



Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 13.05.24

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Department Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Funding



Plans for Riverchapel

Wexford County Council was delighted for the local communities of Riverchapel and Ballymitty who received 2 of the 12 projects funded nationally under the community centre capital investment fund of over €3 million. Riverchapel Community received €1.8 million for the new community centre working in partnership with the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District and Wexford Local Development for a state of the art building with a large hall, childcare rooms, changing rooms and a digital hub. Matching funding provided by Wexford County Council will see investment of over €2 million in the project.



Ballymitty plans for new community facility.

Ballymitty Community have been awarded €1.4 million for their new facility working in partnership with the Rosslare Municipality District. The local community have been working for a number of years to develop a facility in Ballymitty which is a most welcome initiative to assist dedicated communities.

Town and Village

Wexford County Council received funding of €1 million under the Town and Village Scheme which has been a great investment programme for rural communities, with Wexford is in the top 5 highest allocations of investment under this year's Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The successful community projects working with the Economic Section and the Rosslare and New Ross Municipal Districts announced this month are:

- **Carrig-on-Bannow €247,590** Creation of a recreation area including playground, sensory garden, pocket woodland and picnic area.
- **Cushinstown €250,000** Refurbishment of derelict farm buildings and walled garden into a multi-purpose community facility, focusing on crafts, music, horticulture, events and local markets.
- **Rathgarogue €500,000** A destination park in the village enabling food production in allotments/greenhouses to be sold in artisan markets on site. Other features include a sensory garden, woodland, village green, marquee and playground.

Kilmore Quay Enterprise Hub

The Economic Development Department has appointed KPMG to assist with the preparation of an application to the Smart Regions (Enterprise Innovation) Scheme, under Stream 4 (Feasibility & Priming). Eighty percent funding is available up to a maximum of €200k. The application will cover preparation of advanced project plans for Kilmore Quay Marine Hub. There is a rolling call for funding under the Smart Regions Scheme and it is intended that the outcome of the Stream 4 application will form the basis of a future Stream 1 application for larger capital funding.

South East Technological University (SETU)

Foundation Day 2024 - 'Connecting for Sustainability' Conference

To celebrate SETU's establishment on 1st May 2022 they are launching '**Foundation Day**', a new annual tradition of events to mark the designation of the University status. Each year in May, SETU will celebrate 'Foundation Day' across all campuses; taking a moment to reflect on achievements to date, celebrate communities, and fostering ongoing conversation with stakeholders in the South East Region that will continually redefine the 'Grand Challenges of the South East programme'. Each conference will explore an individual theme drawn from their strategic plan 'Connecting for Impact 2023 – 2028'.

Wexford County Council will host one of three events, at their offices in Carricklawn on Tuesday 28th May 2024 from 10am – 2pm on the theme of Sustainability. This conference will look at sustainable practices and innovations with a particular focus on offshore renewable energy and the opportunities this industry holds for the South East Region.

The Carlow SETU Campus Foundation Day 2024 is on Monday, 27th May 2024 from 10am – 2pm, will look at the importance of a skilled, flexible, well-educated workforce to develop our regional economy and how access and inclusion for all is intrinsic to the success of the South East Region.

Waterford Campus SETU Foundation Day 2024 is on Thursday 23rd May 10.00am 14.00. This conference will look at health and celebrate excellence, community and impact.

Tourism

Local Government Tourism Conference 2024 'Tourism Leading the Change'



The CCMA and LGMA in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM) and Fáilte Ireland held the *Local Government Tourism Conference 2024* on 18th and 19th April in Killashee House Hotel, Naas, County Kildare. The theme of the conference was 'Tourism – Leading the Change'.

The Conference was officially opened by Catherine Martin, Minister at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media (DTCAGSM).

Speakers at the conference included Paul Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, Fáilte Ireland, Alice Mansergh, Chief Executive, Tourism Ireland, Cian Ó Lionáin, Assistant Secretary General for DTCAGSM and John Concannon Director General of "Global Ireland", Department of Foreign Affairs.



Topics that were covered at the conference included.

- A Time of Change
- Sustainable Tourism & Destination Development
- Innovation in Tourism
- Re-imagining Local Tourism – The Importance of Place
- EU Just Transition for Tourism
- Global Irish and the Power of Networks

The conference provided an opportunity to bring the tourism sector and key stakeholders together to hear from a range of speakers, to gather information, to share knowledge and ideas and to think on the future of Tourism in Ireland. A network for tourism officers has been established to coordinate tourism and share information across the Local Authority sector.

Official launch of Monck Street Public Realm



The Official launch of Monck Street Public Realm took place on Wednesday 17th April 2024 with a cost over €1.5 million. Monck Street is the first entire street in Ireland to be fully covered by a retractable roof stretching 80-metres long.

The Civil works involved in the pedestrianisation of Monck was funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority's Active Travel Programme. The waterproof retractable roof element of the scheme was funded by Fáilte Ireland's Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme in partnership with Wexford County Council.



Sarah Fitzpatrick, Manager of Ireland's Ancient East with Fáilte Ireland addressed attendees emphasising the importance of outdoor dining which is now a permanent feature of the hospitality sector offering. The new structure at Monck Street will facilitate outdoor dining for longer periods throughout the year.

The Official opening was performed by the Mayor of Wexford, Cllr John Hegarty.

Local Enterprise Office

Succession Planning Summit

Part of the Local Enterprise Offices remit is to support Management Development, cultivating qualified successors to ensure business continuity which is a key part of succession planning and implementation. LEO Wexford collaborated with KDA Accountants in a “Succession Planning Summit” which was held in the Amber Springs Hotel in Gorey on Thursday 25th April. Professionals in the legal, taxation and accounting professions shared their expertise to guide the 130 attendees through the complexities of succession planning. Ark Farm, a LEO Wexford client spoke on his own experience in preparing his business for transition to new ownership which will now see the business continue to grow in the domestic market while also opening new international sales and marketing opportunities.



Local Enterprise Office Sponsorship of Wexford Business Awards

County Wexford Chamber in conjunction with Wexford County Council are due to honour the leading business across County Wexford in a gala awards evening to be held in Clayton Whites hotel on 24th May. The annual awards provide a platform for recognise the achievement of businesses of all sizes across the county. The Local Enterprise Office is sponsoring the County Wexford Start-Up Business of the Year Award 2024.

National Enterprise Awards

Biostor Ireland Ltd, is Wexford’s representative at the National Enterprise Awards later in May at the Mansion House, having won the County Wexford Enterprise Awards..

REGENERATION UNIT

Town Centre First

Work is progressing on the Courtown/Riverchapel Town Centre First process. The Town Regeneration Officer has had an Internal TCF Team meeting with all relevant sections in WCC and will be setting up a multidisciplinary WCC team for sections that have an involvement in the Courtown/Riverchapel area to work through the process.

The Town Regeneration Officer has also started to meet with businesspeople, community groups and residents of the area to again highlight Town Centre First and what it means for Courtown/Riverchapel.

A drop-in session will take place on Monday the 13th May 2024 in the Taravie in Courtown to seek expressions of interest from people who wish to join the new Town Centre First Team. The event will run from 2pm to 6pm with Talks from the Town Regeneration Officer on the hour as to what Town Centre first is and what the role of Town Team members means. The TRO will be there for the afternoon to talk individually to interested groups and people.

New Ross Town Centre First Team hosted a delegation from Margistar Cost Action group on the 18th April where 40 delegates/academics from 27 Countries around Europe came to New Ross to discuss Town Centre First and the New Ross experience to date on their TCF journey.



New Ross Town Team were asked to host the event in recognition of the works on Town Regeneration in recent years and the success of the Town Centre First experience. The event was a great success with presentations given by the TRO, .IE and Pilltown area action Group. The delegation were also treated to a tour of the Town highlighting public realm improvements and Town regeneration plans and initiatives given by the Deputy Chief Executive of WCC and Town Regeneration officer.



We are awaiting announcements from the Department in relation to Measures 1 & 3 of the 2024 Centre First Suite of Supports having been successful with measure 2 for Courtown/Riverchapel.

Measure 1. Town Team Support Fund: This measure will support the establishment of up to 3 Towns Centre First Teams in County Wexford. We have applied to the DRCD under this measure which provides €10,000 for capacity building and or data collection and research per Town. We expect news on this shortly.

Measure 3. In the suite of Town centre first supports is the project development measure which could see €50,000 allocated to a max 2 projects to progress these projects to shovel ready status (90% funding). We received a number of applications through the expression of Interest phase and after a shortlisting process we have 2 projects identified to progress to full application stage and are working to assist the groups in making these applications as strong as they can possibly be for what is a very competitive process.

The 2 groups are: 1. Feachtas Ealaoin t/a St Michaels Theatre.
2. Kilmore Scope

Town Centre First meetings are progressing in both Enniscorthy and New Ross with discussions ongoing in relation to the role these Town Teams can play in trying to improve the nighttime economy in both Towns. New Ross is awaiting the announcement of the RRDF applications which were projects identified through the New Ross Town Centre First Plan process.

Vacant Homes

To enhance awareness and support for owners of vacant/derelict properties and sites, the Regeneration held a series of Roadshows from the 8th to the 12th April in each Municipal District around the County. These informative events were to enlighten the public about various grants and programmes tailored to address vacant and derelict properties, ultimately contributing to the reduction of Vacancy Levels in County Wexford.

As part of this initiative we created a brochure to promote the various measures/incentives available to help support people with vacant/derelict properties.

The Events were very well attended with a substantial increase in awareness of the supports available through the workshops and also from the publicity promoting the events. We have seen a substantial increase in the number of queries for Croi Conaithe as a result of this initiative.

Current Wexford Croi Conaithe Stats as at 30th April 2024.

Actions	Number
Applications Received	277
Approved	127
Refused	3
Grants paid out	13
Awaiting Inspection	9
Awaiting Information from Applicant	125
Queries received via email to date	Over 3,000
Outstanding Queries	20

Ready to Build

In relation to Ready to Build we are looking at some possibilities for 2024. Brief details of Ready to Build are as below,

- Local authorities will make available serviced sites at reduced cost to support self-build home ownership.
- The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the Local Authority before the sale of the site but will not exceed €30,000 (being the max amount the Local Authority can claim from Department to get services to the site).
- Have direct access to adequate mains water supply and mains wastewater disposal infrastructure.
- Local Authorities will manage the prioritisation of applicants in line with the framework of priorities as outlined by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1st of January 2024 until the 26th of April 2024
501.

No. of valid applications	404
No. of invalid applications	61
Extension of Duration	16
Exempted Development Declaration	20

Numbers are those received from the 23rd of March 2024 until the 26th of April 2024.

No. of valid applications	123
No. of invalid applications	21
Extension of Duration	4
Exempted Development Declaration	7

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 26th of April 2024.

No. of pre-planning applications received from 01/01/2024	123
No. of pre-planning meetings closed from 01/01/2024	112
No. of open pre-planning applications as at 26/04/2024	45
Average days to meeting (For Applications received and closed since 01/01/2023)	65 days

Major Pre-Planning Data 2024 (up to 26th of April 2024)

- Meetings Held **26** No.
- Proposed Commercial Development **33,117** sqm. approx.
- Total No. of proposed Housing Units **798** units approx.

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

Work on Wexford Town Local Area Plan is progressing well with both site work and strategy development underway.

A joint meeting has been held with the consultants preparing the Rainwater Management Plan, the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, the Urban Design Strategy (including the Masterplan for Ballynagee and Town Centre First Strategy) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessments to co-ordinate inputs.

A number of productive workshops have been held with LOCI the consultants employed to carry-out the Urban Design and Master Planning for the Town. The consultants are initially prioritising the Ballynagee master plan and the Town Centre First Strategy and will then move to the wider plan area.

Preliminary recommendations have been received from JBA, the consultants appointed to carry out the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and discussions have been held with the OPW. This will inform land use zoning.

The consultants preparing the Rainwater Management Plan are currently preparing a pluvial model for the entire town and from which they will develop town-wide proposals for managing rainwater water including nature based solutions and guidance for developers. This will be integrated with the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy which is being prepared in tandem. Work on habitat mapping in the plan area is due to commence in late April/early May.

Section 15(2) Report on the Achievement of the Objectives of the County Development Plan

Work is ongoing on the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy

Following on from the publication of the South Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Designated Maritime Area Plan Proposal in July 2023 it is anticipated that the Draft Plan will be published by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications at the end of April. Officials from the Department will present the Draft Plan to the May meeting of the Council. We are advised that there will also be a public consultation meeting held in County Wexford in May.

Planning CSO Returns 2024

Permissions granted for new dwellings.

Month	<u>CSO</u> Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	<u>CSO</u> Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	<u>CSO</u> One-off Houses	LAC's Local Authority
January	0	2	24	5
February	93	34	15	60
March	41	32	25	7
TOTAL	134	68	64	72

* Figures to 31 March 2024

- Total number of housing units = 338
- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use.
- LAC's – Local Authority Development

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures, URDF, RZLT and Short-Term Letting

Report from 23rd March 2024 to 26th April 2024 as follows:

Derelict Sites

Number of Properties on the Derelict Sites Register	99
Number of Section 8(2) Notices issued. (notifies the owner that the Local Authority intends to list the property on the Derelict Sites Register)	5
Number of Section 8(7) Notices issued. (notifies the owner that the Local Authority has entered the property on the Derelict Sites Register)	10
Number of Section 11 Notices issued. (notifies the owner the list of works that must be carried out within a specified timeframe)	6
Number of inspections / site visits conducted	21
Number of new Derelict Sites files opened	9

Dangerous Structures

Number of new Dangerous Structure files opened	1
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Urban Development Regeneration Fund Call 3 (URDF)

On the 18th of April 2024, 2 members of the Derelict Sites team attended the URDF meeting with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Officials in the Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy, re Wexford Projects. The Department representatives were happy with the progress and work carried out by the Derelict Sites Team.

Number of sites approved on the programme is 169
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Number of sites referred to Property Management Unit for possible CPO (Focus List) per town:

Enniscorthy	9
Gorey	6
New Ross	20
Wexford	12
TOTAL	47

The cumulative number of Derelict Sites files now closed which were included on the approved programme is 29.

Short-term Letting – the letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment in the Designated Rent Pressure Zone (Gorey Electoral Area).

Total number of files currently open	10
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The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Rent Pressure Zone legislation of short-term letting is under development in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Fáilte Ireland and it is at an advanced stage. It is expected to be in place in Q2, 2024. Further correspondence will issue in due course from the DHLGH.

Building Control (23rd March 2024 – 26th April 2024)

- Validated Commencement Notices:
66
 - Number of Building Control Inspections: **26**
 - Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion: **22**
- TOTAL 114**

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as of 26th of April 2024 are as follows:

- Live Cases **390**
- Cases Opened from 1st January 2024 **98**
- Cases Closed from 1st January 2024 **68**

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2024 up to and including 26th of April 2024, totals **40**.

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	4	1	2	1	0
Gorey	9	5	3	0	1
New Ross	3	1	1	1	0
Wexford	21	2	4	15	0
Rosslare	3	0	3	0	0
2024 Totals	40	9	13	17	1

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity.

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	56
Major Pre-Planning (from 1st January 2024)	3

Access Items

The Access and Environment Sections are collaborating on a pilot scheme to offer beach strollers to assist people with mobility issues to enjoy a relaxing visit to the beach. The stroller is essentially a mobile walking aid designed for use on the sand but can also be easily configured into a seat.

The stroller will be available to use for the summer months, similar to the beach wheelchairs currently available at Ballinesker, Carne, Courtown, Curracloe, Duncannon, Kilmore Quay, Rosslare & Morriscastle.

The pilot will initially be installed at Curracloe and one other beach that has yet to be decided, with potential to expand further next summer if it is successful.

