



'Our mission is to be passionate and ambitious in working for Wexford, delivering a vibrant model county.'

Offices and Opening Hours

Wexford County Council H.Q.

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Carricklawn
Wexford
Y35 WY93



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council

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General Office Hours

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Closed for Lunch 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Motor Tax Office Planning Office

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed for Lunch 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Outside Office Hours Service – Emergencies Only – 053 919 6000

Borough District of Wexford

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Enniscorthy Municipal District

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Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District

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New Ross Municipal District

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nrreception@wexfordcoco.ie

Enniscorthy District Office

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Co Wexford Y21 YY04
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Rosslare Municipal District

Wexford County Council, County Hall,
Carricklawn, Wexford Y35 WY93
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Illegal Dumping Freephone Number: Emergency Services

1800 DUMPED (1800 386733)
999 or 112



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Cathaoirleach's Introduction



Cllr Michael Sheehan
Cathaoirleach 2019

It has been our privilege to serve as Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council and to lead our fellow councillors through the first two years of the term of the new Council following the local elections in May 2019.

The new Council, including eleven new councillors, held its first meeting in June 2019 and, at the end of that year, adopted the Corporate Plan 2019 to 2024. This document sets out our overall strategy for these years and will be the blueprint for how we achieve our goal to make Wexford the best possible place to live, work and do business.



Cllr Ger Carthy
Cathaoirleach 2020

2020 turned out to be an unprecedented time in the lives of the people of county Wexford and indeed the whole world. The Covid-19 pandemic threatened our way of life and our economy. Almost instantly, the measures introduced to halt the spread of the disease and protect the most vulnerable served to isolate those very people in their homes, often without the support of family or friends nearby. The Council responded by setting up the Community Call Initiative to meet their needs. Elected members, council staff and volunteers from local community and sports groups came together to provide a support network for all those who needed assistance or simply a friendly call to help them to feel connected to their neighbours and community.

We take this opportunity to thank all those who helped with this initiative in any way. As always, we are thankful but never surprised to see how in any time of crisis, Wexford people come together to support and help one another with generosity and kindness.

Our support for one another has also been evident in the way the people of Wexford have tried to support local businesses through Covid-19. Supported by the local authority, there have been huge efforts to find new ways of working and the people of Wexford have consciously focussed their spending locally to keep our economy going. The Local Enterprise Office has helped many companies to set up their businesses online and they have administered Business Support Grants which have helped so many to stay afloat.

Brexit has loomed large and has threatened to derail Ireland's economy. Although it will undoubtedly bring many challenges, we are convinced Brexit will bring significant opportunities for the economy of county Wexford. We have no doubt that Wexford businesses will adapt to the new environment and we will make the most of the unique advantage the presence of Rosslare Europort brings to our county. Through Rosslare, we have exceptional potential for growth in trade directly with Europe.

Through all these challenges, Wexford County Council has worked to continue to meet the needs of our communities. We have progressed our Economic and Community Investment Programme to deliver high quality services, infrastructure, community facilities and housing.

The opening of the bypasses of Enniscorthy and New Ross towns has eased the flow of traffic through the county and has opened up the centres of the towns for future development and works to enhance their attractiveness for their citizens and visitors alike.

We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in the Council Chamber, the Chief Executive, the Management Team and the Staff of the Council to achieve this goal and to meet the needs of the people of Wexford. In hindsight, 2019 is now only dimly recalled as the time before Covid and 2020 will be remembered by some as a difficult year, especially for the many who have lost loved ones or suffered hardship, but through it we have learned that we are at our best when we come together and we hope we will continue to unite to support one another as we face the challenges of the future for the betterment of our county and its people.

Chief Executive's Introduction



Tom Enright
Chief Executive

Throughout 2019 and 2020 Wexford County Council continued to deliver quality services across all our functions while progressing our ambitious economic, social and community development programmes.

