2024.
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)</i>	Pitching from shoulder to bottom of Gully 90% complete. Improved drainage below the shoulder. Multiple Braid blockers added from Shoulder to lower section. Stone Pitching by hand, waterbars and crossdrains constructed. Pitching from shoulder down towards lower slopes 50% complete. 4 bags of fines and graded stone moved to Upper cone to fill in Pitching. Another 60 bags approx. to be filled for heli drop from shoulder to lower slopes. Helicopter Airlift 1 of materials to sections of the mountain completed. Airlift 2 due on 22 nd October, with closure of route during that time.	In progress. Extension to Oct'24
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment contractor appointed with delivery and installation due in early November.	In progress.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Russborough Parklands & House Trail</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter being installed at the end of the trail and new finger signage and plaque.	Trail completed.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	<i>Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area</i>	Upgrade of existing trail, boardwalk replacement with a path, works have commenced. Play Equipment contractor appointed with installation due in November.	In progress.
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners due after their planning permission process is completed.	In progress.
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play Equipment contractor appointed. Contractor clearing area for equipment installation with first two play areas delivery due mid-October, second delivery Nov, last delivery Jan'25. Bike area designed, will commence after completion of play areas.	In progress

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

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation plan for the area with a Feasibility study in progress. Due to be completed by March'25.	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. Environmental consultation and Tender documentation in progress.	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. Play area at design stage and Licence agreement with Coillte being finalised.	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, with design being done by Council's Engineer.	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 with initial tender underway.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 – CC905	Tinahely New Loop Trail	Additional spur to loop walks linking Coolafunshogue, Curravanish and Ballyshonog. 10km route to Tinahely village. Initial design in progress.	30/06/2026

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Sports Capital Grant Announcement

The following projects have received funding in the 2023/4 Community Sports Capital Investment Programme:

WCC Ballywaltrim Recreational Sports Facilities Phase1

€153,665

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WCC Bray Family Resource Centre	€120,448
WCC Coral Leisure Arklow Changing Room Upgrade	€125,008
WCC Cycling Pump Track Arklow	€96,881
WCC Coral Leisure Wicklow Equipment Upgrade	€48,068

Lets Talk Addiction & Mental Health Talk

LET'S TALK
ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH
WITH FORMER LIMERICK HURLER CIARAN CAREY

WEDNESDAY OCT 30TH
7PM IN ECHELON PARK, AUGHRIM

Topics Covered:

- Mental Health & Addiction Awareness
- Effects on individuals, families and communities
- Support services for positive change and healing

Logos: Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Wicklow, CAA Healthy Clubs, 1 with Life.

Booking available [HERE](#)

HSE Grant Aid Agreement Funding:

Beginners Exercise Class Wicklow Town & Arklow

An 8-week physical activity programme starting Thursday 3rd October in Wicklow and Wednesday 16th October in Arklow. This programme is in partnership with a HSE Occupational Therapist in Wicklow Town. This programme will help with participants overall fitness.

Chronic Condition Programmes:

October Chronic Condition Programmes:

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- Activator Poles for Neuro Conditions, Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Bray
- Tai Chi for Respiratory Conditions, Shoreline Leisure, Bray
- Yoga, Recovery Village, Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle
- Strength & Balance, Shoreline Leisure, Bray
- Pilates, Recovery Village, Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle

Chair Dance

There is a 4-week chair dance programme for older adults in Arklow starting on Friday 4th October. The Chair Dance Class is perfect for older adults who want to move and dance without the strain of standing for long periods.

BadminTEEN programme in St Mary's Arklow

24 teenage girls from transition year in St Mary's Arklow are taking part in Badminton Ireland teenage girl programme called Badminteens. The programme is targeted at teenage girls in all girls' schools and finding ways to keep them in the game, even if they don't want to play! The course is delivered over 2 days split into four parts and consists of learning the basic badminton skills, a foundation level coaching qualification, officiating games and organising a tournament, an online learning in health and wellbeing.

Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	15th October 2024

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Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (17/10/2024) outstanding stands at **609 – 3.88%** of total stock of 15,637. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults.