We also intend to expand the beach wheelchair facility to Ballymoney this summer, following extensive works carried out by the Environment Section to improve accessibility at the beach. The beach wheelchair will be available to book from June 1st through to the end of August, as with the other beaches with the facility in place.

More information on our accessible beaches is available here - [Beaches \(including Beach Wheelchairs\) | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](#)


Water Services



Water Services

1. Rural Water Programme



1. Rural Water	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilanerin GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole. ○ Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution. ○ GWS received a quotation from EPS for the full installation of the Nitrate Removal System. ○ Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CaimTank – WCC received estimate to carry out bypass of tank. ○ Contractor appointed - T. Swaine & Sons, work to commence in coming weeks. ○ Reservoir Bypass -Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment on works.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned. ○ Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. ○ Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites. ○ SI e-tender completed; 3 submissions received costing between €140,000 - €190,000. ○ New contractor appointed - GII Ltd. This is due to lack of progress with initial contractor on SI. ○ ROL received SI works to start first week in May.
MARWP 2024-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MARWP 2024-2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April ○ Submissions made across a range of measures totalling €5.2 million.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of 24 new well grant applications were registered in April 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 27 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €46,555. ○ 47 inspections carried out in March. ○ Workflow prototype meeting arranged for May to reinstate programme.
<p>Measure A8 –</p> <p>Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 ○ Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme. ○ Detailed programme for the delivery of project to be submitted to Dept. by 10th May 24.
<p>Lead Remediation Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 applications received to date on revised grant, 5 paid, 2 approved, 1 awaiting further documents.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Ground Investigation on-site works are ongoing. Due to the change of scope to Consultants Brief of Services in relation to the Service Areas, Park and Ride facilities and Active Travel, Ground Investigation works may extend in the coming period.

Environmental surveys are ongoing. Scope for 2024 Traffic Surveys has been finalised and issued to service providers for quotation. It is intended to carry out traffic surveys in May 2024.

Targeted Topographical Survey and Archaeological Geophysical Surveys are completed on all lands where access from landowners was granted. Due to the change of scope to Consultants Brief of Services in relation to the Service Areas, Park and Ride facilities and Active Travel, Archaeological Geophysical Surveys and Additional Topographical Surveys may extend in the coming period.

The design of the development is progressing including additional tasks in relation to the Service Area requirements, Park and Ride facilities and Active Travel.

Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.

Responses, prepared by the Project Team, to the additional information requested by the EU Commission in relation to the Connecting Europe Facilitates (CEF) funding were accepted by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Periodic Report for the Reporting Period 1 was also approved. The first interim payment has been received on 24th April 2024.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

During the Phase 4 of the project, temporary works were undertaken within the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road Route Corridor by the Contractor, working on behalf of the OPW/Irish Rail, to deliver the Rosslare Europort Infrastructure Masterplan. This temporary works has impact on the development of the Phase 5 of N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road.

Change to Consultants Brief of Services was issued to Technical Advisor on 4th March 2024 in relation to the additional work required as a result of temporary works undertaken within the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road Route Corridor. Technical Advisors are progressing through the Phase 5 (Enablement & Procurement) deliverables.

Archaeological Services (Stage 1 – 4) tender documents are under review by the TII Project Archaeologist and it is expected to publish Tender shortly. Contacts has been made with the Irish Rail Third Party Coordinator, and Irish Rail Technical Approvals Process has commenced for the proposed Railway overbridge on the scheme.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2022 Safety Schemes

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,590,000)

This scheme was tendered in November 2021. Works commenced on 23 May 2022. The roundabout is substantially completed.

Works outstanding: Landscaping works are underway. They were delayed due to the unseasonal weather and are now due to be completed in May.

N30 Tominearly

Design report will be submitted to the TII departures portal this week for Gate II approval. Currently with TII Safety Officer for any final comments. The value of the grant requested is €24,000.

N25 Tagoat

Feasibility and Options Report is currently being prepared for submission to TII for Gateway I approval. Recent design changes have been incorporated into the report and the value of the grant sought stands at €548,500.

The bus stops and shelters are being progressed ahead of this scheme and they are expected to commence construction at the start of May. This was agreed with the TII Safety Officer.

2023 Pavement Schemes

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 2 - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

Drainage works have been completed. Pavement works are expected to commence in April and will be completed by May/June.

N25 Orristown to Ashfield Cross Pavement Scheme - (Estimated Total Scheme Cost €1,600,000)

This scheme was tendered in April. A contractor will be appointed by the end of May.

HD28 N25 Blackhorse to Ballykelly Pavement Scheme – (Estimated Total Scheme Cost is €1,000,000).

This has been tendered and the contractor has been appointed.

Construction is expected to commence in May.

Former National Roads Grant 2023

Funding of €500,000 was received for the R723 Rosbercon. Pavement works were substantially completed in April. Pedestrian crossing works are underway.

VRS (Vehicle Restraint System – Safety Barrier) Maintenance

This contract commenced in 2023. To date 15 locations on the N11, N80 and N25 are complete under Planned Maintenance. One location was completed as an emergency replacement on the N11. A total of 8 inspections have been completed recently with one section planned for replacement at Carrickbyrne.

This contract is ongoing.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's allocation for 2024 is €23,437,550. This allocation includes €2,000,000 for Severe Weather damage.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The 2024 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on the 8 January at Ballynancoran.

Roads resurfaced in macadam in the last month were:

Mocurry; Templeshambo; (Both in Enniscorthy District); Courtown Road; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Ballinary Cross to Ballygowry; Gusserance to Red Sheds; Horetown to Outhouse Pub; Knockanduff Junction to Connagh Junction; Forrestalstown; (All in New Ross District); Ballylannon; Pollsallagh Wexford (Drinagh Rd); Shelmaliere Commons; Scar; Duncormick; Balloughton; Dampdown, Wexford; Ballyhust to Yolegrew; Scaughmolin-Kildavin (Deerpark); Loughnageer; Ballycronigan; Ballyhote; Ballyharty to Kilmore Hill (All in Rosslare District); Craanagam; (Wexford Borough District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme is commencing 20 May in the Enniscorthy District.

Community Involvement Schemes

A grant of €502,650 was received to complete 8 road sections this year.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

A grant of €603,000 was received to repair 14 bridges.

Severe Weather - Flood Damaged Bridges

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little in the New Ross District. Detailed designs are in progress to construct 2 new concrete beam bridges. It is hoped work will commence in July 2024.

Specific Improvement Grants

A grant of €1,005,000 was received for the Owenduff river embankment stabilisation (undermining the R733) and to pay the final account for the Deeps Bridge.

It is expected works will commence on the Owenduff river embankment in June.

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

A grant of €687,200 was received to complete 20 projects. Work has commenced on some of these projects.

Local Improvement Schemes

A list of applicants is maintained in order of date received. €850,436 has been allocated for 2024 and €619,894 allocated to 2025. This is a total of €1,470,330. The 2024 programme of lane resurfacing is being finalised.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance commenced the 16 October 2023 and finished the 30 April 2024. There were 49 salt treatments during the recent season.

General Maintenance

Drainage, patching and road surface repair works are ongoing in all Districts.

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Works are progressing on footpath upgrades, new protected cycle paths and resurfacing on the Newtown Road. Two new bus stops with shelters are being provided outside the Maldron Hotel, one on either side of the road.

In addition, and currently under construction, there will be a safe pedestrian crossing provided to assist those bus passengers who are currently crossing four lanes of traffic off this busy roundabout. It is hoped to have both bus stops in place and complete before end of June 2024.



Partially complete road resurfacing outside the Maldron Hotel on the Newtown Road

Newtown Road Phases Two and Three (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

Phases Two & Three are now at detailed costings stage with work currently underway on the preparation of tender documents. The scheme will pass through the junction at Wexford General Hospital /Carricklawn which will see a major upgrade to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians as they move through the

junction. This will be undertaken as part of the connectivity across town on the proposed Beechlawn to Clonard Cycle Scheme.

Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

This project will focus on providing active travel infrastructure for those living, working, shopping and going to school in the Beechlawn/Clonard area of town. The major junctions such as the double roundabout at Clonard Church, the major junction at the Hospital on Newtown Road/Carricklawn and the junction of Whitemill Road and Clonard Avenue adjacent to Kennedy Park National School will be upgraded to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project)

Proposals for improvements to active travel facilities at Roxborough, Wexford Town from Drinagh to Maudlintown are being finalised. The preliminary design is being finalised following which we will proceed to a Part 8 Planning process, is anticipated to commence in May 2024.

Safe Routes to School Launches

Two events were held on April the 22nd to launch two recently completed Safe Routes to School Schemes. The first event was held at St. Aidan's Primary School in Enniscorthy where Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Jack Chambers, TD and Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council Cllr John Fleming performed the opening ceremony in the company of Frank Murphy, Scheel Principal, pupils and staff at the school. The Minister and Cathaoirleach then travelled to Rosslare Strand where they performed a second opening ceremony of that scheme outside Scoil Mhuire National School.

Both schemes have involved considerable upgrades to footpaths, junction tightening and pedestrian crossings in the vicinity of the schools to enhance safety and to give children and parents a safe alternative to the car for short journeys.



Outside St. Aidan's National School where front of school improvements have enhanced pupil safety to promote walking to school



Minister of State at the Department of Transport Jack Chambers shares a punnet of Wexford strawberries with children from Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare Strand

Wexford Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Work is well advanced on the Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment which will help to inform sustainable mobility policy of the town into the future.

The Active Travel team is working with the Planning Section and District Engineers of Wexford County Council together with public transport operators, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport Authority to develop this plan which takes a strategic view of sustainable transport for the future of Wexford town.

The plan will shortly be presented to the National Transport Authority for their review followed by presentation to the Elected Members and Council Management Team.

Public eBike Sharing Scheme

There is currently a fleet of 80 eBikes in Wexford town available for bike sharing. The scheme was brought in as a trial in May 2023 but due to popularity and demand will be extended.

There are now approximately 42 eBike parking locations spread across the town from which a person can take or leave back a bike. The bikes are typically used by those travelling within the town for shorter journeys and for a small fee.

The Active Travel team held a number of training sessions aimed particularly those nervous about cycling or using the app. These will be repeated due to demand during the upcoming Bike week.

Bike Week 2024

Plans are being finalised for a range of events for Bike Week 2024 which takes place this year from the 11th to the 19th of May. All events are now open for booking and are available to view on the Wexford County Council Website at [Bike Week 2024 | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie). Events include cargo bike demonstrations, bike maintenance sessions, adapted bike try outs, night bike rides, teenage hangouts at the Courtown BMX club, balance bike buddies sessions, sessions for children with additional needs, family fun cycles and a bike picnic and family slow roll in Gorey.

Sustainable Drainage System outside the Presentation School on Grogan's Road

An area of SuDS to manage surface water was introduced as part of a traffic calming project outside the Presentation Secondary School in Wexford Town. As a result, it provided an opportunity for some planting of perennials in 3 beds. Species chosen were for tough urban situations but also which had benefits for pollinators.



Outside the Presentation before works – picture from Google street view



Newly planted area outside the school and across the street



Staff from the Wexford District planting the perennial plants in the new flower beds outside the Presentation Secondary School



A selection of the plants used

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 12,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

Design works are completed.

Over 93% of lanterns have been upgraded to LED to date.

Funding applications are with TII to upgrade the lights on the 3 roundabouts on the M11 at Scurlocksbush, Templescoby and Milehouse to LED.

We hope to get the remaining non-national road lanterns upgraded to LED by the end of 2025.

Cost savings continue to be used to fund the public lighting development programme including infill lighting where required. It will also be required to fund cable repairs on the older cable networks in the towns. This is increasingly becoming a major cost element to our maintenance budget.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting will be installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund.

- Ramsfort Avenue and Garden City, Gorey – civil works to commence the 1st May 24.
- The Ballagh – Church to the school – The lights are installed and certified, we are only awaiting ESB connection date.
- The Ballagh – Ballagh Cove – The lights are installed and certified, we are only awaiting the ESB connection date.
- Ballymitty – Lights are connected and will be operational from the 5/5/24.
- Redshire Rd, Murrintown – Lights are connected and will be operational from the 5/5/24.

Projects currently out for pricing in Kilmuckrudge, Castlebridge and Ballindaggin.

Smaller infill projects are also taking place in each district using our maintenance contractor.

Parking Management

A review of the parking infrastructure, systems and facilities has been undertaken in the four towns. Currently, new Pay & Display machines are being installed in the four towns and a number of the new machines are card enabled.

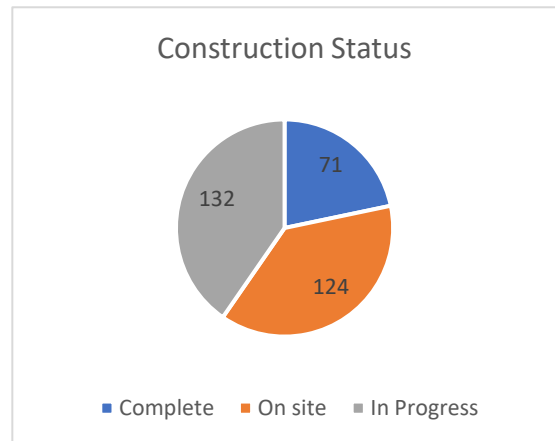
Following a tender process, a new eparking provider has been appointed. Commissioning of the system is ongoing and the new eparking app will be launched later this year.


Housing Supply

Capital Projects

Summary Housing for All 2022-2026

Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings to Complete in 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete in 2025	70
Dwellings to Complete in 2026	132
Dwellings to be funded in HFA	12
Affordable Housing	78
Other Preliminary figures	388



Dwellings Complete under Housing for All in 2022				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District		
Carleys Bridge	17	Enniscorthy		Dwellings complete in Feb 2022
Glentire, The Ballagh	7	Gorey		Dwellings complete July 22
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare		Dwellings complete December 22
 <p>Rosetown 23 Phase 1</p>				
Glascanny	1	Wexford		TAP Dwelling complete June 22
Total	48			

Dwellings Complete 2023				
Project	No of Units	Municipal District	Current Status	Comment
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Complete	Complete Dec 2023.
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>Whiterock Hill 22 Phase 1</p> </div> <div style="flex: 2;">  </div> </div>				
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Complete	Complete June 23
Total	23			
Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2024				
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced Feb 23. To Complete 2024. On Target.
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 2;">  </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;"> <p>Womens Refuge 12 Maudlintown</p> </div> </div>				
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Under Construction	To Complete Q4 2024. On Target.
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Under Construction	Construction commenced June 23. To Complete Q3 2024. On Target.