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 presented new and unprecedented challenges. I am proud to say that staff and Elected Members adapted and worked together to find innovative ways in which to continue to provide essential services to the public, even during periods of lockdown. Our IT Department was pro-active in facilitating remote working for many staff and new technology was used to enable monthly Council meetings and others to be held during most of the year.

The pandemic also required us to provide new services to assist with the changing environments presented by Covid-19: The Council set up the Community Call initiative which provided a lifeline and much needed contact and support to many vulnerable and isolated people in our community and the Local Enterprise Office administered €25m in support grants to local businesses.

In May 2019, the local elections were held to elect the Councillors who will represent the people of Wexford for the next five years. These elections were particularly significant as they were the first to be held since changes were made to Wexford's local electoral areas and a fifth Municipal District was created for Rosslare following the publication of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee's report. The elections resulted in the election of eleven new councillors.

2019 saw the opening of the M11 Enniscorthy Motorway Bypass. The new road has greatly improved the connectivity of the county and enhanced the town centre with the removal of through-traffic. It was followed early in 2020 by the opening of the New Ross Bypass and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge over the river Barrow. The bridge which links Wexford with County Kilkenny is an engineering masterpiece and the longest of its kind in the world.

Significant progress was also made on the Council's Economic and Community Development Programme in 2019, including the opening of new Wexford Borough Municipal Offices at the Bullring, the completion of Phase 1 of the new Enniscorthy Technology Park, the completion of public realm works at Crescent Quay, Wexford and the refurbishment of Enniscorthy Courthouse.

We strengthened Wexford's international connections in 2019 with the opening of the US Georgia State University Learning Centre at old County Hall, Wexford Town. This centre will host students from the university who are undertaking a semester of study abroad, providing them with modern, well equipped teaching facilities and an opportunity to experience life in our county. Plans are well advanced to provide accommodation for the students in the town and, although delayed due to Covid-19, it is hoped that the first students will arrive in 2022.

Chief Executive's Introduction *contd.*

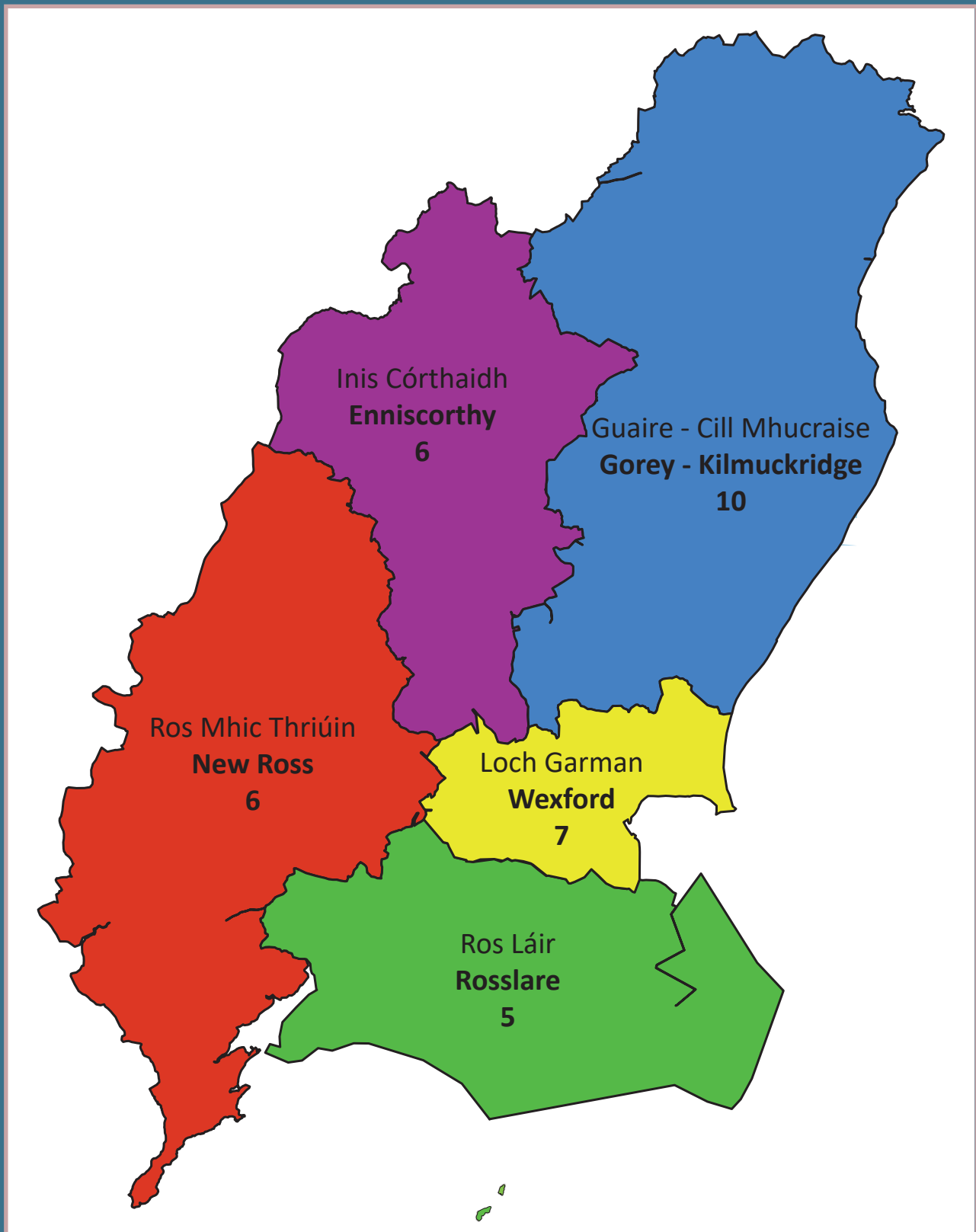
In spite of the disruption and the difficulties imposed in 2020 by the pandemic, we continued to progress many projects through the various stages of development. Much progress was made with regard to the following:

- Route selection for M11 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour advanced.
- Several new social housing developments were completed.
- The new Min Ryan Neighbourhood Park in Wexford town was opened.
- Phase 1 of Forth Mountain outdoor activity project was completed.
- Planning approval was granted by An Bord Pleanála to the Trinity Wharf project.
- A new Rape Crisis Centre for County Wexford was completed.
- Refurbishment of Enniscorthy Municipal District Offices was completed.
- Contract was signed for New Ross advanced factory.
- New Ross Greenway under construction.
- Kilmore Quay Link Road under construction.
- Gorey District Park nearing completion.
- Significant numbers of new jobs announced.

I take this opportunity to thank the Elected Members for their valued support and for their continuing endeavours on behalf of Wexford. I also want to express my sincere thanks to the Management Team and Staff of the Council for their loyalty and commitment as we continue in our mission to provide services of the highest quality to the people of Wexford.



Members of Wexford County Council 2019 / 2020



34 Members in 5 Districts

For full Councillor contact details go to www.wexfordcoco.ie and click on Council and Democracy.

BOROUGH DISTRICT OF WEXFORD



Cllr Maura Bell
Labour



Cllr Tom Forde
Sinn Féin



Cllr John Hegarty
Fine Gael



Cllr Davy Hynes
Non Party



Cllr Leonard Kelly
Non Party



Cllr Garry Laffan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr George Lawlor
Labour

ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Aidan Browne
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Cathal Byrne
Fine Gael



Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Fine Gael



Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy
Fianna Fáil



Cllr John O'Rourke
Non Party



Cllr Jackser Owens
Non Party

GOREY - KILMUCKRIDGE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Pip Breen
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Malcolm Byrne
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Diarmuid Devereux
Fine Gael



Cllr Anthony Donohoe
Fine Gael



Cllr Mary Farrell
Non Party



Cllr Willie Kavanagh
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Donal Kenny
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Fionntán O'Súilleacháin
Sinn Féin



Cllr Joe Sullivan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Oliver Walsh
Fine Gael

NEW ROSS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Pat Barden
Non Party



Cllr Anthony Connick
Non Party



Cllr John Fleming
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Brídín Murphy
Fine Gael



Cllr Michael Sheehan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Michael Whelan
Fianna Fáil

ROSSLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Ger Carthy
Non Party



Cllr Jim Codd
AONTU



Cllr Lisa McDonald
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Jim Moore
Fine Gael



Cllr Frank Staples
Fine Gael

The Boundary Commission Report of 2018 resulted in the creation of new districts for 2019.