The new public lighting contractor is expected to commence works in Wicklow week commencing 21/10/2024.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	6	1	4	16
Cable Fault (Attended)			4		1	5
ESB Interface Required			1	1		2
ESB Required (Attended)	16	15	9	15	19	74
Knock Down (Attended)	1			1		2
Materials Required		4	7	1	1	13
No Supply		1	1	1		3
On Hold	4	4	13	1	11	33
Submitted	96	74	135	38	96	439
TMR	5		7		2	14
Tree Cutting Required			5		1	6
Grand Total	124	101	188	59	135	607
Percentage Not Working	4.02%	4.16%	5.55%	2.01%	3.53%	3.88%

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

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

Periodic Speed Limits

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

Speed Limits

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

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Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
Solicitors Queries	838	1026	699	132	118	100
Road closure applications	78	42	41	3	2	5
Road Opening licences	1414	1956	913	136	108	103
Abnormal Load applications	60	54	37	4	5	9

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

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

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

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

Following the 2023 public consultation, further environmental studies and traffic analysis have been carried out on elements of the emerging preferred option.

As a result, further consideration is being given to additional revised options between Junction 6 (Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue). These include, but are not limited to, a northbound service road at Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue), improved grade separation at Junction 7 (Bray South) and a northbound service road from Junction 7 (Bray South) to Junction 6 (Fassaroe).

This revisit of Phase 2 work is currently progressing, and following completion, details of the preferred option will be published.

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).

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N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

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

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

N11/R772 Johnstown North/Regional Road

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

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

Tenders submitted by contractors for the Chapel Road Project are currently under review. On successful completion of the tender process construction is expected to start on site at the start of Q1 2025. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. There is active engagement between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners and a Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

The Phase 2 Route Corridor Options are currently being developed by Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis. A 4-week public consultation was completed in May 2024 for the emerging route corridors. The project was presented at the April Council meeting with two public events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during April. Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project.

Blessington eGreenway

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

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Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

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

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 have been completed on eastern side. Surfacing to be carried out on cycle track on western side. Complete pedestrian crossing ramps at Knockmore roundabout, and complete verge reinstatement works.

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 and are ongoing on the construction of the laneway linking the school to Church Lane. Substantial completion target for the works in the laneway is mid-November.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. Works have commenced on site and are ongoing. Front of school works for the school zone are complete. The permeability link on Church Hill is due to be completed in November. This will link the new development and provide a continuous pathway to the school off the main vehicular routes.

Project Updates

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

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

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. Land take agreed in principle with landowner. Part 8 advertised on 15th October. Public consultation to run until 26th November.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The Preliminary Design has been prepared by DBFL Consulting Engineers and submitted to the NTA for approval, comments received from NTA. Road Safety Audit to be carried out.

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

New footbridges and alterations of road to make provision for cyclists. Meeting held with consultant to recommence the project. A Phase 2 Gateway Report has been prepared and issued NTA for approval. Consultant to proceed to Phase 3 Preliminary design when Gateway 2 has been approved.

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Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

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

Phase 1 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works - The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. 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 October.

Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works - This phase of the project will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists along Church Road through the narrowing of the carriageway, junction realignment, new and improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing. Works are expected to be completed in November 2024.

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 submitted to the NTA for Gateway 3 approval.

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. Section 38 to be advertised in October 2024.

Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Design is being prepared. Section 38 to be advertised in November 2024.

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

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

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work on 1 new bridge (Oghill) was completed in September.
Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Macreddin) in late September.

Winter Maintenance

2025 season commenced on October 14th. Draft of 2025 Winter Maintenance Plan will be completed this week.

Machinery Yard

Large truck (HCV) tender for 4 vehicles ended this week and will be assessed in the coming days.
Pick-up truck tender for 20 vehicles to be advertised in the coming week.
Lease contract (various size vehicles) to be advertised in late October.

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Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	788,907.06
Greystones Municipal District	236,473.39
Wicklow Municipal District	354,306.78
Arklow Municipal District	184,166.62
Parking Permits	72,663.66
Parking Fines	461,110.80
Wicklow County Council Total	2,097,628.31

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Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

35 sold

1 remaining

Aldborough 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 17th April 2024 for applications to be submitted.

80 applications received

32 offers made (letters sent)

15 income too high (letters sent)

1 withdrawn

6 accepted

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

Rathnew – 44 dwellings

Advertised - Wicklow Times is Monday 27th May 2024 and Wicklow People is Wednesday 29th May 2024

Portal opened from the 10th June 12noon until 22nd July 2024. Offers have been made. 41 accepted awaiting answers on 3. All who have applied have been notified.

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),	40	Completed and allocated

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

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballinteskinn – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date January 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Three group housing scheme. Final layout agreed with department/families. Part 8 Expected Q2 2025.

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2023 has been carried out and the 2024 inspection to commence in Q4

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

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

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

Work has been completed on 91 retrofits, 126 programmed to be completed by the end of the year.