**Rosetown 12
Phase 2**



Ballyhine, Barntown	8	Wexford	Under Construction	Construction commenced May 23 To Complete Q3 2024.
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**Ballyhine 8
Wexford**




Total	54			
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Dwellings to complete in 2025

Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Commenced on site July 23. Progressing to programme. To complete 2025.
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**Wexford Street,
Gorey**



Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Under Construction	DB Contract. On site. Re routing ESB overheads and site preparation underway. To complete 2025
Creagh	22	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction	Commence on site Q1 24. DB Contract. On Site, all units commenced. To complete 2025.
Creagh 22, Gorey				
Total	70			
Funded Projects for delivery 2025 - 2026				
Francis Street	2	Wexford	SS Approved	Three tenders received Feb 24. Assess tenders and appoint contractor in Q2 2024
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Stage 2	Demolitions complete. Stage 3 Q2 2024 and Tender in Q2 2024.
Rosbercon	50 +(est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Invasive Species removal complete. Site Investigations to commence Q2 24. To proceed as a DB contract.
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 2	Part VIII approved in February 2024. Stage 3 and tender documentation to follow in Q2 24.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle A – Monomolin and Ballygillane. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding application. Part VIII approved Jan 2024. Submit Funding for Bundle A Q2 24. Site clearance complete.
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle A as above. Part VIII approved Sept 23. Funding Q2 24. Demolition of derelict house Q2 24
Grogans Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle B – Grogans Road and Adamstown. DB Contract. Consultants appointed for preliminary works for funding. Part VIII approved March 2024. Funding application Q2 2024

Grogan's Road, 4 Wexford				
Adamstown	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Bundle B as above. Part VIII approved March 2024. Funding application Q2 2024.
TOTAL	132			

Dwellings yet to be funded in Housing for All Programme

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District	Comment	
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Archaeology complete SS Funding application to DHLGH April 2024
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Single Stage	Surveys Complete. SS Submission Q2 2024
Belvedere	8	Wexford	Single Stage	Preparing revised proposal.
TOTAL	12			

Affordable Housing

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment	
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	Tender assessment complete. Sign contracts for DB in Q2 24. Site Start Q2 24.	
Ramsfort Park 20, Gorey	 			
St Walerans	58	Gorey	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including affordable units received Oct 23. Documents being prepared for Stage 2 Q2 24	
TOTAL	78			

Projects in Design / Pipeline to 2031

Location	Units	Municipal District	Comment
Clonard	56	Wexford	Pre Planning 12 Dec 23. Stage 1 Funding Approved April 2024. Project will progress as a Design Build contract.
St Waleran's	58	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Expressions of interest from developers and consortia for 173 houses including 60 social dwellings received. Documents being prepared for Stage 2 Q2 24
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys. Clear site and Pre Planning Q2 24
Group TAP Housing	5	Wexford	Levels Survey complete, Site Layout for discussion with stakeholders complete. Brief received March 2024, layout to be reviewed.
The Lyre	70	Enniscorthy	Preliminary master plan and pre planning complete. Site Investigations / surveys in Q2 24.
Castlemoyle	75	New Ross	Master Planning nearing completion for land transfer to WCC.
Bunclody PPP	65	Enniscorthy	Part of Bundle 7. Team lead Dublin City Council
Kilmore Quay	12	Rosslare	Closing out purchase and prepare to clear site for surveys. Preliminary layouts being prepared Q2 2024
Park	12	Wexford	Site cleared for levels and ground surveys Sketch Design in Q1 24
Cluain Fada	21	New Ross	Pre Planning complete. Combined Stage 1/2 funding application submitted April 2024.
TOTAL	388		

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Projects at Planning Stages

1.1 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

The Planning Department in collaboration with Special Projects has developed a strategic plan for Enniscorthy town centre, which was adopted at the Enniscorthy MD meeting in December 2022.

Regeneration works to the Market Square, Enniscorthy Castle Quarter and Templeshannon will form part of the Call 4 URDF application expected in Q3 2023.

The Part 8 process for Market Square and town centre street enhancement was commenced on 4th October 2023, which was designed by Moloney O'Beirne Architects & Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. Following a public submission, An Bord Pleanála have requested further information from WCC in relation to the proposed development. This was submitted to ABP on 18th December 2023.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project has now also commenced and it is intended to submit a Part 8 planning application for this in Q2 2024.

ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This masterplan will be completed in time for the forthcoming URDF application.

ILLUSTRATED VIEW 01

VIEW FROM CASTLE STREET INTO MARKET SQUARE SPACE



1.2 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building

Phase 1 – Forth Mountain Activity Park, Trails and Carpark is complete. The activity centre building and boathouse are currently subject of a scope review.

1.3 Gorey District Park

The park is substantially completed and is now fully open to the public. The second invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit did not result in an award of contract. A third invitation to tender for the Changing Places unit was advertised on eTenders. Tenders have been received and a contract awarded. The Changing Places unit has been installed with snagging to be completed by the end of May.



1.4 John Street Grainstore, New Ross

A Part 8 process for the Grainstore and building extension elements was commenced on 7th February 2024. An application for Category 1 funding, under the RRDF, was submitted on 8th February. A further development consent application will be made to An Bord Pleanála in the coming months for the public realm area to the rear of the property.



1.5 WEXFORDIA – Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

WCC secured RRDF Category 2 and Category 1 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. The preliminary design has been extended to include a design for a new Visitor Centre in order to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Bord Pleanála in Q3 2024.

Hook Lighthouse

Tandem Design have been appointed to provide Interpretive Design services on a new tourism development at the Hook Lighthouse. A commencement meeting took place on 6th November and subsequent site visit took place on 22nd November where the Consultants met with the Manager and Board of Hook Heritage and representatives from Irish Lights and Fáilte Ireland. A Preliminary Research report was compiled in December 2023 and the Preliminary design for the Interpretive and Concept Design of the project is expected in Q2 2024.

The Brief for the associated architectural and related design services will be issued in Q2 2024 as part of the framework created for Architectural services focused on tourism and recreation projects.

It is expected that the full preliminary design including Environmental reports, Interpretative and Architectural Designs will be completed in Q2 2025 and submitted to An Bord Pleanála at that time.



New Ross Tourism Project

The renovation of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre is progressing with contractors now appointed for the Exhibition Fit out and installation, Graphic print, Digital Hardware, Audio Content and Digital Content Creation for the improvements to the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience.

The works on this project are now underway and planned to be completed by Q2 2024. Bright Ireland have been appointed as Interpretive designers for the Norman Visitor Centre and a kick off meeting took place on the 7th March 2024. Concept Design has begun on this project which will lead into Preliminary Design in the coming weeks.

A framework for Architectural services for tourism projects has been advertised with stage 1 submissions received and assessment now complete. Tenders have been invited from shortlisted candidates in recent weeks with the award of contract anticipated in Q2 2024.

1.6 Esmonde Street, Gorey

An on-site meeting took place with the Members in Gorey – Kilmuckridge MDC in February 2023 and proposals for the street were discussed. A presentation was made to the Members in April 2023. The Members advised to proceed to detailed design with the proposed plans, with works expected to commence on-site in January 2024. €2m of own funds is committed to the Esmonde Street project.

A further redesign of the proposed public realm improvement project, which included an increase in on-street parking from previous proposal and a revised layout for cycling infrastructure, was presented to the members of GKMD in November 2023. The members approved implementing the plan as proposed, with minor amendments. The project is currently progressing through detailed design, with a tender competition for a works contractor to be published to etenders in June 2024, with an expected construction commencement of September 2024.



1.7 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

All planning and design work on the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has now been suspended following the publication of the All-Ireland Rail Review. The draft report issued in July 2023 appears to promote reopening of the train line in future.

The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced in parallel with the Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand greenway project.

1.8 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are ongoing. The scoping and route options process is ongoing. A second public consultation on the preferred route corridor options is imminent and it is now expected to confirm a preferred route in Q3 2024. Submission to An Bord Pleanála is programmed for Q3 2025.

Fehily Timoney & Company are also project technical advisors for the Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand greenway. Public consultation on route options for this greenway will take place in parallel with the Wexford to Rosslare Strand route. It is planned to confirm a preferred route in Q3 2024, with an expected Part 8 application (subject to screening) to follow.

1.9 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

Following a competitive tender process, RPS Ltd was appointed to undertake the Preliminary Design and Statutory Consents Phase of the Courtown coastal protection and beach nourishment scheme.

It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in 2024, subject to advance approval of a Marine Area Consent by the Marine Area Regulatory Authority.

1.10 Crescent Quay – Dredging

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to provide design services for dredging works at Crescent Quay. The sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material, to inform the statutory consent process, is complete and results have been assessed. Further to a Preliminary design report issued by the consultants in August 2023, the scope of the project is currently under review.

1.11 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O’Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sports Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and no contract was awarded. Further ‘top-up’ funding of €150,000 has now been awarded under the LSSIF scheme. The design documents for the redesigned Sport’s Hub have been issued to the OPW for approval, prior to retendering.

1.12 Ferndale Gymnasium and MUGAs, Wexford:

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII approved was received in 2022 and a design team has been appointed to prepare detailed designs and tender documents for the works. The works were tendered in August and the tenders received in September. Tenders exceeded the available budget, so a design review for the building is currently being undertaken by the Design Team. This revised design has completed detailed design, and a tender for the Construction of the Gymnasium building was advertised on

Etenders on 22nd March 2024. The tender period has now closed, and tenders received are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that a Contract for these works will be awarded in May 2024 with construction commencing thereafter.



Sole Sports and Leisure Ltd. have been awarded the contract, following public tender, for the construction of two MUGAs at an adjacent site, following confirmation of €100,000 in grant funding through the 2023 Community Recognition Fund. Works commenced on site in August 2023. Completion is expected imminently.

1.13 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

WCC received Stage 2 compliance approval from Fáilte Ireland for the development of facilities to support water sports activities at Whitegap, Curracloe. The project will include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers.

Following the tender process for design services in Jan 2022, Neville Conroy Architects was appointed. Surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023.

Tenders for the enabling works package, published to etenders in December 2023, are currently being assessed. Tenders for the construction of the main building were received on 22nd March 2024, and are also currently being assessed.



1.14 Adoration Convent Wexford

Part 8 approval is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. The appointment of Stephen Carr Architects has been approved by GSU, and preliminary design and associated survey works are now complete. This was formally presented to GSU in January 2024. It is intended to tender out these works out in Q2 2024 with works to commence in Q4 2024.



1.15 New Ross Skate Park

Fehily Timoney and Company (with sub-consultants Brady Shipman Martin) have been engaged to prepare a preliminary design and Part 8 submission documentation for a new skate park for New Ross, to be located adjacent the Greenway car park in Rosbercon. Commencement of the Part 8 process is expected in May 2024.

1.16 St Waleran's Link Road

We are preparing a brief and tender documents for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design, Environmental Impact Assessment and submission to ABP for approval.

It is planned to issue an invitation to tender in May with appointment expected in July.

1.17 Ballynagee Link Road

We are preparing a brief and tender documents for the procurement of a consultant to undertake preliminary design and preparation of a Part 8 submission (subject to screening). It is planned to issue an invitation to tender in May with appointment expected in July.

1.18 Gorey Market House

To support an application for funding under the EU THRIVE scheme, we have developed a proposal for Part 8 approval which will be advertised on May 1st, subject to a Special Meeting of GKMD on April 30th. This proposal will restore the market house to original condition, will develop it for multi-purpose community use, will involve some essential extension to the building for access and facilities and will develop an exciting public realm space linking from Main Street, through the Market House property and back to Market Square.

The THRIVE application deadline is May 3rd.

2. Projects Under Construction

2.1 South East Greenway

Phase 1 of the South East Greenway - New Ross to Glenmore was officially opened on the 25th of July 2023. Work on Phase 2, a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore commenced on site on 13 November 2023.

The tender to procure a technical advisor to complete The Southeast Greenway was commenced in December 2023 but we received no tender submissions. Tenders were reinvited with a tenders received on 8th April 2024. Tender assessment is ongoing. We expect to appoint a technical advisor in May.

Failte Ireland have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to create an Interpretation and wayfinding plan for SEG. Failte Ireland gave a presentation on the Southeast Greenway Interpretation Plan - Public Consultation Findings and Analysis to the four MDs that the greenway runs through, in January 2024.



2.2 Trinity Wharf

The contract for the construction of the access road was awarded to Glas Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023 and works are now almost at substantial completion. Streetscape and surface finishes on Trinity Street and the future access road are complete, and the installation of street furniture is nearing completion.



Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works for the next phase is complete and Ayesa has been appointed to undertake this work with their design partners. The next main works contract is scheduled to commence on site in Q1/Q2 2025 and will involve site development and enabling works.

2.3 New Ross Emigrants' Park

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site. The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was complete in July 2021.

RRDF funding of €814,393 for the project was announced in November 2022. The works are now complete and the park was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphrey's on 26th October 2023. The Emigrant park was the winner of the LAMA best urban planning award 2024.



2.4 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

The works contract for essential maintenance works at the Mechanics Institute has been awarded to Roger Doyle Contractors and works commenced on site in January 2023. The main contract work is substantially complete with conservation work to the rear to begin at the end of April.



2.5 Oyster Lane Site, Wexford

A Part VIII submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site, including the construction of a temporary surface level car park. Part 8 approval was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting. A further Part 8 submission has since been approved for erection of a temporary performance structure and public realm area, instead of a surface carpark.

O'Connor Sutton Cronin consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design and construction related consultancy services for the project.

The demolition contract was awarded to John Tinnelly & Sons (Ireland) Ltd, with an extension to the main works contract also agreed for the demolition of the former Dun Mhuire Theatre. All demo works onsite are now complete.

The procurement process for the provision of the temporary performance structure at the site was unsuccessful with costs greatly exceeding the available budget. We are now looking at alternative options.

A works tender has been issued in March for surfacing works to the site to make it suitable for use as a public space.



2.6 Murphy Floods Redevelopment

WCC has recently acquired the former Murphy Floods Hotel site, and adjacent derelict properties, in Enniscorthy Town Centre. The Council now seeks to advance a proposal to redevelop this vacant plot, which has previously secured Part 8 consent in July 2022. O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers were appointed in May 2023 to undertake full stage design services for the demolition and site preparation elements of the scheme.

A tender competition to appoint a works contractor for the demolition works onsite has commenced and tender assessment is underway. Phase 1 works are anticipated to commence on site in Q2 2024.

3. Projects Delivered under the Economic & Community Development Programme

	Project	Date Delivered
1	Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1: Trails & Carpark	2021
2	Enniscorthy Technological Park, Phase 1	2021
3	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy Active Travel, Phase 1	2022
4	Gorey District Park	2022
5	Min Ryan Park	2022
6	Wexford Arts Centre Extension	2022
7	Monck Street Enhancement Scheme	2022
8	New Ross Fire Station	2022
9	High Hill Norman Gardens, New Ross	2022
10	Emigrants Park, New Ross	2023



4. Flood Defence Schemes

4.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Statutory Process

The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie. Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy. The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan, and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme. It was confirmed that the Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme will proceed on a phased basis.

Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme - Phase 1 - New River Slaney Bridge Project

This phase of the project will include the construction of the new River Slaney Bridge, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre. The baseline data for this phase is currently being updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are complete. The planning application is to be submitted in Q2 2025.

Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme - Phase 2 - Flood Relief Works Project :

This phase of the scheme will include the construction of the main flood relief measures for Enniscorthy town. The project baseline data is to be updated, scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. It will then be necessary to decide on the most appropriate planning route for the scheme. The hydrology and environmental baseline data is currently being updated; ecology survey reports are to be completed in Q2 2024.

4.2 Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Tenders have been issued by the Consultant Engineer for the following

- Flow Monitoring survey (in surface water sewers)
- Topographical Survey

The environmental sub-consultants have commenced work on the Preliminary Ecology Assessment for the scheme.

The wintering bird survey is now complete for the 2023-2024 period and the breeding bird survey has commenced.

The Consultant Engineer has issued the Hydrology Report on 17th April this is now in the 8-week review period. The report has been circulated to the Steering Group and it was also distributed internally in WCC to the Environment section.

The Consultant Engineers have not completed the review the Irish National Heritage Park submission. The Carpark in the Irish National Heritage Park suffered extensive tidal flooding on the 8th April 2024 which resulted in 100% of the parking inaccessible.



UKRAINIAN RESPONSE & INTEGRATION TEAM UPDATE

Accommodation

The team continue to place displaced Ukrainian families who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Orders (BOTP's) in properties across Wexford, in both rural and urban areas.

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	213	699
Irish Red Cross	43	135

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 29/04/24 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Letters of Intent have issued for 7 properties with a further property undergoing the early stages of assessment.

Local Authority Integration Team

Information clinics are being hosted in accommodation centres throughout the County and engagement levels are high. People are seeking support to access additional English language classes, employment support and activities for youth. In response FDYS have set up an additional youth service in the Rosslare district and we are working with WWETB, Intreo and Business in the Community to support the community.