Gorey Municipal District became Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District and a new district was created in Rosslare Municipal District. This move also resulted in a number of elected representatives moving district.

Council Committees & Meetings 2019

Date	Conferences 2019	Attendees
11-13 January	Celtic Conferences, The Finance Act 2018 Conference, Carlingford, Co Louth	Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin Oliver Walsh
6 February	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority Event – Brexit, Co Waterford	Jim Moore
21 February	SE Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force – Co Kilkenny	David Hynes
22 February	The Creative Rural Economy – Creative Zone, Boole, Library, UCC Conference, Cork University Business School	Michael Sheehan
9 October	Midlands Regional Transition Team with Eastern and Midlands CARO and Local Enterprise Office Offaly – Creating Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change – Tullamore, Co Offaly	Jim Moore
10-11 October	Irish Council for Social Housing – Social Housing 2019 Innovation Delivery and Sustainability, Co Wexford	Leonard Kelly Jim Moore
12 October	Ferns Conference 2019 – the MacMurrough Inquiry, St Edan’s Cathedral, Ferns, Co Wexford	Kathleen Codd Nolan Jackser Owens Barbara Anne Murphy
22 October	German-Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Dublin – Conference and Trade Mission Wind Energy Onshore/Offshore	Jim Moore
4 December	Environmental Pillar – Local Government Climate and Biodiversity Action Workshop, Wood Quay, Dublin 8	Mary Farrell Maura Bell Leonard Kelly
6-8 December	Celtic Conferences – Irish Social Welfare System, Clonakilty, Co Cork	Garry Laffan George Lawlor
13-15 December	Celtic Conferences – First Time Buyers Incentives, Carlingford, Co Louth	David Hynes George Lawlor John Fleming Cathal Byrne Pip Breen Garry Laffan

Council Committees & Meetings 2019

Date	Training 2019	Attendees
24 January	AILG Training – Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies – Co Tipperary	Anthony Connick George Lawlor John Fleming Pip Breen Joe Sullivan Martin Murphy Oliver Walsh Willie Kavanagh
25-27 January	Institute of Professional Training Training Seminar – Insolvency Services in Ireland – Dungarvan, Co Waterford	George Lawlor John Fleming Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin
15-17 February	Institute of Professional Training Training Seminar – Local Elections – Letterkenny, Co Donegal	George Lawlor Larry O’Brien Martin Murphy Michael Sheehan
15 February	Regional Assembly – Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region 2019-31 – Regional Assembly, Co Waterford – Briefing	John Fleming Pip Breen Joe Sullivan
21-22 February	AILG Annual Training Conference 2019 – Co Longford	Michael Sheehan Pip Breen George Lawlor Michael Whelan Larry O’Brien Paddy Kavanagh Joe Sullivan Willie Kavanagh Martin Murphy Oliver Walsh
7-8 March	LAMA Spring Training Seminar, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim	Jim Moore Larry O’Brien Pip Breen Joe Sullivan George Lawlor John Fleming Martin Murphy Paddy Kavanagh Oliver Walsh
21 March	AILG Training Module 2 Forecasting Services and Local Authorities, Dungarvan, Co Waterford	Pip Breen Joe Sullivan Oliver Walsh Larry O’Brien
30 March	MOCT Training and Consultancy – A Place for Stillness, Reflection and Restoration Training Seminar – Dungarvan, Co Waterford	David Hynes