Surveys to commence October for the 2025 Program

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	3	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Rathnew	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Greystones	8	Delivery due Q4 2024	WCC
Wicklow	3	2 Delivered Q1 2024, 1 Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Rathdrum	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Delgany	8	3 Delivered Q3, 3 delivered Q3, 2 due Q1 2025	WCC
Blessington	6	4 Delivery Q2 2024, 2 Delivered Q3	WCC
Rathnew	4	Delivery due Q4 2024	WCC
Rathnew	37	Delivery due Q4 2024	WCC
Blessington	9	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Bray	15	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF

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 Q4 2024	CALF
Greystones	5	Delivered Q3 2024	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery Due Q1 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery Due Q1 2025	WCC
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Blessington	7	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Bray	10	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF

- 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

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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/ Age Friendly/ Disability Units

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	expected completion Q3 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Planning permission granted expected on Site Q1 2025

Framework for one-off housing schemes being retendered in October. Batch of six schemes being tendered as kick off for the framework with a mix of major refurbishments , age friendly ,disability and one of houses in infill sites.

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
2.	100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
3.	41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
4.	30 South Green, Arklow.	Works commenced.
5.	5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Contractor appointed.
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.	Contractor appointed.
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.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
15.	27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	CPO commenced.

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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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	143
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	9
Applications Approved	71
Applications paid	18
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/payment	9
Applications withdrawn/Rejected	36

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely.

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

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Emergency Response

Wicklow County Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics September 2024

There were **132 incidents** attended during the month of September 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **155 occasions** including **12 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 September 2024 **increased by 18% (plus 24 mobilisations) on the preceding month August 2024 (131 mobilisations) corresponding to the increase in the number of bonfires in Bray.**

Operational activity for the month of September 2024 **increased by 31% (plus 37 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (September 2023, 118 mobilisations). Year on year there was an increase in the number of bonfires across the county +35.

Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total):

- 02/09/2024 Blessington crew supported Naas Fire Station at an RTC involving a single car at Naas Rugby Club.
- 02/09/2024 Blessington crew supported Naas Fire Station at an RTC involving a single car at Wolfestown, Naas.
- 06/09/2024 Dunlavin crew supported Newbridge Fire Station at a fire involving a large electrical generator at Giltown Stud.
- 14/09/2024 Dunlavin crew supported Naas and Monasterevin Fire Stations at an RTC involving 2 cars with one casualty trapped at Athgarvan Cross, the Curragh.
- 14/09/2024 Dunlavin and Blessington crews were mobilised in error to an RTC by the AA at Dunnstown.
- 15/09/2024 Baltinglass crew supported Carlow Fire Station at an RTC involving two vehicles at Castledermot.
- 25/09/2024 Dunlavin crew supported Newbridge and Naas Fire Stations at an RTC involving a single vehicle with a trapped casualty at Hacklow Cross, Kilcullen.

Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents total):

- 08/09/2024 Carnew crew supported Bunclody Fire Station at an RTC involving a single overturned car at Ballybeg House, Ferns.
- 18/09/2024 Carnew crew supported Gorey Fire Station at a 3-car RTC near Craanford.
- 2/09/2024 Carnew crew supported Gorey Fire Station at an RTC involving a single overturned car near Drummond Church, Askmore.
- 22/09/2024 Arklow crew supported attended a small outdoor fire originally reported as a house fire near Scarnagh, Coolgreaney.

Fire Prevention Statistics September 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	6		3		3

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Revised FSCs	0		1		2
FSC 7-Day Notice	11		3		2
Regularisation FSCs	0		1		1
DACs	15		3		7
Revised DACs	0		0		0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0		0		0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 26 planning files during the month of September 2024. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 23 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	6	45	4	46	59
Circuit	1	1	1	0	0
Dangerous Substances Act	1		0	0	0
Explosive Act					

Building Control Statistics September 2024

Commencement Notices for September 2024:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 66

- 18 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 21 Opt Out Declarations
- 11 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 16 Seven Day Notice

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Submission Statistics

- 31 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 81 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 54 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 18 with Compliance Documentation (33%)
 - 17 are Opt Out (31%)
 - 5 Without Compliance Documentation (9%)
 - 14 Seven Day Notice (26%)
- 46 Valid Commencement Notices
- 378 new build residential Units and additional 12 Extensions
- 4 Non Res new builds
- 7 Invalidated CNs

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

- 17 New No. of CCC submitted
- 13 Required Revised Information
- 25 No. Validated
- 1 No. Invalid
- 50 new Residential units
- 7 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

25 No. Validated CCCs related to;

12 No. CCCs submitted in September 2024
11 No. CCCs submitted in August 2024
2 No. CCCs submitted in July 2024

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**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

378 new residential houses and 12 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 50 newly completed residential units plus 7 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in September. 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. The increase in Commencement Notice in September is due to the extension of the pre-existing development levy waiver until the 30th September.