The LAIT is continuing to support integration through our support of community projects and this month partnered with Wexford Borough Council to support/host a 'thank you' evening for the Volunteers from the IPAS centre in Slaney Manor who so generously give their time to keep Wexford beautiful.



Wexford Tidy town celebrating the Volunteers from Slaney Manor at the Arts Centre
Quotes have been sought for the development of the Migrant Integration Strategy and it is expected that the work will commence in the early summer.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Type	
Freedom of Information	14
Customer Complaint	21
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	1
Data Access Request	1
Total	38

PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

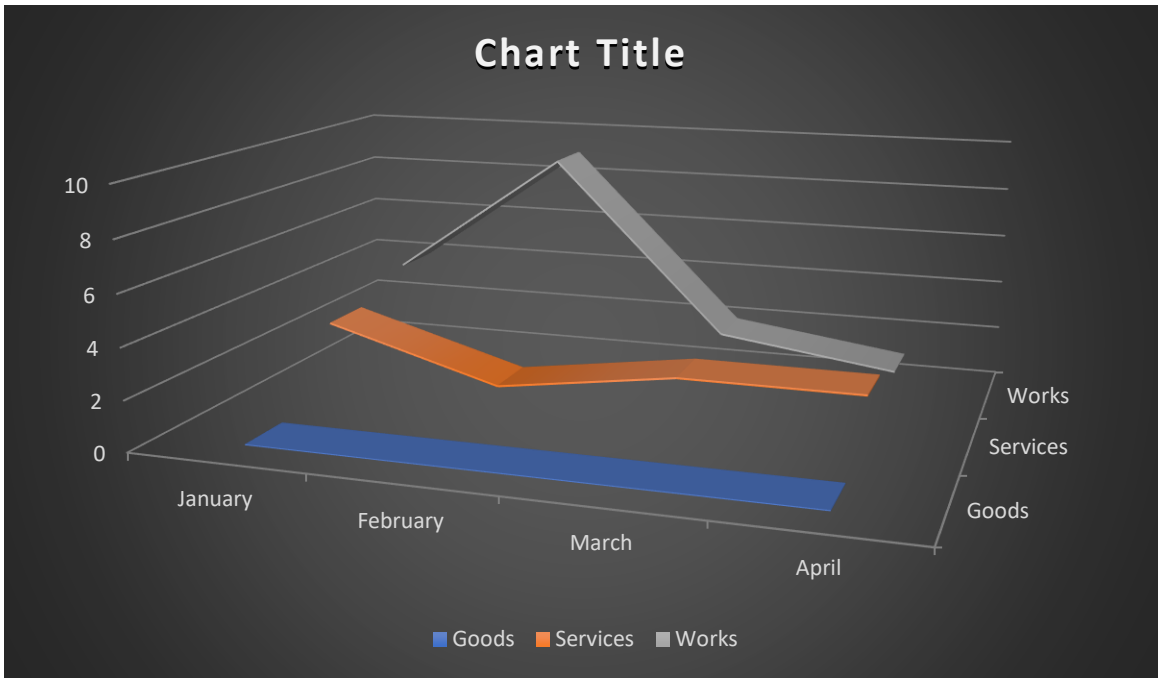
Tenders from 1st April 2024 to 30th April 2024

No. of Tenders Uploaded

Type	
Goods	0
Services	2
Works	1
TOTAL	3
Total Estimated Value	€5875000.00

No. of Tenders Received

TOTAL	5
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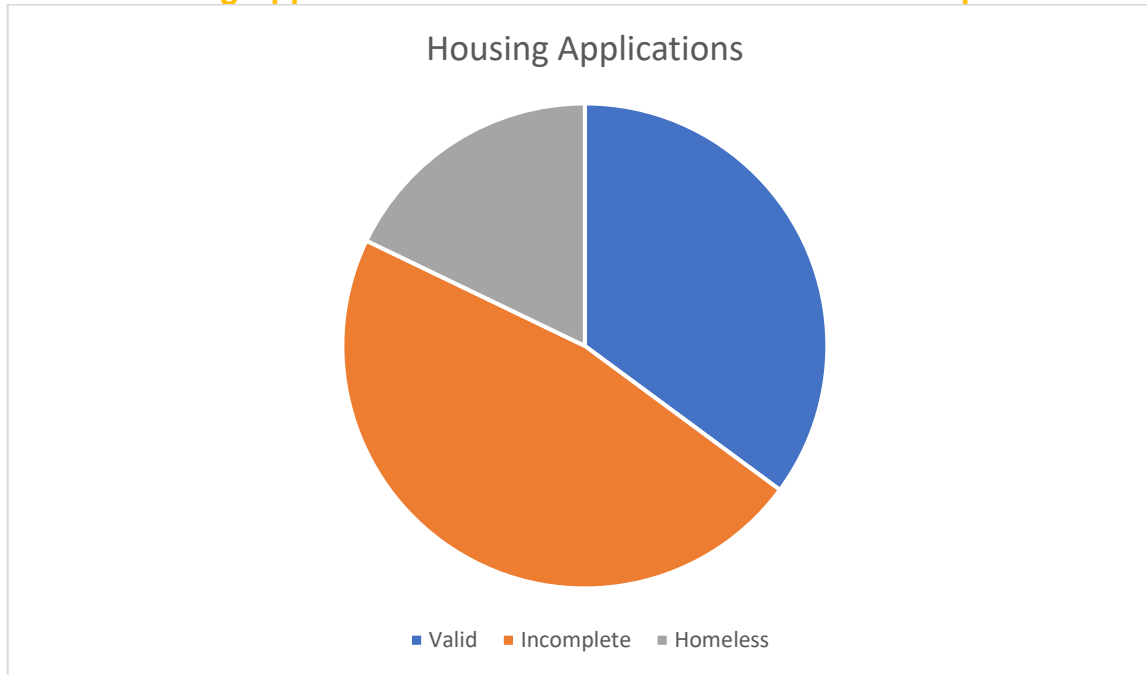


CSU Stats

CSU Stats – Phone Calls, Emails and Cases Handled – 22 March to 24 April 2024

Area	22 March to 24 April 2024
Phone Calls	3,149
Environmental Complaints	481
Change of Circumstances	31
Housing Validation	168
Quick Calls	1,579
Roads Fault Log	110
Emails (Received & Sent)	3,197
Web Updates / Consultations	83
Newspaper Adverts	29

Social Housing Application Validation Stats – 22 March to 24 April 2024



Members Portal Queries by Section – 22 March to 24 April 2024

Section	Closed	Open	Total
Customer Service Unit	0	1	1
Enniscorthy Municipal District	1	3	4
Environment	2	13	15
Finance	0	1	1
Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District	0	4	4
Housing	30	131	161
Planning	3	4	7
Roads	1	4	5
Roads – Enniscorthy MD	4	26	30
Roads – Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD	8	21	29
Roads – New Ross MD	2	8	10
Roads – Rosslare MD	1	2	3
Roads – Wexford MD	4	15	19
Water – Non Irish Water Queries	1	1	2
Wexford Municipal District	5	3	8
TOTAL	62	237	299

COMMUNICATIONS

Monthly Communications Report Month: April 2024



Top Performing Posts

Recruitment



18.1K views

Weather Warning



1.7K impressions

Recruitment



1.2K Views

Monthly Social Media Stats



	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	75.3K	10.5K	9,020	165	29
	PAGE REACH	PAGE VISITS	PAGE FOLLOWS	NEW PAGE LIKES	NUM OF POSTS
	2.3K	335	3172	82	29
	IMPRESSIONS	PAGE FOLLOWERS	NEW FOLLOWERS		
	39.8K	14,358	0		

We're working on improvements to analytics.twitter.com. In the meantime, you may see some metrics are missing. You can access your Tweet Analytics and download reports [here](#). You can try the new version of account analytics beta [here](#).

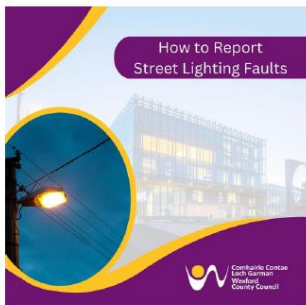
Monthly Social Media Content

- Bike Week
- May Bush - County Hall
- Illegal Dumping Fines
- Safe Route to Schools
- Sports Active Mailing List
- Drama League of Ireland Scholarship
- Community Recognition Fund - Information Meetings
- May Day Ceremony
- Community Centre Fund Announcement
- Community Recognition Fund
- Wexford's Cruinniú na nÓg Gets Gaming
- Slow Down Campaign
- Increase Cost of Business Grant - Drop In Clinics
- How to report Street Lighting Faults
- Recruitment
- Just One Life
- Networking events at Rosslare Municipal District
- LEO - Evaluation & Approvals Committee Membership
- Shopfront Improvement Scheme - Enniscorthy

- Scam Callers - Clonroche Area
- Temporary Weighbridge Closure
- Volunteers - Fleadh Cheoil
- Enniscorthy Riverside Trail Update
- Vacant/Derelict Properties and Sites Roadshow
- Weather Warning
- Affordable Housing Survey



Monthly Engagements



Rosslare Municipal District Network Meetings

Tuesday 9th April saw the first in a series of Community Networking Events for the Rosslare Municipal District held at the Murrinstown Community Centre. The event featured a showcase of the village, an update on the Rosslare Strategic Plan 2024-2030 as well as presentations from the LEADER Programme and Age Friendly Ireland on "Healthy Age Friendly Homes". The event was attended by Rosslare MD Elected Members and community groups from across the district. The next Community... [See more](#)



Just One Life Campaign



Well done to all involved, my son who turns 17 today, driving age, attended it and it made a huge impact on him, traumatic but something that needed to be seen.

I reported broken lights in Ferns weeks ago and there still not fixed

1w Like Reply Hide

Wexford County Council Hi I have been speaking to our engineer and he has asked if you could contact us on 053 9196000 or email customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie. Thanks.

Very impressed with the women on the night. Great presentations.

Press Releases April 2024

05.04.24 COMMEMORATING THE 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 RISING IN ENNISCORTHY

08.04.24 Clonroche Amenity Park planted as part of The 100 Million Tree Project.

15.04.24 ADOPTION OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN 2024 – 2029

22.04.24 Monck Street - the first street in Ireland to have a roof cover its entire length.

22.04.24 Excellence in Service to the Community and Sporting Achievements acknowledged at Civic Reception.

25.04.24 Libraries Capital Programme for County Wexford

26.04.24 Completion of 'Safe Route to School Scheme' at St. Aidan's Primary School is marked by visit from Minister of State Jack Chambers

26.04.24 Minister of State Jack Chambers, visits Rosslare school to mark completion of 'Safe Routes to Scheme' works.

29.04.24 Funding approved for state of the art Community Centre at Riverchapel Community Complex

29.04.24 Sing Along with Pete and Aileen! Free Music & Song Sessions for month of May 2024 - Bealtaine Festival 2024

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexford-county-council-press-releases-2024>

Press Queries April 2024

3 Press Queries received in April.

Queries:

- Coastal Erosion
- Farm Inspections
- Planning Enforcement - Log Cabins

3 responses issued.



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below.

Housing For All 2022-2026

1,159 Target	–	(527 Units Delivered	+	773 Units Projected	=	1,300 Delivery Pipeline)	=	141 Shortfall/Over
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It is the Council's intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists and Department funding is available.

The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report.

Turnkey Delivery

The Housing Section periodically seeks Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. A new Expression of Interest is due to open on the 8th May, 2024 and will run until 20th June 2024. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Project Address	No of Units	Unit Profile	Municipal District Area	Comment
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	8 x 1-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Castlelands, Ferns	20	6 x 2-bed 14 x 3-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	29	11 x 2-bed 28 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q1 2025
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	20 x 2-bed 20 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q2 2024
Mangan, Hollyfort	2	2 x 3-Bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To Deliver Q1 2025
Churchview, Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Ph2)	14	14 x 2-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q2 2024
Holly Way, Clonhasten	5	5 X 2-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	14	3 X 2-bed 9 X 3-bed 2 X 4-bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2025
Ard an Bhile, New Ross	32	8 X 2 bed 8 X 3 bed 12 X 2 bed apt 4 X 1 bed apt	New Ross	To deliver from Q1 2025
Spring View, Gorey	12	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Gorey	To deliver Q1 2025

Coolballow, Wexford	20	20 X 2 bed	Wexford	To deliver from Q1 2025
Carrig-on-Bannow	10	5 X 1 bed 5 X 2 bed	Rosslare	To deliver from Q3 2025
Forgelands, Enniscorthy	12	11 X 3 bed 1 X 4 bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver from Q2 2025
TOTAL	218			

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Bed no.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd	6	6 x 2-bed	Enniscorthy	2 to deliver Q2 2024, 2 to Deliver Q4 2024 2 to Deliver Q2 2025
An Glasan, Greenville Lane	8	8 x 1-bed apt	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	2	2 x 3-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units to deliver Q2 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	2	4 x 2-bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units to be delivered Q1 2025
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	2 x 2-bed 2 x 2-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units to deliver Q2 2024 2 units to Deliver Q2 2025
Spring View, Gorey Hill	8	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under Construction. To deliver on phased basis from Q2 2024.
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd	2	2 x 3-bed	Wexford	Delays on site To deliver Q3 2024
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	2	2 x 3-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	2 units to deliver Q3 2024
Ard Uisce, Wexford	10	6 X 2-bed 2 X 2-bed 2 X 2-bed	Wexford	2 units to deliver Q3 2024, 4 units to deliver Q1 2025, 2 units to deliver Q2 2025, 2 units to deliver Q4 2025
TOTAL	50			

Approved Housing Body Delivery

Project Address	No of Units	Bed No.	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cluid				
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	New Ross	To deliver Q4 2025
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	86	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval received. To Deliver Q2 2026

Beechfield, Clonard	50	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2025
Tuath				
Ramstown, Gorey Phase 3	30	21 x 2-bed 9 x 3 bed	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	30 units to deliver Q2 2024

Co Operative Housing Ireland (CHI)				
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	22 x 3-bed 2 x 4 -bed	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2024
Forth View, Murrintown	23	9 X 2-bed 14 X 3-bed	Rosslare	To deliver Q3 2024
Pairc na Bearna Enniscorthy	5	5 X 3bed	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q2 2024
Focus				
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6	6 X 1-bed apts	Gorey	To deliver Q2 2024
TOTAL	272			

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 500 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	91
Gorey	89
New Ross	73
Rosslare	83
Wexford	164
Total	500

Approved Housing Body Forum



On the 24th of May the Housing department hosted an approved Housing Body AHB Forum in County Hall. We were joined by 13 of our AHB Partners and discussed housing delivery and services. The purpose of the Forum was to promote co-operation and develop partnership opportunities between Wexford County Council and Approved Housing Bodies to achieve our shared objective to deliver and manage homes for individuals and families who need support in meeting their accommodation needs.

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st to 26th April 2024:

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Wexford	Rosslare	Total
Repair Requests (1 st – 26 th April 2024)	147	109	123	166	97	642
Repair Requests Year to Date	681	402	596	737	416	2832
Accommodation Units Repaired (1 st – 26 th April 2024)	113	79	91	114	77	474
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	497	306	450	542	306	2101
CLOSED Repair Requests (1 st – 26 th April 2024)	84	44	82	89	72	371
CLOSED Repairs Requests Year to Date	387	195	385	419	251	1637

Note: The housing maintenance requests do not include duplicate calls for the same job, the ihouse system only records individual repair jobs.

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022 was the second year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets set by the Department for Wexford to date.

Department Targets for County Wexford	
Year	No of Properties
2021	54
2022	68
2023	51
Total	173

The range of works undertaken in the properties include external wall and attic insulation, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting, high efficiency boilers, and upgraded heating system and controls. All properties received a minimum of a B2 BER rating after the works were completed.

Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 147 properties in 2023. Completing the balance of our 2021 to 2023 targets in 2023. The value of the grant funded works for 2023 was €3.99 million.

The 2024 allocation has been received from the department with an approval given for a target of 116 units: 56 of which have been completed.

Planned Maintenances 2023/2024 Windows and Doors

Status update January to October 2023	Status
Gorey District – Baile Eoghain – Windows and Doors	Complete
Wexford District – Ferndale Terrace – Windows and Doors	Complete
Enniscorthy – Ard Alainn & Father Murphy Close Windows and Doors	Completed
Wexford District - Churchview Wexford & Wexford 1offs (incl. Rosslare MD)	Completed
Doors Only Tender – Countywide	Works underway

Affordable Housing Programme



BREAKFAST BRIEFING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY - 09th May 2024

Affordability and the chance to own a home are being placed at the heart of national and local housing policy. A number of delivery and support streams to assist the delivery of Affordable Housing have been introduced under the 'Housing for All' Programme'. To support the delivery of the programme, Wexford County Council has organised a 'A Breakfast Briefing on Affordable Housing Delivery', May 09th Ferrycarrig Hotel, with professionals from across the housing sector. Invited speakers will present an overview of the schemes and funding opportunities to deliver Affordable Homes in County Wexford.

A graphic for the breakfast briefing event. It features a background image of architectural plans and a house model. The text includes the Wexford County Council logo, the event title 'BREAKFAST BRIEFING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY', and details about the date, time, and location. It also provides contact information for inquiries.

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ARE DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU

BREAKFAST BRIEFING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY

Please join us for breakfast and networking with fellow property professionals. This will be followed by short informative discussion on developing opportunities to deliver Affordable Homes in County Wexford.

If you, or a member of your team are interested in attending this event please contact: affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. We look forward to meeting you.

AFFORDABLE HOMES WEXFORD

Thursday, 9th May
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford

ONLINE SURVEY TO ASSESS LEVEL OF INTEREST IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

An Online survey of interest in affordable housing closed on **10th April**. Over 440 submissions were received during the 8-week period from across all five Municipal districts – an analysis of this information is currently underway which will assist with developing plans for Affordable Housing Options across county Wexford.



For all queries, please contact affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie

Choice Based Letting

32 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website to **28/04/24**. As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 45 properties were available for allocation.

Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table:-

Municipal District	Number of Properties Advertised	Properties Available for Allocation	Number of Views	Number of Expressions of Interest
Enniscorthy	7	10	2030	345
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	5	5	2322	483
New Ross	9	9	2555	405
Rosslare	4	4	1621	296
Wexford	7	17	3597	856
TOTAL	32	45	12125	2385

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LECP – LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was formally adopted at the April Council meeting and will be formally launched in the coming weeks. The first 2-year Implementation Plan is now live and work will begin on monitoring the outcomes of the plan. We wish to thank sincerely the LECP advisory committee, the Community Development and Economic Development & Enterprise Staff, the Council members, the LCDC, the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC, the Housing & Community SPC, our partners KPMG Future Analytics all stakeholders and members of the public who gave their time and input into the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan.



The first 2-year Implementation plan outlines a series of actions and objectives which aim to deliver an ambitious plan to enhance the lives of County Wexford's residents. The initial two-year Implementation Plan details 35 priority actions for 2024 and 2025 as well as the KPIs by which the progress of the Plan will be measured.

LCDC – LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At the April LCDC meeting, sincere appreciation was extended to Cllr. Aidan Browne for his leadership as chair of the final LCDC meeting for the past 2 years.



Gratitude was also extended to Cllr. Lisa McDonald, the previous Chairperson who guided the LCDC expertly through the previous 3 years including the COVID period. All the elected members and past committee contributors were also thanked for their support in promoting Community Development across Co. Wexford over the past five years. A special acknowledgment is reserved for the LCDC, and we eagerly anticipate continuing their impactful work into the future.



FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN VOLUNTEERS

Initial training dates for Volunteers have been arranged for May 25th and June 22nd. Training will take place in person, in County Hall. An online training session will take place later in the summer. Volunteers who have registered to date will be contacted by email to sign up to attend the session most suitable. The training is mandatory and will cover Health and Safety, GDPR, and other important information for their work at the Fleadh.



Meetings are ongoing with established volunteering bodies, corporate bodies and other groups who may be interested in participating during the week of the Fleadh. The Volunteer Coordinator is available to visit community groups upon request. Please get in touch at volunteers@fleadhcheoil.ie with any queries you may have in this regard.

During April, the Volunteer Coordinator attended the district PPN Meetings and District Council meetings. On foot of feedback from the elected representatives at the Rosslare meeting, posters are available from the Volunteer Coordinator, either digitally or hard copy, for the councillors and others to put up around the county.

The Community Team are all actively engaged in spreading the word on volunteering as they interact with various community groups around the county. In addition, it is hoped to set up drop-in sessions in the libraries in the coming weeks, to assist the wider public with registering and answering any questions that arise.

All prospective volunteering candidates are asked to apply at www.fleadhcheoil.ie/volunteer where they will find full details of the types of roles available.

HEALTHY WEXFORD

Healthy Ireland Fund Round Four

We are still working with Pobal on reporting requirements for 2023. 2024 projects continue and our Healthy County Coordinator continues to engage with project partners.



Healthy
Wexford

The young womens programme of the **Womens Health Through the Ages** programme and **Age Friendly Social Dancing** continue while the **New Ross Activity Hub – Access for All** initiative in collaboration with Sports Active Wexford begins to see a number of initiatives planned and underway.

Some upcoming programmes include:

Sports Active Wexford
Ladies Zumba classes
FREE
4pm - 5pm
Every Friday
from 10th May
for 6 weeks
St. Mary's Youth Centre,
New Ross
Suitable for Mothers & Daughters, Sisters, Aunts & Friends
This class is 18+ but younger girls are welcome with an adult
The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health

FREE!
Pickleball - 4 week programme
A fun activity suitable for everyone
Tuesdays - April 30th, May 7th
14th & 21st @ 7.30pm - 8.30pm
St Mary's Secondary School,
Irishtown, New Ross
To Book: Just turn up!
Enquiries: Contact Jack: 087 1358254
All Equipment supplied. Please wear
suitable sports footwear.
The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health

Municipal District Teams in New Ross, Gorey and Enniscorthy are also progressing Healthy Ireland funded **Playful Spaces Projects** in their districts, with updates to be given at the next Healthy County Committee meeting

Following the recent call for expressions of interest to host a **Healthy Home Environments** programme our Coordinator is enegaging with a couple of groups regarding possibility of hosting a session.

Other Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

The Mental Wellbeing Working Group met in April and updated on progress of the current workplan.

The Healthy County Committee meeting will be held on 9th May.

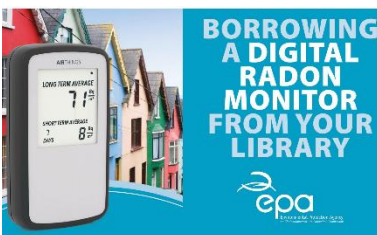
Healthy Wexford supported three **Meet Your Neighbour** events recently in Rathnure, Askamore and Bunclody. These local social connection opportunities are not only a great way to connect people in their community but also provide the opportunity to highlight a range of Health & Wellbeing supports. Recent events also provided the opportunity to highlight the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann volunteering opportunity. An EOI to community groups has been issued for two further events in May and June.



The creative element of the Country Connects social walking initiative, **Country Connects Captures**, supported by Creative Ireland, commenced with the March walk in Blackwater. This walk attracting over 120 walkers and the new creative element was well received. Photograph submissions from the walk can be seen on the online gallery: [Country Connects Captures Gallery - Wexford Walking Trails](#)

Country Connects partners are Wexford Walking Trails, Healthy Wexford, Wexford County Council & Wexford IFA.

Since 2022 Healthy Wexford has managed **Period Dignity** funding from Department of Health to provide free period products at key public locations across the county. The five Public Libraries and County Hall have products available and to date the project has also supported FRCs to offer products also. The 2024 funding SLA is currently being finalised by our Healthy County Coordinator.



Work continues on the **Radon** collaboration of EPA with Wexford Libraries. In collaboration with Wexford Libraries, Healthy Wexford social media and expo events will continue to highlight the potential health impact of radon and the opportunity to borrow a digital radon monitor from your local library.



Our Healthy County Coordinator and SHCP Local Development Officer worked with Dr Howard Keeley of **Georgia Southern University** to facilitate learning experience inputs from the to the recent visiting Health Science students. This included focus on current Healthy Wexford initiatives and on the use of data to determine place based intervention through Slaintecare Healthy Communities. Presenters included the Comhairle na nOg team, Cllr John Hegarty, The Healthy County Coordinator Annette Dupuy and The SlainteCare Healthy Communities Co-Ordinator.

Our Healthy County Coordinator attended the **Autism Awareness and Acceptance Event** held at SETU Wexford on April 18th providing an opportunity to engage with groups and organisations working in the area locally.



Further community engagement will be completed at the Community & Volunteer Expo event to be held in Enniscorthy on May 13th and with WWETB engagements in May and June.

WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP) Enniscorthy Interagency Team

A meeting of Enniscorthy Interagency Team took place on 10th April and was very well attended by representatives from a number of agencies, approved housing bodies and community representatives. The Slaintecare Healthy Communities Co-Ordinator presented an update and progress report followed by a presentation from Enniscorthy East Community Development. There followed a general discussion including updates from members. Progress has been made since the last meeting with a new Local Link bus service serving both sides of the town, a large scale clean up in Templesannon by WCC Clean Up Crews, the establishment of a residents community clean up, NTA site visit for proposed new bus stops, Primary Care Centre access issue escalated within the HSE and arrangements in place for a lawnmower for Gimont Ave residents. The next meeting of the team will take place on Wednesday, May 8th from 11am-1pm.



Creative Ireland funded projects – Enniscorthy Community Allotments & Imogen Stafford Sculpture

On April 13th the unveiling of Enniscorthy Community Allotment's (ECA) wire sculpture "Bean Together" took place with Enniscorthy Municipal District Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John O'Rourke, cutting the ribbon alongside Councillors Aidan Browne and Cathal Byrne. Funding for this project was received from Creative Ireland. SHCP submitted the grant application and were happy to support Enniscorthy Community Allotments on this project which saw many members of the local community take part in workshops over 8 weeks to produce the final sculpture.



Southend Retrofitting Pilot Project

Southend Family Resource Centre and Wexford Sustainable Energy Community are hosting an information evening in the Faythe School from 7-9pm on Monday, May 13th to give advice and support for accessing SEAI grants for those in the community who are interested.

Taghmon – Food Project

Classes have started in Taghmon on a food project that encompasses the 'Healthy Food Made Easy' programme as well as focusing on the specific needs and supports the participants have in order to continue to implement their new skills at home. Participants are given the ingredients to bring home as well as, through outreach from Taghmon Family Resource Centre, the equipment needed specific to them. Uptake for the course has been huge from a diverse range of local people. Many thanks to Taghmon FRC for their support on this project.

**HEALTHY FOOD
MADE EASY
COURSE**

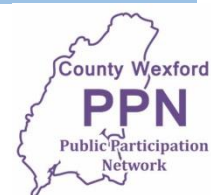
Taghmon Family Resource Centre
Starting Friday 19th April 2024
9.30 am to 12 pm

6 Weeks Free Hands on
Cookery Course.
All Ingredients will be supplied
free of charge to participants.
Limited places available so early
booking is essential.
Contact Bernie or Emma: 053 91
34465



PPN – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Wexford PPN were invited to take part in two focus group workshops on April 5th by the Planning Department of Wexford County Council. The focus of the workshops was the Gorey Market House building in Gorey Town.



AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD

Telehealth

Work has commenced on recruiting participants for Phase 2 of the Telehealth project with the HSE's Wexford Integrated Care Programme for Older People. Funding of €80,000 has been secured to assist older people to remain living in their homes through using technology supplied from Tunstall Emergency Response. Funding came from SHCP, HSE and Wexford County Council. SETU will be carrying out research over the next 2 years on the health and wellbeing benefits of this project.



Social Dancing

Social Dancing commenced across the 5 Municipal Districts on April 8th. They have been well attended and there has been great feedback from the participants.

Refreshments and the opportunity to chat follows each session which gives the participants the opportunity for social interaction with others. As this is the main intention of the social dancing initiative, we feel it is being very successful at bringing social opportunities to older people.

Some new arrivals are also attending and whilst there is language barrier, it provides an opportunity for integration and help with English in a Social setting rather than just a formal English language class.



Visit to Westland Dementia Café

During April Our Age Friendly Ambassador and the age friendly coordinator visited the Westland Dementia Café for a chat about everything from GAA to Politics and the Good old days. There was music and chat in a friendly environment and was enjoyed by everyone.



Age Friendly Regional Programme Manager Meeting

On the April 25th a Regional Age Friendly Programme Managers meeting was held for Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford in the Clannad Hotel in Athy, Co Kildare.

A presentation on the National Age Friendly Programme was given and what is happening in Age Friendly Ireland. Kilkenny provided an update on the forthcoming National Age Friendly Convention to be held in May in Kilkenny.

Following this there was a round table discussion on what people were doing in their programmes and events that had worked well in their region.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Fit over 50's Wexford

Fit over 50's six-week programme finished in Wexford Town April 8th. Wexford Town – 18 women registered for this programme.

Couch to 3km, Gorey Town Park

The Couch to 3km, 6-week walking/running programme started on the April 9th in Gorey Town Park at 10am. 20 people have registered with 4 males and 16 females ranging in ages and abilities.

Activator Poles

Activator Poles has started in New Ross Library and is ongoing. At present we have had the following numbers: Wk1 – 7 participants, Wk2 – 5 participants and Wk 3 – 7 participants.

Outdoor Story Tellers

Outdoor Story Tellers for pre-school aged children and their parents is ongoing at New Ross Library. We have had 3 children and 3 adults over the 2 weeks it has currently taken place.

Playground Leaders

Playground Leaders school programme is ongoing, April 12th -Blackwater Ns (Girls -18 & Boys -4), Ballycullane Ns – (Girls 10 & Boys -8), Rathgarogue – (Girls 15 & Boys 10)

Marathon Kids

Marathon kids has finished up on the week of the April 29th, 26 Primary Schools with 917 children participating in this 8-week running programme. David Gillick visited two host schools Scoil Mhurie, Barntown and Craanford Ns where approx. 250 children participated on the day.



.ie Digital Town Award

Our Nature Walker App has been chosen as a finalist in the Digital Community category of the .ie Digital Town Awards 2024. The awards ceremony will be held on the May 24th.

Neuro Activator Poles

Neuro Activator Pole Walking programme started in Astro active, Enniscorthy started on the 3rd of April. This is an 8-week programme catering for individuals living with a neurological diagnosis such as Parkinson's or Multiple Sclerosis. 6 participants registered (3 female, 3 male).

Mental Health Walking Group

Mental Health Walking group on New Ross Greenway started on the April 2nd This was initially a 4-week programme being run with the integrated exercise practitioner (IEP) and the HSE Adult mental health services, catering for service users attending Maryville Community Mental Health. 10 participants engaged with the programme (4 male, 6 female).

Inclusive Learn to Cycle

12 Children (9 boys and 3 girls) commenced a 5 week learn to cycle programme on the Enniscorthy Learn to Cycle Track on the April 9th.

Traveller Women Yoga

A seven week Yoga programme with Traveller women commenced in Gorey on the April 10th.

Safeguarding

8 x Safeguarding 1 Courses have been completed in 2024 with a total of 113 participants.

2 x Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2024 with a total of 22 participants

1 x Safeguarding 3 Course has been completed in 2024 with a total of 13 participants.

New Ross Clubs

We have surveyed the Sports Clubs in New Ross town, enquiring with them about support they require with a view to trying to offer them support in the specific area they need it.