Council Committees & Meetings 2019

12-14 April	Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar Changing Trends and Approaches to Drug and Alcohol Abuse – Baltimore, West Cork	David Hynes George Lawlor Larry O’Brien Martin Murphy Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin
3-5 May	Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar Health and Safety For Your Council, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow	Larry O’Brien
5-7 July	Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar from Ballot Box to Council Chamber, C. Wexford	Cathal Byrne
11 July	AILG Training for Elected and Re-Elected Members, Mullingar, Co Westmeath	George Lawlor Garry Laffan Cathal Byrne Pat Barden John Fleming
13 July	AILG Training for Elected Members – Horse and Jockey, Co Tipperary	Frank Staples Malcolm Byrne Jim Codd Aidan Browne Donal Kenny Joe Sullivan Pip Breen Maura Bell Oliver Walsh
11-12 Sept	AILG Autumn Seminar – Climate Change and Planning a New Challenge for Local Authorities, Co Monaghan	Donal Kenny Joe Sullivan George Lawlor Oliver Walsh Ger Carthy Anthony Connick Leonard Kelly Jim Moore Garry Laffan John Fleming Pat Barden Frank Staples
10 October	AILG Module 4 – The Planning Process, the Elected Member and the Office of the Planning Regulator – Limerick	Oliver Walsh
12 October	AILG Training Module 4 – The Planning Process, the Elected Member and the Office of the Planning Regulator, Dundalk, Co Louth	Cathal Byrne Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin Joe Sullivan Pip Breen
17-19 October	LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, Ennistymon, Co Clare	Frank Staples Oliver Walsh Cathal Byrne Willie Kavanagh Michael Whelan Joe Sullivan Pip Breen Donal Kenny Garry Laffan John Fleming

Council Committees & Meetings 2019

21 November	AILG Training Module 5 Climate Change – The Local Authority Response, Athlone, Co Westmeath	Joe Sullivan
23 November	AILG Training Module 5 Climate Change – The Local Authority Response, Little Island, Cork	Cathal Byrne Garry Laffan John Fleming Oliver Walsh



Date	Foreign Travel 2019	Attendees
1 February	Delegation to Brussels, Belgium – Rosslare Europort,	Keith Doyle
14-19 March	Delegation to Savannah, Georgia, US – Signing of Agreement	Keith Doyle Tony Dempsey
March	St Patrick’s Day Celebrations, New York, US	Willie Fitzharris
26-28 April	London Wexford Association Annual Dinner – Cricklewood, London, England	Larry O’Brien Robert Ireton
19-22 April	Twinning Ceremony Fleurus, Belgium	George Lawlor Ger Carthy
28 August-4 September	Eugene O’Neill Festival, Danville California, US	John Fleming
23-25 September	Travel to St David’s – Wales	Joe Sullivan Kathleen Codd Nolan
25-27 October	London-Wexford Association Annual Dinner Dance, London, England	Michael Sheehan Joe Sullivan Jim Moore Maura Bell Kathleen Codd Nolan

Council Committees & Meetings 2020

Date	Conferences 2020	Attendees
10/12 January	Celtic Conferences, The Finance Act 2019 Conference – Carlingford Co. Louth	John O'Rourke
5 February	Elected Members Planning Seminar –Cork. Irish Planning Institute	Jim Moore Garry Laffan Oliver Walsh
31 January	3 Counties Energy Agency 10 Year Regional Strategy to 2030 – Castlecomer Discovery Park, Co. Kilkenny.	Jim Moore
21/23 February	Health & Safety in the Workplace, - Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Celtic Conferences	Garry Laffan