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

Revised Information requests remained high in September for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 81% of Commencement Notice submissions & 76% 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.

In September, BC Staff attended a CPD day Part B - CPD Part B - Revisions to Part B and TGD Part B hosted by NBC&MS Office in Galway.

Civil Defense:

- Civil Defence Volunteers attended the Bray Emergency Services day displaying some of our vehicles and technical equipment, these events help spread awareness of the capabilities of Civil Defence, equally it offers the opportunity to engage with the local community.

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- Drone support and search management assistance was provided to Kilkenny Civil Defence for an ongoing missing person in Kilkenny. We will continue to assist Kilkenny as required.
- Some of our volunteers attended the National Ploughing Championship over the 3 days, they were on hand to promote the work of Civil Defence nationally by displaying an array of assets from all over the country. Our unique Incident Support vehicle was requested by the Dept of Defence to showcase the importance of having welfare facilities available to deploy to multitude of different incidents.

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- Drone support was requested by Wexford Civil Defence for a missing person in the Curracloe area, missing person was located. RIP



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Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened this month	0
Total number of residents	1535 – increase of 66 since Sep
Of which are children	423 – decrease of 4 since last month

WCC LAIT Activity to date for 2024	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	58
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	450
Total number of sessions with single adults	224
Total number of sessions with families/couples	208

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for September

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	8
No. of adults (total from singles, couples and families)	67
No. of sessions with single adults	21
No. of sessions with families	37
No. of sessions with couples	2
No. of sessions with IPA's	62

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No. with Refugee Status	1
No. with Subsidiary Protection	0
No. with Leave to Remain	1
Less than 3 months in Ireland	3
1-3 months in Ireland	15
3-6 months in Ireland	23
6 months – 1 year in Ireland	6
1-2 years in Ireland	4
Over 2 years in Ireland	2

Areas of Support

Main Theme / Primary Support Issue	Incidence
Health - adult	13
Health - child	5
Mental health	0
Medical Card	4
Education & Training - Adult	7
Education - child	3
Special needs - child	3
English	6
MyGovID	0
Employment	7
Volunteering	1
Legal	1

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Housing/accommodation	0
Transport	0
Childcare	3
Family support	1
Orientation to Ireland	4
Financial Supports	0
Other	2

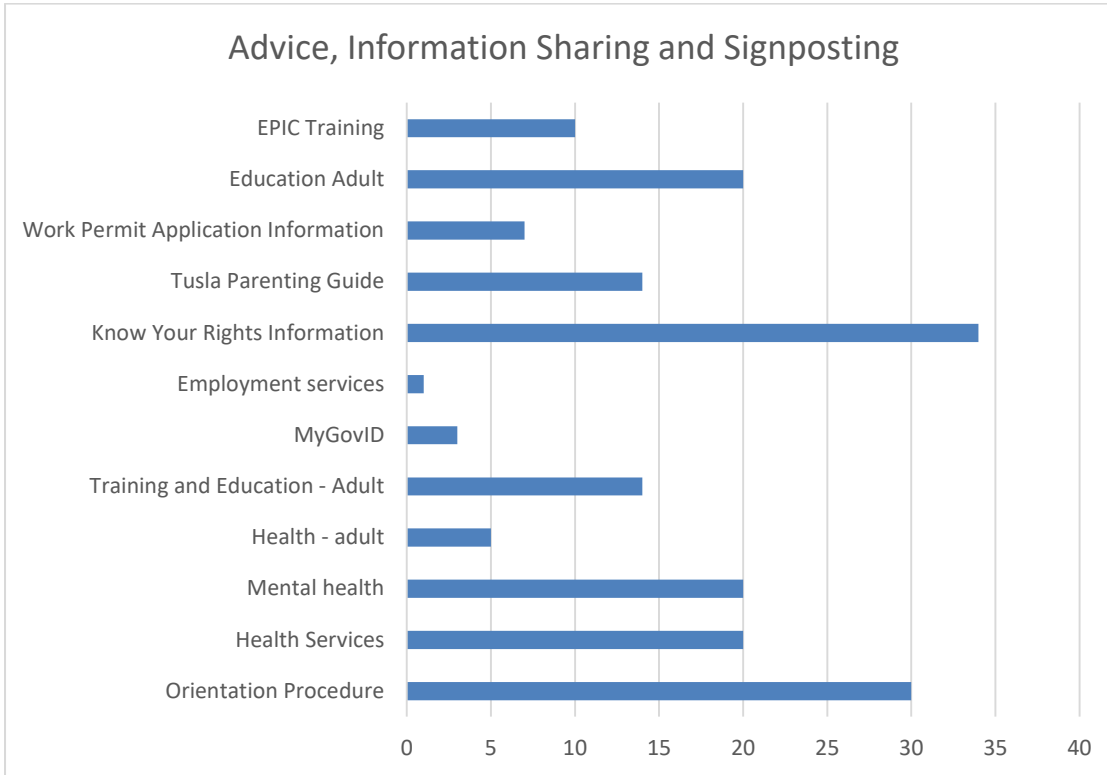
In-Session Support Categories	Incidence
Advice, Information and Signposting	178
Practical Support	21
Referral and advocacy	10