One staff member was a guest on the Irish Sports and Exercise Science Association (ISESA) Podcast to discuss the Physical Activity for Health Programme. Link available here: <https://tinyurl.com/v5mt7r5p>

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. This scheme is with An Bord Pleanála for planning permission.

Operations -

KIMO AGM was held in Falkenburg Sweden 4th – 6th October, Wexford County Council was represented. We have agreed to host the next international board meeting in May 2024 in Wexford.

Beaches –

Applications for 6 blue flag beaches, 2 blue flag marinas and 10 green coast beaches were submitted to An Taisce in November 2023. The awards will be announced by An Taisce in May 2024. Ballymoney beach has not reached the water quality standard for blue flag and therefore will not be awarded the blue flag in 2024.

Ballymoney Blue Flag Beach – Access for All and Age Friendly Improvement Works. A contractor was appointed and works started in March on improvements to the beach access. Works to be completed in April 2024.

Coastal Engineer and Water Safety Officer started inspections at beaches to review water safety, signage, and access issues.

At Cullenstown, the mouth of the river has changed course, moving towards the bathing area. This increases the risk to swimmers and due to strong currents therefore “No Swimming” signs were put in place. Following a review of the situation in February, the “No Swimming” notice remains in place.

Coast -

The Environment Dept monitors the coastline regularly, focussing on erosion risk areas.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O’Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme. Key design parameters for the scheme are being agreed.

The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/roslarefrs/>

Site investigations contract to determine ground conditions for the flood scheme on the Burrow Road, Rosslare is going to tender shortly. This contract will be awarded in Q2 2024.

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries. Public consultation day will be held later in Q2 2024.

Seaview, Kilmore: Wexford County Council lodged the planning application for Part XI development in January 2024. Planning Dept is progressing the scheme through the statutory planning process. Further correspondence was issued to OPW to progress the funding of the scheme.

Kilmannock Drainage Scheme – this is a land reclamation and drainage scheme dating from mid 1800s, draining approx. 1,000 acres of land near the Great Island Power Station. Further maintenance works will be carried out in 2024.

Ballyconnigar bridge: the bridge was damaged during winter flooding events and options to restore the bridge to access the south beach are under investigation. It is anticipated that a bridge will be in place for the 2024 summer season.

B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Public Conveniences	Open	Comments
Slade	All Year	
Dunncannon	All Year	
Cullenstown	All Year	
Kilmore	All Year	
Carne	All Year	
Bunclody	All Year	
Rosslare Strand	All Year	
Ballyconniger	Seasonal	
Ballineskeer	All Year	
Curracloe	All Year	
Min Ryan Park	All Year	
Vinegar Hill - Dryloo	All Year	
Carrigfoyle	All Year	
Morriscastle	All Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	
Baginbun – Portaloo's	All Year	
Cahore – Portaloo's /Dryloo's	All Year	
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

Under the Water Framework Directive every catchment in the county must be assessed to identify required actions to maintain and improve water quality. This work which is being carried out by Wexford Co. Co. in conjunction of LAWPRO is being supervised by the Sub-Catchment Unit of the EPA.

2. Water Sampling:

A Total of 344 water quality samples were taken by Wexford County Council staff from 78 sampling sites in the county for 2023 with analysis carried out by the EPA. 8 surveillance sites were sampled 8 times per year in 2023. In 2024 a total of 340 river water samples will be taken from 76 sampling sites on 36 rivers by Wexford County Council staff. 7 surveillance sites will be sampled in 2024 with analysis of all samples carried out by the EPA lab in Kilkenny.

3. Septic Tank Inspections:

123 inspections under the National Inspection Plan were carried out in 2023. Wexford had a minimum of 130 inspections to carry out in 2023, which resulted in a shortfall of 7. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. Of the 123 inspections carried out in Wexford, 54 were passes and 69 fails. Due to time constraints, the remaining 7 inspections will be carried out in 2024. A minimum of 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2024 plus the 7 carried from 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 75 files were closed during 2023. 39 extensions of time were granted in 2023. There are currently 51 open files for the years 2017-2022 and 36 open for 2023, a total of 87 open cases at the end of 2023.

Nine applications for grants have been received in 2024, seven of which have been paid and two are under review.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2024
2019	156	48	108	7	3
2020	111	38	73	6	0
2021	91	24	67	16	1
2022	139	50	89	13	0
2023	123	54	69	36	8

There are currently 5 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 4 of these are for mention and 1 for hearing.

25 verification inspections were carried out in April 2023 on sites which have Advisory Notices open over 2 years. In total 72 verification inspections were carried out in 2023.

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 5 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 4 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange. 2018 has 4 open

files with good progress on 2 of these, 2 are in court. A public sewer for Ramsgrange has been approved with a connection to Duncannon. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above.

The Minister announced the following changes to the Domestic Wastewater Treatment System grant scheme on Saturday 11th November 2023, following a recently completed review of the grants:

- an increase in the maximum grant available to €12,000, up from €5,000; (Up to 85% of cost of work up to max. of €12,000) and
- removal of the requirement to register the system before prescribed date of 1st February 2013 in order to be eligible for a grant. The applicant does not have to register before applying for the grant. All work must be completed, and a completion certificate issued to the homeowner before the grant is paid.

These changes will apply to the following 3 DWWTS grants:

- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) (under the National Inspection Plan)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance for Prioritised Areas for Action)
- Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance in High Status Objective Catchment Areas)

The Department has finalised the new regulations. Details of the Regulations have been published on Wexford County Council website and Ian Plunkett attended all District meetings to update the Councillors on new grant scheme.

The new regulations and grant will be effective from 1 January 2024. Where a grant process has commenced under the previous scheme, but has not been concluded, the Department has no objection to it being concluded under the new scheme, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

The Eligibility criteria to qualify for the grant has not changed, the house served by the Domestic Waste Water Treatment system must, in the opinion of the local authority:

- a) be occupied by the applicant as their primary place of residence (e.g. not a holiday home),
- b) not be connected to a public sewerage scheme,
- c) not be currently under construction or constructed within the last 7 years,
- d) not have been paid a grant for the DWWTS within the last 7 years, and
- e) have all works completed satisfactorily in accordance with the Advisory Notice.

Any grant process that has commenced under the previous scheme, but has not been concluded, homeowners may be eligible to have their grant concluded under the new scheme, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 92 active Discharge Licences, two licences have been granted in 2024 to date and seven are under review.

5. Air Quality:

Wexford County Council enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with Wexford County Council. These Certificates must be renewed every 3

years. On-going enforcement action is carried out to ensure sites remain certified. Wexford has a 100% compliance record in this regard for all 3 below categories in 2022.

Vehicle Refinishers: At end of 2023, 61 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Deco Paints” Regulations, which is now the largest number in the country. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues “On the Spot Fines” of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below.

Dry Cleaners: At end of 2023, 7 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the “Solvents” Regulations. 1 dry Cleaners closed in 2023 and was removed from the register. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below.

Petrol Stations: At end of 2023, 79 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations, which is the largest number in the country. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. Issued in 2023 (to 1 st Dec)	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end May)
Vehicle Refinishers	19	24	20	0
Petrol Vapour Emissions	22	22	14	N/A
Solvents	3	5	0	N/A

A national working group was established in January 2021, to develop Guidance Documents for Local Authorities to assist with the implementation of new certifications to Petrol Stations under Stage 2 Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 2011.

Wexford County Council is co-chair of this group, along with Waterford County Council. The WG produced two separate Guidance Documents for Local Authorities, including specific guidance on processing certifications for Petrol Stations under Stage 1b Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations 1997 and Stage 2 Petroleum Vapour Emissions Regulations 2011. Stage 2 certifications for relevant sites are required to be implemented, as are significant changes to Stage 1b certifications for all sites.

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act 1987 (SOLID FUELS) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No 529 of 2022) was signed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Mr Eamon Ryan and came into effect on the 31st October 2022. Spot inspections have been carried out to ensure compliance with the 2022 Regulations.

During 2023 Wexford compiled a register of solid fuel suppliers for County Wexford. Sampling of coal was carried out in November with 20 samples sent for analysis. A grant was received for the above work. The results of the sampling showed that 15 of the samples sent for analysis failed. These results have been sent to the Department as part of a National sampling programme.

6. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the

necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon on 4 individuals where 2 of these farms were cross reported to DAFM.

A total of 103 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed in 2023.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections (NAIP)	Farms with Nitrates Directive non-compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0
2023	204	n/a	n/a	0

7. Planning

The Environment Section makes an assessment and recommendations on planning applications relating to the environmental aspects of the application.

The main issues regarding the impact of planning on the environment which have arisen in recent years are as follows:

- 1) Density of housing.
- 2) Applications for extensions and upgrades of existing houses on sites where the soil is unsuitable for discharge of wastewater via a domestic wastewater treatment system.
- 3) Applications for detached granny flats and other detached ancillary accommodation.

As of the 31st December 2023, 1146 files were referred to Environment from the Planning Department.

Q1. Breakdown of planning applications referred from Planning Section to Environment

	Single dwellings	Commercial	Discharge/ glamping	Housing estates	Schools	Solar Farms	Sports	Agricultural	Compliance assessments
2023	630	94	4	42	17	3	16	104	121
Q1 2024									

D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. New Recycling

Re-turn Scheme. Irelands new deposit return scheme. In February 2024 a new deposit return scheme will operate throughout Ireland. When you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that feature the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full.

The deposit will typically be 15c to 20c. For more information, please see www.MyWaste.ie

2. Food Waste

From 1 January 2024 every household in Ireland, regardless of location, will be entitled to a brown bin collection service. No matter how remote your home is, you can organise your brown bin collection service through your current waste collector. Visit mywaste.ie to learn more. Food waste inspections without notification are currently being carried out with householders and commercial businesses.

3. Landfills:

Holmestown Landfill remains temporarily closed. Environmental monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure continues at both Killurin and Holmestown in accordance with the conditions of our waste licences.

The Household Recycling Centre at Holmestown continues to provide recycling services to members of the public as well as a disposal service for other waste streams such as residual waste, bulky waste, segregated food waste, garden waste and waste paint.

4. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites March 2024	Recycling out (End March) 2023 (t)	Recycling out (End March) 2024 (t)
Glass bottles		910	904
Aluminium Cans		22	22
Total	108	932	926

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-March 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-March 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-March 2023 (t)	Recycling out Jan-March 2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- March2023	Recycling out Jan- March 2024	Recycling out Jan- March 2023	Recycling out Jan-March 2024
Total Recycling out	154	162	165	170	201	216	120	126
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	687	850	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Mar	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	63	66	114	115	86	133	86	83

Due to net operating costs increases, an entry charge of €2 was introduced to all household recycling centres on 13th June 2017.

5. Rapid Response Crew

Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with one four-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts and a second six-man crew servicing Wexford and New Ross and Rosslare Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	<i>To end March 2023</i>	<i>March 2024</i>	<i>To end March 2024</i>	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	688	215	646	-6%
<i>Gorey *</i>		37		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		55		
<i>Wexford *</i>		42		
<i>New Ross*</i>		40		
<i>Rosslare</i>		41		
Total Bring Site Inspections	2,732	827	2,311	-15%
<i>Gorey</i>		226		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		198		
<i>Wexford</i>		187		
<i>New Ross</i>		170		
<i>Rosslare</i>		46		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	4,354	1,506	4,734	+8.7%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	503		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	1,003		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	1,138	731	2,057	+80.7%
<i>Gorey</i>		186		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		336		
<i>Wexford</i>		100		
<i>New Ross</i>		82		
<i>Rosslare</i>		26		

Other Works done by Holmestown photo record are as follows.

- 1- Beach and lifeguard work
- 2- Black spot checks across county
- 3- Town inspections every morning
- 4- Trails maintenance
- 5- Min Ryan Park maintenance and upkeep
- 6- Community Clean up across county

6. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have sufficient permitted facilities throughout the county, such as Clean Soil and Stone, construction and demolition sites, ATF's / End of Life Vehicles and Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council's website.

Altogether there are 68 registered operational Waste Facility Permits(43) and Certificates of Registration (25) for premises involved in waste management activities in the County.

7. Enforcement:

RMCEI 2023: Our enforcement team received 2,646 complaints in 2023 which was 6% less than 2022. We received an EPA audit in October 2023 and a number of issues were highlighted, namely un-assigned complaints (software glitch), old complaints not closed out, increased number of inspections, quarterly reviews of plan, expand the Section 60 enforcement policy, etc.,

The 17 number National Enforcement Priority reports on our 2023 enforcement throughout the county were submitted to the EPA on 15 March 2024.

RMCEI 2024: The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan was submitted to the EPA on 15 March 2024. The plan aims to undertake 6,921 routine inspections this year by 21 full time equivalent staff members to cover waste, water, air & noise.

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three-year target and they are.

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial.
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

1 LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT		
Total fixed penalty notices issued	TOTAL FOR 2023	TOTAL FOR MARCH- 2024
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	212	48
Fines Paid in Full●	64	31
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	56	9
Successful Prosecutions** (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	28	11
Legal Proceedings in Progress (Litter fines & WPBL fines)	41	45
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€13,023	Litter €4,555.00, waste €500.00
Amount awarded via the Court system (fines awarded) - overall	€6,210.00	€1,605.00

* Other fines may be paid prior to the hearing or withdrawn for evidential or legal reasons.

- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices
- Fines paid in full- data excludes fines partly paid.
- Amount collected in fines- includes part payments.

January 2024

Wexford County Council had five successful litter cases in Court in January, total fines of €780.00 and costs of €1,000.00 were awarded. Three successful Waste Presentation Bye-Law cases occurred in January, fines totalling €300 and costs of €750.00 were awarded. One successful case under the Water Pollution Act with a fine of €250 was awarded with a stay on costs. Also one successful case under the Waste Management Act where costs of €200 were awarded and a stay put on costs.

February 2024

One case listed for hearing was adjourned until March 2024 due to the availability of a witness.

March 2024

Due to availability of witnesses in March, one case proceeded for hearing under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws. The case was successful, a fine of €75 and costs of €200 awarded.

Wexford Co. Council – National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys 2004-2020 Percentage of County Littered (Litter Pollution Surveys)

Year	Litter free	Slightly Littered	Moderately Littered	Seriously Littered	Grossly Littered
2022	24.2%	63.4%	11.3%	1.1%	0%
2021	6.9%	74.1%	15.5%	3.4%	0%
2020	9.4%	68.8%	18.8%	3.4%	0%
2019	9.8%	67.9%	18.8%	1.5%	0%
2018	10%	70.5%	17.7%	17.7%	0%
2017	18.3%	67%	14.7%	0%	0%
2016	12.10%	65.9%	21.9%	0.4%	0%
2015	10.60%	65.90%	18.43%	5.07%	0%
2014	37.40%	50.41%	12.30%	0%	0%
2013	51.92%	39.43%	7.69%	0.96%	0%
2012	26.79%	60.71%	12.50%	0%	0%
2011	7.5%	82.5%	10%	0%	0%
2010	13.2%	53.9%	28.9%	3.9%	0%
2009	0%	75.3%	21.0%	3.7%	0%
2008	9.4%	55.2%	26%	9.4%	0%
2007	5.4%	60.9%	17.4%	16%	0%
2006	0%	53%	23%	20%	3%
2004	0%	23%	56%	21%	0%

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2019	2,925		741	
2020	3,187	Up 9%	628	Down 15%
2021	2,721	Down 15%	1,331	Up 112%
2022	2,188	Down 20%	1,023	Down 23%
2023	2,461	Up 11%	1054	Up 3%
Jan – Mar 2024	698		314	

The reduction in reported dumping incidents is also reflected in a similar decline in attendances by the Environment Clean Up Crew to incidents.

Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2024(March)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2024	48	11	643
2023	212	28	2284
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

E. CLIMATE ACTION

All local authorities are required to prepare a plan under the “The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.”

The Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029 was adopted by the elected members on February 12th, 2024. The adopted document was Published in March 2024 in English and Irish versions on the Wexford County Council website.

The Plan incorporates both mitigation and adaptation measures and sets an ambitious target of an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% and 50% energy efficiency by 2030.

There are 133 actions listed in plan across the five action areas of:

- Governance & Leadership
- Built Environment & Transport
- Natural Environment& Green Infrastructure
- Communities, Resilience & Transition
- Sustainability & Resource Management

The plan sets out Wexford County Councils responsibility for enhancing climate resilience, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, across their own assets, services and

infrastructure, while also taking on a broader leadership role in influencing and facilitating others to meet their own targets, within the county.

Engagement with various internal and external stakeholders contributed to the development of the Climate Action plan.

A significant aspect of the plan is the establishment of Enniscorthy Urban Area as Wexford County Council's first 'decarbonisation zone' which will act as a key pilot zone and testbed for climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures, as well as community led climate action projects. The DZ requires the same reduction in carbon emissions as is required for the rest of the county.

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme funding scheme closed on the 6th March 2024. It is expected that the second round of this fund will open in early 2025. A total of 52 applications were submitted, with a total ask of €1.8m (€669,000 available). The external assessment panel met on 21st March and the recommended projects will be forwarded to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for appraisal.

Further details on the programme are available [here](#)

F. GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system.

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan – Dec 2023	Jan -Mar 2024
Incidents	4749	4999	5136	3896	4235	1183
Closed	4732	4924	5029	3490	3554	800
Closure Rate	99%	98%	98%	90%	84%	68%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden and one part-time Dog Warden. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2021 (to 31-12-21)	2022	2023	Jan – Feb 2024
Dogs collected	429	546	575	168
Dogs reclaimed	133	117	128	40
Dogs re-homed/transferred	267	370	404	143
Dogs put to sleep	29	51	38	7
Dog Fines	18	21	14	4

There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

In 2023 six horses were rehomed and four goats. One horse was reclaimed and one euthanised.

Environment Education and Awareness:

Our aim is to promote awareness and active participation in a range of environmental initiatives.

Green Schools: 3 schools have applied to An Taisce for their first green flag. 27 schools have applied this year for renewal of their green flag. Assessment visits for the 30 schools are now complete and reports sent back to An Taisce. Communication to schools working on year 1 or who deferred their renewal this year is ongoing.



School Workshops: Workshops for both primary and secondary schools covering topics on climate action, fast fashion, biodiversity, and waste management. 5 secondary schools have participated in Rubbish Film Festival workshops. All participating schools will be invited to the online County finals which will take place on 26th April (Selskar College, Gorey Community School, St Peters College and Meanscoil Gharman and Colaiste an Átha, Kilmuckridge) The best film and poster will then go forward to the National Finals to take place in May.

Leave No Trace Workshops: 10 primary schools will participate in Leave No Trace Workshops. The aim of the programme is to introduce primary school learners to the principles of Leave No Trace and provide opportunities to explore and build awareness of their own behaviour in the outdoors in an interactive, fun and educational manner. This school programme consists of two half day workshops. Workshop 1 will introduce the principles of Leave No Trace and present the class with a project to prepare in advance of Workshop 2. The second workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to present their project and further develop and reinforce an understanding of the principles of Leave No Trace.

Composting in Schools Programme: 9 secondary schools are participating in the Composting for schools Programme. The schools participating are Bunclody Vocational School: CBS Secondary School New Ross: Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy: Colaiste Eamonn Ris (Wexford CBS): Gorey Community School: Meanscoil Gharman, Enniscorthy: Ramsgrange Community School: St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross: Selskar College, Wexford. The programme gives schools the opportunity to explore and improve waste management in school via waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

As part of the programme teachers from each school will participate in online zoom training 1 hour per week over 5 weeks. After the training participating schools will receive 2 site visits which will

- review waste management practices at the school
- discuss options related to waste prevention, reuse, recycling, on-site composting, and brown bin collection of bio waste
- create an action plan.

After the initial site visit and the creation of action plans by the schools, another site visit will be conducted to assist with implementing plans and provide additional tailored training for students, green school committees, teachers, caretakers, parent committees or other school staff. All teachers would be given access to BaseCamp to avail of the resources developed for the programme including

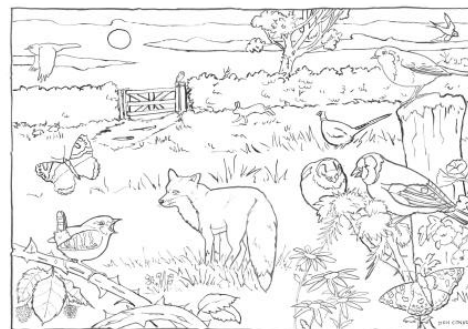
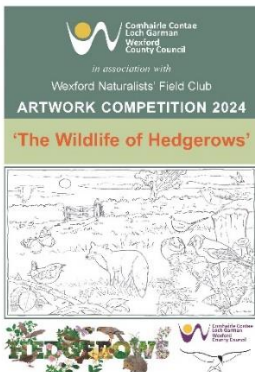
booklets, guides, instructional fact sheets, videos as well as learning resources. In addition, schools receive a €300 voucher for bins, tools, and supplies to help carry out their action plans.

Picker Pal Programme: 10 primary schools are participating in the picker pal programme, Schools have been sent Picker Packs which contain supplies, safety card, the Picker Pals reader Picker Power and the Picker Pals Funbook for every child.

Schools also receive teacher resource materials, ongoing teacher support, access to online interactive resources, 6 Picker Pals TV episodes links sent directly to all classrooms and access to all Picker Pals competitions and projects run throughout the 2023/24 academic year. The picker pal programme has received great praise from all schools participating and we hope to continue funding in 2024-2025 academic year.



Annual Artwork Competition: Details of the annual artwork competition has been circulated to all schools. The theme is 'The Wildlife of Hedgerows'. Closing date is May 8th 2024. There is a colouring competition for Junior and Senior Infants again this year.




National Tree Week: National Tree Week took place from Sunday 3rd March 2024 to Sunday 10th March 2024. 500 saplings provided by The Tree Council of Ireland and Coilte were distributed to schools and community groups during National Tree Week. To mark National Tree Week, An Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Fleming planted an Oak in Clonroche Millenium Park with members of Clonroche Development Association.



100 Million Trees Project: A site in Ballyduff and Clonroche will be planted with 2500 native trees as part of 'The 100 Million Trees Project' in March and April. A special word of thanks goes to the voluntary community groups Ballyduff Development Group and Clonroche Development Association.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups continue. National Spring Clean will take place during the month of April. It has been extremely busy with 314 community cleans collections taken so far this year. A special word of thanks goes to all the volunteers involved in these clean ups.

	Date	No. of Community Clean Ups
	01/03/24 – 31/03/24	108
	01/01/24 – 31/03/24	314

Snap Into Action Competition: Details of the Snap Into Action competitions for primary schools and community groups has been circulated and shared on social media. Closing date for both competitions is 17th May 2024 with a cash prize of €500 for the winning group and school.



Local Waste Prevention Grant: This grant is funded by the Environment Section of Wexford County Council as part of their Waste Prevention Programme for the County. This scheme aims to support communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas, and encourage partnership between local businesses, local schools, charities and voluntary groups. Closing date for receipt of all applications is Friday 28th March 2024. Maximum grant allowable under the scheme is €500.

Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: Promotion of the 'Bag It Bin It' campaign continues. Stencils have been provided to Enniscorthy Tidy Towns to support their dog fouling awareness campaign. An information / awareness stand was held with Enniscorthy Tidy Towns at Vinegar Hill on Friday 2nd February to highlight dog fouling. Green dog walker packs were distributed on the day.



Green Dog Walker: The Green Dog Walker Campaign is continually being promoted and registrations are through the website. Packs are provided to community groups for promotion at events.

Libraries, Archives and Arts Report to Wexford County Council, Community and Culture

Community

Be Media Smart

This talk in Wexford Branch focused on the Be Media Smart campaign from Media Literacy Ireland. Martina Chapman, National Coordinator of Media Literacy Ireland, and fellow contributor Adrian Smyth highlighted the important role that media has in our lives and gave tips and advice on how to manage our relationship with media. Media, especially digital media, is central to our daily lives and the technology behind it is changing all the time. Knowing how to use, understand and evaluate media is essential if we want to be able to participate fully in society, and make informed decisions based on accurate and reliable information - whether those decisions relate to health, politics, economics or any other aspect of life. The facilitators also offered guidance on how to avoid misinformation. The session further included discussion on sources of support available for older people on misinformation and how to Be Media Smart.

Walking the Tightrope

As part of the Spring Moves Dance Festival 2024 the second annual 'Dance Talks' event 'Walking the Tightrope' was held in Wexford Branch. This was a conversation between 5 performance artists living in Ireland, musician Stace Gill, choreographer Maria Nilsson Waller, poet Stephen James Smith and circus artist Fadi Zmorrod, moderated by Peter Murphy.

My Open Library

My Open Library Service is operational at New Ross and Gorey Libraries. After an induction, members of this service can access the library on a self-service basis from 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Fully staffed library opening hours remain in place Monday to Saturday. During My Open Library hours users can: use the study space, use a public PC or laptop, use printing services, use the internet, use the Wi-Fi, borrow and return items and collect requests.

New Ross Library had 41 new users of the service in April with 3 of these being completely new library members. A total of 513 people used the service in New Ross in April.

Sensory Friendly Hour

The Sensory-friendly Hour, which is in place in all libraries across County Wexford, continued to be provided every Saturday from 4pm to 5pm. Library users can enjoy quiet time and use the sensory equipment available in all branches during this hour.

World Autism Awareness Day 2nd April

Enniscorthy Library held a **Sensory Playdough** event. Parents and children were shown how to make playdough. Playing with play dough has educational benefits and is an amazing play-based learning tool for children. It is used in strengthening fine motor skills and encouraging sensory exploration and investigation. Throughout the day the Enniscorthy Library Sensory Collection was on display, including the dark den, sensory books, sensory toys, story sacks and Free Play Lego Table for families to play with and enjoy.

On Saturday 6th April, Wexford Branch held a **Sensory Hour Event** with **Rare Warrior's Group**. This was a special library sensory taster session for families with children with special, extra, and additional needs.

Poetry Day Ireland 25th April

Poetry Day Ireland is an annual island-wide celebration of poetry which invites the nation to read, write, and share a poem on that day. The theme for this year was "Good Sports" celebrating the good sport in all of us. Wexford Branch held **Poetry Good Sports – Read, Write and Share a Poem** where Wexford poets, Margaret Galvin and Paul Hennessy offered their unique interpretation of the notion of 'Good Sports.'

Wexford Branch also hosted a Bi-lingual Poetry Event with the Ukrainian Community in Wexford working with Wexford Local Development. Ukrainian poetry was read in two languages, Ukrainian and English, followed by a song performance.

Exhibitions

INTO THE LIGHT: Photography Exhibition Gorey Library launched 'INTO THE LIGHT', a Photography Exhibition by Réiltín Mates. The launch was held on Tuesday 2nd April, incorporating a talk from experienced Lighthouse Keeper, Gerald Butler. The exhibition ran from Monday 1st to Friday 12th April. Gorey Library also hosted **Narrative of the Past, Ever Present, Into the Future: A Solo Exhibition** by Visual Artist Sheena Furlong in association with the Ford Studio. The exhibition will run until May 11th. Bunclody Library added to the exhibition of paintings from **Art Bank Bunclody** which includes art by local children.

Partnerships

Wexford Local Development

Sponsored by Wexford Local Development to promote and support educational achievement in County Wexford the Elevate Programme commenced new sessions over two days each week in April in Enniscorthy Library. This programme focused on creative writing with the Elevate book club participants. This strand is facilitated by author Caroline Busher.

April Breakfast Network Meeting. Education – Lifelong Learning

This Breakfast Meeting with partners including WWETB, WLD, ALL took place on Monday 8th April at 8.15am-11.00am in Wexford Library. There was a library tour and a talk on various services and resources available free at the library.

Learning and Information

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

New Ross Outreach for Ukrainian Nationals continued during April.

In Wexford Branch, Ukraine English Classes with Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine, continued. These weekly group meetings are English language classes facilitated by volunteer tutors. Tuesday Outreach to Ukrainian families, weekly information help and guidance meetings with a Ukrainian tutor, also continued.

On Monday 15th April Wexford Library hosted a Ukrainian Language Library Discussion Group Planning Day with co-ordinator Fran O'Grady.

IT Literacy

The Digital Help Hub visited Enniscorthy Library on April 18th, offering free advice to members of the public with all their digital technological queries. The Hub also visited Wexford Branch on Thursday 23rd April. The Digital Help Hub is free to attend and supported by ALL, WCC and WWETB.

Digital Skill Group

The digital skills group with tutor Noel McCormack (WWETB) met weekly in Enniscorthy Library in April.

Our Lady of Fatima School and Windmill Therapy Unit attended Wexford Library for TTRS Classes every week during April.

Age Friendly

Age Friendly Outreach: Staff from Wexford Branch paid an outreach visit to the active retirement group in Kilrane and spoke to a group of senior citizens about library services and events.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes presentation and Q&A with Deirdre Mullally, Wexford Coordinator HAFH.

Members of the public were invited to come along to Enniscorthy Library and hear about The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, which is a new initiative offering free advice to the over 65's and their families. The initiative aims to enable **older people** to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs, to live with a sense of independence and autonomy, to be a part of their community, and to avoid early or premature admission to long term residential care.

Information was also provided around assisted technology (falls detectors, Pan Pan watches, age friendly tablets), SEAI and the warmer homes scheme, information on finances regarding available supports, pensions and allowances, health, and information on local community services.

Age Friendly Digital Literacy classes with the WWETB

Navigating daily activities and tasks online can pose challenges for adults struggling with digital skills. These classes, which are facilitated by WWETB tutors, are conducted in a relaxed setting in New Ross Library and are tailored to the individual learner's pace.

Age Action Computer Classes: Age Action provided free on-to-one 2-hour computer classes for people over 55 with little or no experience of using a phone, tablet, or laptop device in Wexford Branch. Classes were run over a 5-week period every Thursday morning. Age Action are now finished for the summer months and will resume in September.

Local History

A total number of 10 local studies enquiries were responded to, and a total of 7 genealogy enquiries were completed in Wexford Library in April.

Environment and Climate Action

Environment

Earth Day 2024 April 22nd

Earth Day is an annual event held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Adopt a Plant Day in Enniscorthy Library

Members of the public were invited to pick out their own plant in Enniscorthy Branch. The branch also held a Hanging Basket Demonstration.

Health and Well Being

Activator Poles Class in New Ross Library Park

Sports Active ran a series of activator pole sessions in New Ross Library Park.

Walking with Activator Poles improves stability, reduces impact on hip and knee joints, improves core strength and posture and helps promote a functional gait pattern. New Ross Library along with Georgina Gaul the Sports Active Co-ordinator for New Ross also ran a series of Story Mover sessions in April. These sessions were for families with young kids between the ages of 2-5.

Mindfulness, Meditation & Sound Therapy with Sundara Selfcare

In Bunclody Branch participants enjoyed an evening with Sundara Selfcare which included tips on bringing meditation and mindfulness into daily life. The session ended with some sound therapy. Bernadette Murphy, from Sundara Selfcare, also gave a taster workshop which included tips on bringing Meditation & Mindfulness into your daily life in Wexford Branch.