Date	Training 2020	Attendees
13 February	AILG Training – The Development Plan Making Process – A Briefing for Elected Members –Dublin Road, Cavan.	Pip Breen Donal Kenny Joe Sullivan
15 February	AILG Training – The Development Plan Making Process – A Briefing for Elected Members – Waterford.	Cathal Byrne Oliver Walsh Fionntán OSúilleabháin John Fleming Garry Laffan
4/5 March	AILG Annual Training 2020 – Climate Action Solving Global Challenges through Local Leadership – Longford.	Pat Barden Michael Whelan Frank Staples Garry Laffan Cathal Byrne Oliver Walsh Jim Moore Joe Sullivan Pip Breen Donal Kenny John Fleming Anthony Donohoe Ger Carthy Anthony Connick
25 June 2 & 9 July	Beyond Coronavirus: A new type of culture for a new type of Authority – Online Training Sessions. Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)	Barbara Anne Murphy
20 & 27 May 3 rd June	Effective Social Media Sessions – Online Training Sessions. Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)	Barbara Anne Murphy
July/August 2020	AILG Module 3 “Moorhead Report – A briefing for Elected Members (various dates and venues)	Cathal Byrne Garry Laffan Michael Whelan John Fleming Andrew Bolger Jim Codd Joe Sullivan Donal Kenny Fionntán OSúilleabháin Pip Breen Oliver Walsh Michael Sheehan

Borough District of Wexford 2019

Introduction

Wexford Borough District experienced a year of growth and positive development in 2019 and continued to foster collaborative approaches with agencies, the business sector, local groups and communities to strengthen and respond to economic, social and cultural opportunities for Wexford Town and District. Throughout the past year, the elected members and staff have been to the forefront working closely with various key stakeholders continuing to promote the development of the District and the Wexford brand while ensuring consistent delivery of high quality public services. The positive working relationship with Wexford Tidy Towns, the Wexford Retail Committee and business sector, tourism and community groups throughout the entire District over the past year is welcomed and will continue to inform our work programme into the future.

Following significant investment by the Council and an extensive refurbishment programme, the Wexford Borough District Offices relocated from Old County Hall to a new town centre location in The Bullring in April, 2019 from where we continue to provide an efficient and effective public service to the people of Wexford. At the Annual Meeting held on 17th June, 2019 Councillor George Lawlor was elected to the office of Mayor of Wexford Borough District to succeed the outgoing Mayor, Cllr. Tony Dempsey, for the following 12 months. Councillor Maura Bell was elected to the position of Deputy Mayor for the same period.

Infrastructural Projects

Under the Wexford Borough District work programme 2019 the following projects were delivered working collaboratively with other Departments within the Council and key stakeholders:

- During 2019, there was significant investment in the Town and wider District under the Roads Programme including completion of the final phase of road restoration works on the R741 at Ferrybank/Ardcavan, restoration works on the Newtown Road, both of which have significantly enhanced road safety for traffic and pedestrians on these major approach roads into Wexford Town.
- New pedestrian crossings were installed at Liam Mellows Park adjacent to LIDL supermarket and at Killeens in the vicinity of the new Loreto Secondary School.
- Landscaping works were carried out to enhance the presentation of roundabouts on the main approach roads into the town at Rosslare Road, Duncannon Line and the Barntown roundabouts.
- Village Enhancement Works to include new footpaths and public lighting to improve public safety in Barntown.
- New Bus Shelters installed at Newtown Road (2), Crescent Quay, Drinagh and Sinnottstown Lane.
- Construction work on the Crescent Quay Public Realm Improvement Scheme commenced in Q1, 2019 and is continuing.
- Construction of Wexford's much-anticipated Min Ryan Park on an 18 acre site at Killeens is well advanced and will open to the public in 2020.
- Significant development of Broadband infrastructure by Virgin Media was completed in 2019 providing high speed fibre broadband throughout Wexford town.
- Preliminary works on the new Carrigfoyle Adventure and Activity Centre at Forth Mountain were commenced. Phase 1 comprising a new access road, car parking facilities and multi access looped walking trails will be completed in 2020.
- Under the twinning programme, links with our twin towns of Coueron, Lugo and Fleurus took place during the year, with delegations from each hosted by the Mayor and Councillors.