Post-Session Categories of Support	
Advocacy and Referral	31
Follow up Contact with Client	134

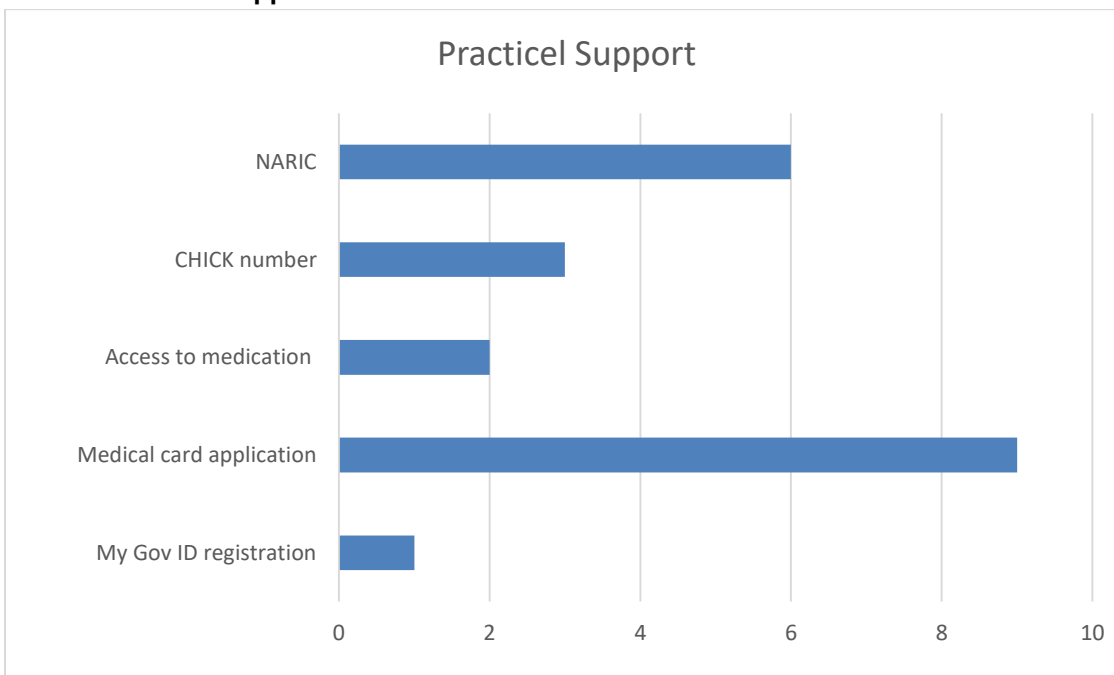
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In-Session Support: Detailed Breakdown