Healthy Ireland: The Cancer Guide: How to Nurture Wellbeing Through and Beyond a Cancer Diagnosis

Wexford Branch held this event with Prof Anne-Marie O'Dwyer, who writes and speaks about cancer with humanity and clarity, helping to combat the myths and misinformation surrounding the disease in an age of information overload.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime (SiS) is an annual story time festival delivered online and in all libraries across the country in the month of April. All Wexford Library branches gave special Spring into Storytime sessions throughout the month.

Book Launch and Talk - Loftus, The Hall of Dreams

Writer and historian Helena B. Scott launched her book on Loftus Hall in New Ross library. During the talk, Helena showed the untold story that lies beneath the surface of Ireland's most haunted house.

Collections management

In addition to 52 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 14 researchers visited the Archive during April. Research topics included the Mount Carmel order in New Ross (1812-50); research through extant burial registers for Wexford town burial grounds in respect of the surname Tennant (1881-1945); research on New Ross Credit Union for its upcoming 60th anniversary; research through the Power estate papers for a historical article (1780-1930); research in the Rosbottom archive for the surname Sparks (1860-1900); academic research through the minute books of New Ross Town Commissioners for a forthcoming lecture (1882-87); research on the Stone surname across County Wexford's burial records.

Digitisation

The next 10 volumes in the sequence of Enniscorthy poor law union minutes (1890-97) were digitised during the month. They will shortly be made available on the Archive's website for general research.

ARTS

Festivals April 2024

Spring Moves Dance Festival

This festival, an energetic celebration of local national and international dance in Wexford, was awarded funding by the Arts Department as part of the Small Arts Festival Fund 2024.

A talk '**Walking the Tightrope**' took place in Wexford Library on Saturday 13th April with musician Stace Gill, choreographer Maria Nilsson Waller, poet Stephen James Smith and circus artist Fadi Zmorrod; moderated by Peter Murphy. This is ahead of Spring Moves Festival Day which will be taking place in Wexford town on Saturday the 11th of May.

Gorey May Bush Feile 2024

The Feile took place on Sunday the 28th of April. This Festival was awarded funding by the Arts Department as part of the Small Arts Festival Fund 2024. It took place at the Circe Pavilion in Gorey. There was live traditional music, singing dancing, poetry and storytelling.

The County Wexford May Bush Festival

Funded by the Arts Department as part of the Small Arts Festival Fund 2024, festival events take place in Ballindaggin, Adamstown, Grantstown, Wexford town, Gorey and New Ross. The festival runs from April 17th – May 9th, 2024. This will include the Decorating of The County Hall May Bush at 2.30 on May 1st.

Photocall for Small Arts Festivals and Fáilte Ireland Festivals, Creative Communities and Creative Ireland's Creative Communities Challenge Fund

51 people attended The Arts Department photocall in April with Cathaoirleach John Fleming, Caroline Creane from Communities, Ireland Ancient East Officer with Fáilte Ireland Orla Delaney, Creative Ireland's Creative Communities Engagement officer Elizabeth Howard and the Arts office. Artists, representatives from festivals and representatives from the awarded community groups attended.

Living Arts Project

Running successfully since 2013, the Living Arts Project was established as an artist-in-residency scheme in primary schools, supporting the existing partnership between the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre. The aim of this project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art.

The callout opened in April for both primary schools and visual artists in Wexford for residencies commencing in September/October 2024 - 2025. Under this scheme, eight Wexford-based artists are partnered with primary schools and along with working with the children each artist will have studio space to develop their own practice. A mentorship programme will run alongside each residency which helps to ensure the effectiveness of the project while also providing a positive critique for the resident artists. Deadline for schools and artists is 4pm, Thursday 2nd May 2024.

Living Arts Project Exhibition for 2023 - 2024

This celebration event took place on Saturday 27th April at Wexford Arts Centre showcasing the work of schools and artists who participated in the Living Arts Project for 2023 – 2024. These artists and schools are as follows:

- Caoimhe Dunn and Ilaria Berardi with **Ballymurn NS** (Enniscorthy)
- Deirdre Meehan-Buttimer and Mandy Galvin with **Gaelscoil Moshíológ** (Gorey)
- Kate Murphy and Kate Tyrrell with **St. Aidan's NS** (Enniscorthy)
- David Begley and Hanneke van Ryswyk with **St. Anne's NS** (Rathangan).

The exhibition will run in the lower and upper galleries of Wexford Arts Centre from Saturday 30 March to Wednesday 1 May 2024.

Open Calls and Bursaries April 2024

Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris 2024-2025

Wexford Arts Office and Wexford Arts Centre are partnering with Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI) Paris on their 2024-25 Experimental Performance Residency and Research Fellowship programme - Wexford based poet Stephen James Smith has been selected for this residency.

Artlinks Breaking the Pattern Residency 2024

Wexford based artists Carmel Daly and Sarah Cogley were selected to attend a three month artist residency and work placement programme for emerging visual artists in Seville, Spain from the end of April to May.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Open Call

Two Wexford based artists Kate Murphy and Mirona Mara have been selected to spend two weeks at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a two-week period, plus the use of a studio depending on art form and a stipend of €300 towards expenses.

Drama League of Ireland Scholarship

This open call is for two scholarships for the Drama League of Ireland Residential Summer School which takes place at the University of Limerick from Saturday 20th to 27th July 2024. This scholarship is for professional and amateur theatre companies. The deadline is the 30th of April and selection will take place in early May.

Theatre Forum Sligo Gathering 2024

Wexford Arts Department with Theatre Forum awarded two bursaries for professional theatre practitioners based in Wexford to attend the Theatre Forum Gathering in Sligo on 28th and 29th May 2024.

Arts Ability Assistant Artist Programme 2024

5 artists have been selected to work in KTAC, WRIDS, Davidstown and with Wexford Mental Health Association alongside an established team of five lead artists supporting people with disabilities and in partnership with the HSE.

Screen Wexford

Screen Wexford is an Arts Office and Economic Dept initiative to support the development of the film and screen industry in Wexford.

New Voices Film Awards 2024:

This is a biannual award of €10,000 to support emerging filmmakers – Seven films have been shortlisted and interviews took place on the 27th April.

Crew Networking

Crew Networking took place at the Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy from 12.30pm to 2.30pm on Friday 26th April.

Creative Places Enniscorthy

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE) is a 3-year Arts Council funded initiative in partnership with Wexford Arts Office and Enniscorthy Municipal District, seeking to embed creativity in Enniscorthy which is community led.

Creative Places Open Call 2024

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE) invited artists, creatives, community groups and individuals to propose creative projects based in Enniscorthy that align with CPE's priorities and aims. The deadline is the 16th May.

- Total funding for both strands is €30,000.
- Strand 1 for Research & Development - Funding from €500 to €2,000
- Strand 2 – Projects / Events - Funding from €500-€5,000

CREATIVE IRELAND

Community Creativity Challenge Fund 2024 – an Open Call to Wexford Communities

Six community-focused grants have been awarded through the Community Creativity Challenge Fund, an award that enables communities to develop ideas using creativity for social enhancement.

This year's themes were:

1. Inclusion and Welcome
2. Making Connections
3. Climate Action and Adaption
4. Supporting the Development of the Irish Language

A total of €41,000 was awarded to the following projects:

- **Spoken Word Project with Stephen James Smith** – Spoken Word artist Stephen James Smith with Calmast, the STEM engagement Centre in South East Technological University, will coordinate a project tailored for TY students from Selskar College and the Presentation School in Wexford Town designed to encourage an exploration of their connections with climate change and their sense of place.
- **Earthy Kaleidoscope** – Enniscorthy Community Allotments will work with artist Helen McLean to design and develop a mosaic floor for the newly built dome structure at the allotments. The space will become a cultural and creative hub for the allotments to use.
- **Environment Enhancement Project** – Working collaboratively, with the Mayglass Men's Shed, the Ukrainian Community Kilmore, Kilmore Scouts, and other groups who use the Tomhaggard Community Centre, Tomhaggard Women's Shed will work with artist Helen

McLean to develop and beautify an outdoor space attached to the Centre. Using murals, mosaic and planting, the space will be transformed into an important space for the community.

- **What's In My Bag?** – Templshannon Community and Childcare Centre Enniscorthy will work with a group of Ukrainian women and others seeking International Protection to examine the stories behind significant items found in their handbags on arrival in Ireland. A crafting project, the group will develop new bags through sewing and stitching and develop an exhibition to contextualise the bags and the stories that have come through the project.
- **Flock of Flags** – Working with the coastal community of South Wexford from the Wexford North Slobs to Hook Lighthouse a group of Wexford-based artists will produce a series of upcycled flags based on selected migratory birds. The flags will be connected to the communities where the birds are present, and a film will be created with local residents. Links with communities in Greenland where the birds migrate to will be developed.
- **The Hall for All** – users of the Community Hall in Fethard-on-Sea will work with Wexford-based filmmakers Jack Deacon and Keith Nolan to showcase how essential a community hall still is today in rural Ireland in bringing people together. Person-centred stories that highlight the very essence of The Hall will be sourced and curated into a film that will be shown to the public in autumn 2024.

Who Am I Now? – Large Strategic Project funding for Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann

Creative Ireland will work with the National Opera House, internationally renowned and innovative traditional Irish music band Tuluá, the Wexford Local Authority Integration Team and residents from Wexford's Direct Provision Centres to produce a newly commissioned piece of music to be performed at the Jerome Hynes Theatre during the Fleadh in August. The new composition will support the exchange of cultural knowledge from Irish communities and DPC communities, highlighting pathways towards a new and more inclusive expression of modern Irish identity.

The Nature Games - Cruinniú na nÓg 2024

Entitled *The Nature Games* this year's Wexford Cruinniú na nÓg (a free day of creativity for young people) will use gaming as the creative medium to explore climate action, biodiversity and sustainability. On 15th June children and young people aged 0-18 will be invited to take part in free workshops across the county.

Events will be held in the five county libraries, as well as St Michael's Theatre New Ross, The National 1798 Rebellion Centre Enniscorthy, Gorey Civic Gardens, Rosslare Maritime Centre, the National Heritage Park Wexford, and Wexford Opera House.

FIRE SERVICES

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls March 2024	Calls to date 2024	Calls to this period 2023
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	4 / 4 (8)	19	37
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1 / 0 (1)	10	13
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	2	0
Flats (1) Local Authority	1	1	0
Hospital	0	0	1
School	0	0	2
Other Institution	0	1	1
Factory	0	1	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	1	3	6
Shop/Supermarket	0	1	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	1	3	0
Motor Vehicle	8	17	15
Agriculture Business	0	0	2
Forest/Bog/Grass	1	3	14
Miscellaneous	0	1	1
Outdoor Storage	0	1	2
Outdoor Rubbish	4	9	6
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	0	7	2
Gas/Chemicals	0	0	3
Miscellaneous	1	13	10
Other rescue	2	13	16
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	1	2
Road traffic accident	16	45	45
Water pumping/flooding	2	3	0

Incident Type	Calls March 2024	Calls to date 2024	Calls to this period 2023
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	17	50	63
Malicious	0	0	0
Total	64	204	241

Fire calls by brigade to date.

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	9	3	4	3	0	19
Other Fire in House	4	2	2	2	0	10
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	0	1	1	0	2
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other Institution	0	1	0	0	0	1
Factory	0	0	1	0	0	1
Storage Building/Warehouse	0	0	2	1	0	3
Shop/Supermarket	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	2	0	1	0	3

Motor Vehicle	4	6	5	1	1	17
Forest/Bog/Grass	0	1	2	0	0	3
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	1	0	1
Outdoor Storage	0	0	0	1	0	1
Outdoor Rubbish	2	0	4	2	1	9

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	4	0	2	1	0	7
Miscellaneous	1	4	2	4	2	13
Other rescue	4	4	1	4	0	13
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	0	0	1	0	1
Road traffic accident	16	8	13	6	2	45
Water pumping/flooding	1	0	2	0	0	3
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	21	6	12	9	2	50
Malicious	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	66	37	55	38	8	204

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in March 2024:	21
Number of Applications received to date:	56
Number of Applications to this period 2023:	28

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties:

- **May 3rd – Wexford Athletics** – Enniscorthy First aid
- **May 4th- Wicklow Mountain Bike event-** assisting Wicklow CD ambulance & first aid
- **May 5th - Wexford Athletics** – Enniscorthy First aid
- **May 5th- DB on the Quay-** Wexford- Ambulance & First Aid Cover
- **May 10th - Wexford Athletics** – Enniscorthy First aid
- **May 12th - Wexford Athletics** – Enniscorthy First aid
- **May 17th - Wexford Athletics** – Enniscorthy First aid

Weekly Training

- Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.
- Training will include Missing Persons Search Responder & Leader courses, Water Awareness & Swiftwater Food Responder- New & Recerts. Minimum Training Standards courses. Severe Weather Response.
- New Training programme 2024- includes a county training night, 1 night a month. Focus on Severe Weather Response, Major Emergency Exercises etc.
- Joint Training Exercise with Wexford Fire Services training will continue on a quarterly basis.

Patient Transports

Transport continues because of involvement during Covid, also persons having no other means of attending appointments.

Ukrainian Refugee Supports

We remain available for transport duties. 1 Transport booked May 13th. In process of setting up volunteer recruitment in the Ukrainian communities.

Fleadh Cheoil Preparations:

- Training & upskilling of volunteers First Aiders especially EMTs for large event response
- Welfare arrangements and training
- Procurement of necessary equipment

Recruitment:

20 recruits are now Probationary Volunteers and completing their Minimum Training Standards Training

May 13th: Stand at Volunteer Expo in Riverside Park Hotel hosted by Wexford Volunteer Centre

May 22nd: Visit Enniscorthy WWETB Adult Education Q&A and Demo

May 24th: Visit Gorey WWETB Adult Education Q&A and Demo

Pilot Scheme for Paramedic level cover for Civil Defence

Tánaiste welcomes pilot programme for paramedic-level medical cover in Civil Defence

From Department of Defence

Published on 11 April 2024

Last updated on 11 April 2024

The Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, Micheál Martin TD today (11th April) welcomed the launch of a Civil Defence pilot programme to provide medical cover to paramedic level.

The six-month pilot involves three Civil Defence Units - Kilkenny, Laois and Wexford.

The Tánaiste commented, "Civil Defence volunteers provide an invaluable service across the length and breadth of Ireland. This pilot will enhance the medical response capability of Civil Defence volunteers in their local communities.

I have seen at first-hand recently how the Civil Defence continues to upskill and professionalise its service provision, while retaining its volunteer ethos.

This is another example of how Civil Defence continues to enhance its skillset and service to the community and I look forward to seeing the results of this pilot in at the end of the Summer."

This new level of medical cover will be of immediate benefit to Wexford Civil Defence, with Wexford hosting Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in August 2024. Volunteers in that county will now be in a position to provide a higher level of medical cover to spectators at the event.

With immediate effect, qualified Civil Defence Volunteers involved in the pilot programme will be able to administer medications up to and including paramedic level.

Following the conclusion of the pilot programme, it is intended that lessons learnt will be shared with the wider Civil Defence and the Local Government Sector with a view to finalising a national strategy.



Finance:

Audit of Accounts 2023

Following the completion of the 2023 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts (AFS) it is expected that the Local Government Audit Service will commence the formal audit of the accounts shortly.

Audit Committee

The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled to take place in September, this will be the first meeting of the new Audit Committee following the Local Elections.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m for the period to the 31st December, 2024.

Increase Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government signed off on a package of €257m for the Increased Cost of Business grant as a vital measure for small and medium businesses as a contribution towards rising costs. The full cost of the grant scheme will be funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) and managed operationally by County Councils. The national online portal was available for submissions by businesses from the 14th March 2024 until midnight on the 1st May 2024.

Following a widespread national and media campaign Wexford County Council received a total of 2,680 submissions while the portal was open which are being validated at present. Over the coming weeks, payments will be made direct to qualifying businesses as the applications are validated and approved.

**Eddie Taaffe,
Chief Executive.**