Borough District of Wexford

Community Supports

Wexford Borough District, working collaboratively with local community and voluntary groups continue to provide much needed financial and other supports through the following:

- Amenity, Arts and Residents Association Grants.
- A number of voluntary and community groups received funding under the Community Enhancement Programme to assist with community based projects and initiatives.
- FLAG funding allowed the development and enhancement of walking/maritime trails at The Rocks, Maudlintown by the South End Community Development Group and the South End Family Resource Centre.
- Borough District support continued in 2019 for Tidy Towns groups throughout the District with Wexford Town again featuring well in the 2019 National Tidy Towns Competition. Our special thanks to the efforts of all Tidy Towns Committees and Volunteers for their achievements and efforts throughout the year.
- Wexford Men's Shed relocated from the Old Gaol building to a new home on Spawell Road with grant assistance from the Community Department/LCDC.
- A new building to house Wexford Women's Refuge is at planning/design stage and will be constructed at Maudlintown on lands assembled by Wexford County Council. The building which will provide increased capacity and facilities will proceed to construction in 2020.
- Adjacent to the Wexford Women's Refuge site, Wexford County Council also made available a site at Maudlintown to accommodate a new building for Wexford Rape Crisis Centre. The project is at design/planning stage and will proceed to construction in 2020.



Festival and Cultural Highlights

Wexford Borough District continues to promote and support a vibrant festival and cultural programme throughout the year. The economic value of these festivals to the town cannot be underestimated. The following is a flavour from the 2019 calendar of events:

- St. Patrick's Day Festival
- Jestfest Comedy Festival
- Wexford.ie Spiegeltent Festival
- Wexford Festival Opera
- Wexford Maritime Festival
- Wexford Motor Show
- Wexford Marathon
- Wexford Half Marathon
- Kilmore Quay Seafood Festival
- Leo Carthy Weekend
- Wexford Rally and Motor Weekend
- Walled Towns Day
- Culture Night
- Wexford Viking Fire Festival
- Crescent – A Festival of Irish Contemporary Music
- Wexford Christmas Winterland Programme



The Wexford.ie Spiegeltent was awarded Best Small Music Festival by IMRO in 2019. The festival has grown year on year with an audience of 20,000 visitors attending the 2019 festival.

A considerable number of other voluntary and community events also received support in Wexford Town and throughout the District.



Borough District of Wexford 2020

Wexford Borough District experienced a year of growth and positive development in 2020 despite the challenges we as a County and a Nation faced during the Covid pandemic. Whilst operations were somewhat curtailed and limited to emergency and essential services only during Covid lockdowns, the Council continued to foster collaborative approaches with the business sector, local groups and communities to strengthen and respond to economic, social and cultural opportunities for Wexford Town and District.

Throughout the year, the elected members and staff were to the forefront working closely with various key stakeholders continuing to promote the development of the District and the Wexford brand while ensuring consistent delivery of high quality public services during the Covid pandemic.

Wexford Borough District has delivered the following work programme for 2020 working collaboratively with other Departments within the Council and key stakeholders:

Roads / Footpath Programme

- There was significant investment in the Town and wider District under the Roads Programme including major restoration works on the Newtown Road, Belvedere Road, Paul Quay, Custom House Quay, King Street, Faythe Lane/ The Folly, Kevin Barry Street, Trinity Street, Whitemill Road, Killeens, all of which have significantly enhanced road safety for traffic and pedestrians in these areas of the town and District.
- Footpath rehabilitation works were carried out at various locations in the town centre including sections along the Quays, King Street and Lower John Street.

Traffic Safety

To improve traffic safety into Drinagh Retail Park on the Rosslare Road, a new roundabout was constructed at the busy junction of the N25 and Sinnottstown Lane.

Traffic calming measures have been introduced on the Whitemill Road artery from St. Aidan's Road through to Whitemill North to reduce speed through the residential housing estates in the area.

Installation of Bus Shelters

Wexford Town and the surrounding areas are well served with a local shuttlebus transport system operating from early morning through to late evening. Wexford County Council installed further new bus shelters in 2020 to serve users of this service at Beechlawn, Paul Quay, and Min Ryan Park.