- **Advice, Information and Signposting**

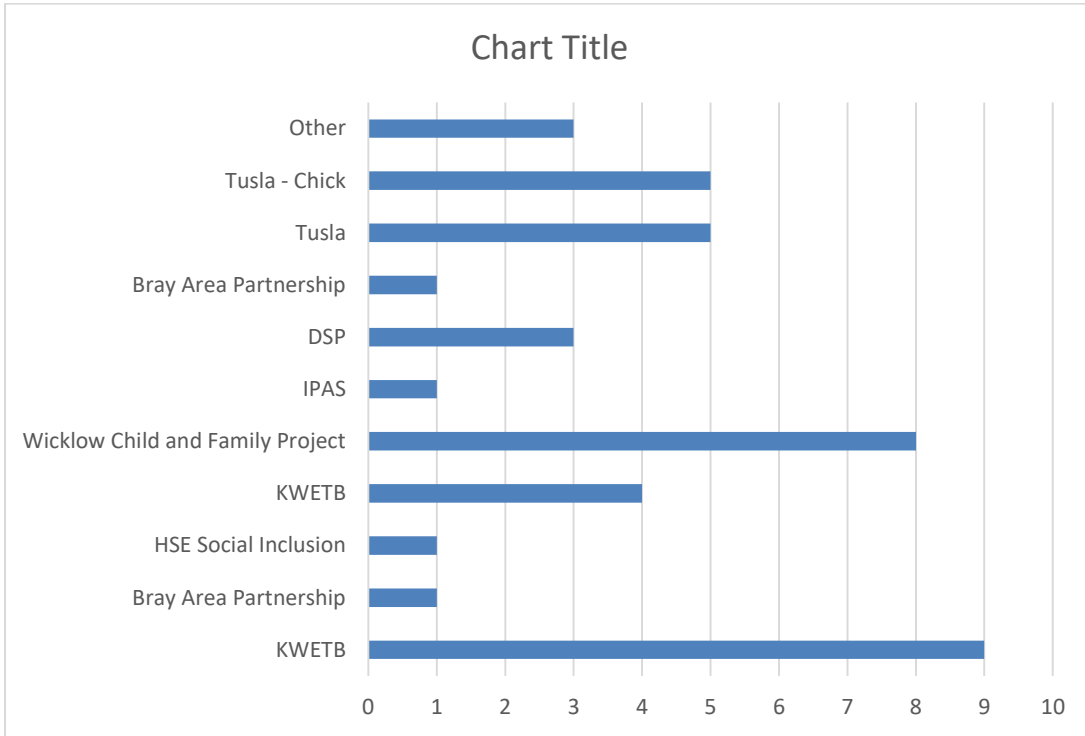


- **Practical Support**



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- **Referral and Advocacy**



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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in September 2024:

Interviews Graduate Planner
 Interviews Assistant Planner
 Interviews Executive Planner
 Interviews Driver/Plant Operator A
 Interviews Driver/Plant Operator B
 Shortlisting Staff Officer

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Managerial/Administrative	319	323	337	334
Professional/Technical	150	150	146	146
Outdoor	265	261	259	255
Temporary/Seasonal	43	44	87	91
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	782	783	834	831

*Increase in Temp/Seasonal category due to graduate recruitment programme

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Freedom of Information

September 2024: 12	September 2023: 8
Jan – September 2024: 101	Jan – September 2023: 85

Ombudsman Requests

September 2024: 4	September 2023: 3
January – September 2024: 16	January – September 2023: 22

Press Releases

September 2024 – 14

Register of Electors

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

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

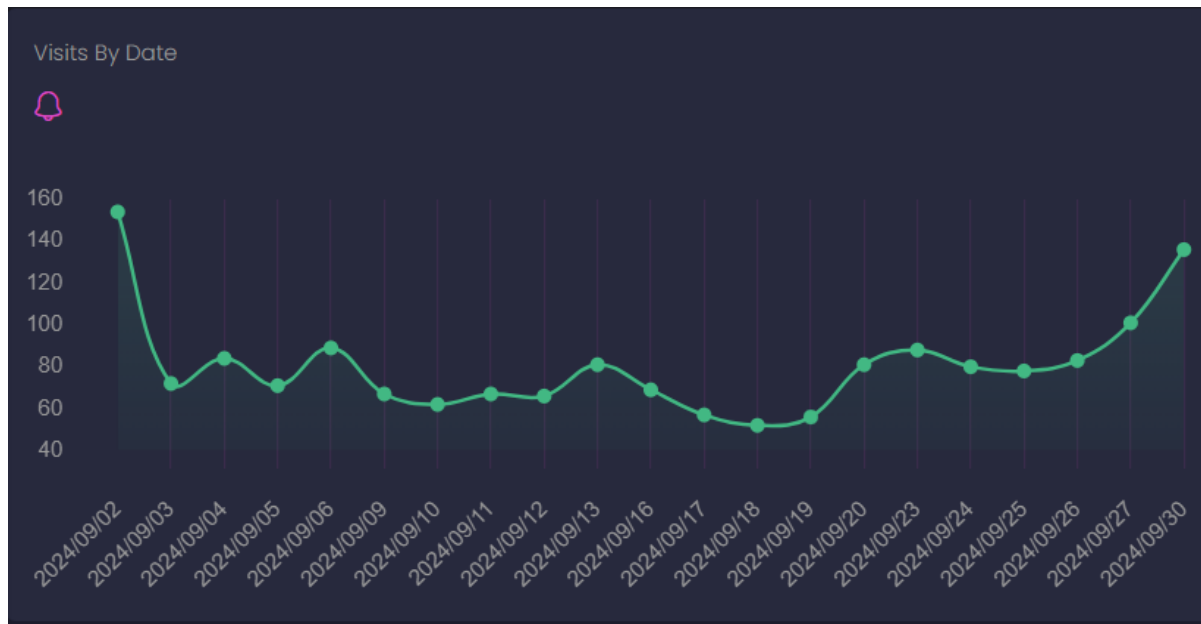
Wicklow County Council prepared a Draft Polling Scheme which takes into account the changes made by the Electoral Commission. The Draft Polling Scheme was on display up to the 19th August 2024 and the new Polling Scheme creating the Wicklow and Wicklow-Wexford Constituency was adopted at the Council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

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Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – September			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	n/a	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,747
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,302	Revenue Transactions	1,290
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	90	Housing Counter Visits	1,016

Total in person visits for September 2024 – 1,694



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Energy

2024					
Action	Energy Savings	Carbon Savings	Simple Payback before Grant (Years)	Project Status	Funding
	(kWh)	(T CO2)			
Bray Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, re-piping, replacing radiators and re-plumbing	350,000	71	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Appliance Bay Doors (5)				Works Complete	
Window Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	350,000	71	8		
County Buildings					
Air-to-water heat pump	230,000	47	10	Works Commenced	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Enabling Works				Works Commenced	
Total	230,000	47	10		
Bray Civic Offices					
Air-to-water heat pumps replacing gas boiler	120,000	24	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Total	120,000	24	8		
Wicklow Civil Defence (Greystones)					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacng gas boiler	10,000	5	7	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	5	7		
Wicklow Town Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing electric storage heating	10,000	3	8	Works Complete	Wicklow Fire Service
Window & External Door Upgrade				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	3	8		

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Blessington Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing gas boiler	24,657	5	13.5	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Upgrade Lighting to LED				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	24,657	5	13.5		
Arklow Recycling Centre					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
Total	20,000	3	4		
Arklow Municipal District Depot					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
Total	20,000	3	4		

Wicklow County Council - Energy Office

- ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council awarded ISO certification
- SEAI Energy Awards 2024 – Wicklow County Council is a finalist in the Energy in Buildings category for the decarbonisation of Bray Fire Station

Wicklow County Council

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

1. Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 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	36,430,424	53,458,479	68%	(39,319,335)	(57,560,824)	68%	(2,888,910)
Road Transport & Safety	15,614,829	25,608,536	61%	(9,906,345)	(18,366,119)	54%	5,708,485
Water Services	3,609,306	4,809,015	75%	(4,238,040)	(5,729,978)	74%	(628,734)
Development Management	18,209,567	15,877,727	115%	(13,930,025)	(10,024,717)	139%	4,279,542
Environmental Services	11,015,048	15,632,861	70%	(2,362,294)	(4,087,049)	58%	8,652,753
Recreation and Amenity	6,912,801	9,440,065	73%	(675,930)	(1,079,718)	63%	6,236,870
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,523,459	2,283,534	67%	(688,037)	(1,104,228)	62%	835,423
Miscellaneous Services	7,416,339	9,997,953	74%	(9,966,563)	(13,219,706)	75%	(2,550,224)
Central Management Charges	17,337,337	22,890,755	76%	(856,531)	(1,050,000)	82%	16,480,806
Local Government Fund				(12,660,526)	(16,880,701)	75%	(12,660,526)
Commercial Rates				(23,600,820)	(31,045,885)	76%	(23,600,820)
	118,069,110	159,998,925	74%	(118,204,446)	(160,148,925)	74%	(135,336)

2. 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 September 2024 to 30th September 2024.

3. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/09/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	13,566,712	38,600,070	(24,752,777)	(497,959)
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	12,434,175	(8,061,022)	(363,500)	(37,542,103)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	967,655	(1,149,487)	25,000	(6,686,883)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	13,879,746	(25,977,487)	(209,000)	(44,344,569)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	2,972,671	(2,519,410)	(390,000)	(873,438)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	4,030,204	(1,104,275)	(94,000)	687,056
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	359,504	76,397	(200,067)	(1,810,778)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	(346,061)	(792,671)	1,833,312	(9,716,066)
	(82,091,754)	72,897,964	(64,280,732)	103,787	(73,370,735)

Wicklow County Council

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4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/09/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	32,024,256	0	10,129	(208,053)	35,283,698	(26,297,602)	8,986,096	591,633	76%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	13,453,438	0	(5,518)	0	16,882,825	(13,464,210)	3,418,614	0	80%
Housing Loans	276,649	1,857,030	0	0	0	2,133,679	(1,885,562)	248,117	0	88%

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.

5. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2024

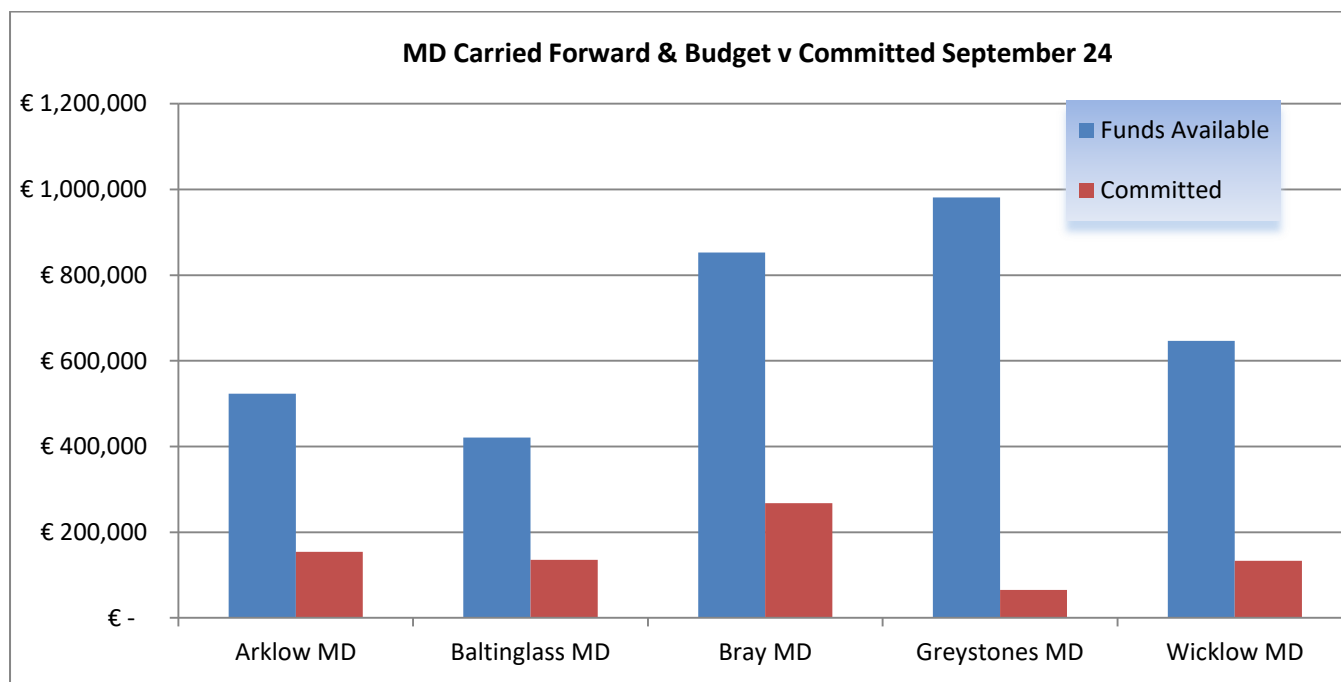
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General 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	154,094	368,878
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	135,483	285,720
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	267,859	584,677
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	65,259	916,360
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	133,135	513,329
Total	1,912,812	1,511,982	3,424,794	755,830	2,668,964

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

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

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Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Drone Cloud Data** - Processed drone data procured by the Environment Section.
- **Consultation Hub** - Have commenced work on new Consultation Hubs for draft Wicklow/Rathnew LAP, pre-draft Bray LAP and Draft Blessington LAP.
- **Sustainable Communities Housing Report** - Housing require maps for a Sustainable Communities Housing Report at Bray Head House, Bray.
- **Onshore Renewable Energy Request – File Geodatabase** - Source and add GIS spatial datasets for onshore renewable energy request – 22 No. datasets.
- **MyPlan.ie Zoning Data** - Test case for Aughrim Town Plan uploaded and awaiting approval.
- **Barn Owl Database** - Updates to barn owl database, export excel table and distributed.
- **GIS Server Migration** – Commenced migration and testing of applications on new server.

Infrastructure

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