Public Lighting

Continuing the programme of replacing all public lighting in Wexford Town and Environs with new energy efficient LED lighting, the public lighting on the N25 along Newtown Road was extended out to the Maldron Hotel roundabout in 2020. New public lighting was also installed along Abbey Street adjacent to Wexford Arts Centre and the Old Town Wall.

Improvements along Railway Line

Wexford Town is unique in that the railway line from Dublin to Rosslare Europort passes through Wexford Town along the quayside between the public road and the quayfront amenity area. With up to 5 services per day, this is a unique feature in the daily life of the town. To improve public safety, C.I.E., in conjunction with Wexford County Council, installed new boundary fencing along the section of railway line on Paul Quay adjacent to the public car park. Through careful design and the use of high quality materials, the project has enhanced this section of the quays and consideration is being given to extending the fencing along further sections of the railway line subject to available funding.

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

Crescent Quay / Henrietta Street

Major public realm works to improve pedestrian movement/safety at Henrietta Street and Crescent Quay were completed in Q1 of 2020.

Crescent Quay is a central site and represents a unique feature of the town's public realm. The area has been transformed into an active public space with vehicular dominance reduced to provide a greatly enhanced public realm experience. The new high quality paved surfacing has created the ideal environment for local businesses to provide outdoor dining facilities and social distancing for the benefit of locals and visitors alike.

Paintbox Wexford

Launched in 2020, 'Paintbox Wexford' is a new public art initiative of Wexford Borough District in collaboration with Wexford Tidy Towns and Wexford Plein Air Art Festival. The goal of the project is to bring some colour and creativity to the streets of Wexford Town by transforming ESB transformer pods into canvases for local artists to help brighten up the urban fabric of Wexford Town.

Nine sites were identified in prime town centre locations and following a public invitation to local artists, nine artists were chosen by a selection panel and afforded an opportunity to showcase their artwork display throughout the town. With the assistance of funding under the Creative Ireland Programme, the completed artworks transformed these dull pods into beautiful works of art, transforming Wexford Town into a walking gallery of public art.



AMENITIES

Min Ryan Park

The much-anticipated Min Ryan Park on an 18 acre site at Killeens was completed and opened to the public in June 2020. The project saw an investment of €5m in this landmark public park named in honour of local woman, Min Ryan, who played a key role in the 1916 Rising. The addition of a skateboarding facility and MUGA play surface will be constructed in Summer 2021.



Borough District of Wexford

New Pedestrian Walkway at Ferrybank

To improve accessibility to the popular amenity that is Ferrybank adjacent to Wexford Harbour, a new pedestrian walkway was constructed in 2020 which provides safe access for those visiting this much used walking area overlooking the waterfront. Located adjacent to the public car park, the improvements have been welcomed and provide easy access for all. New seating overlooking Wexford Harbour has also been installed with sponsorship from local voluntary organisations.

Carrigfoyle Walking Trail / Adventure and Activity Centre at Forth Mountain

Building on the success of the Three Rocks walking trail, the new multi access walking trails at Carrigfoyle opened to the public in Q3 of 2020 and have proved hugely popular for walking enthusiasts.

Plans for the construction of a new Adventure and Activity Centre in partnership with WWETB are at detailed design and planning stage.



ENVIRONMENT

Litter Control

In order to provide increased capacity and to reduce the frequency of emptying, 17 new 'Big Belly' compactor litter bins were installed at strategic locations in 2020 on a trial basis.

Further specific dog litter bins were installed at key locations and on popular walking routes bringing the total number provided to 32 in addition to 36 doggie bag dispenser units. Approximately 9,800 doggie bags are now dispensed per week.

Wexford Tidy Towns

The work of the local Tidy Towns Committee and volunteers was severely curtailed in 2020 due to Covid though they did continue with limited resources operating in accordance with Government guidelines.

Derelict Sites

The Council continued to work towards eliminating Derelict Sites in the town centre and a number of key sites in private ownership have been demolished to facilitate redevelopment including Peter Street, Monck Street and Redmond Road.

New Public Drinking Water Dispensers

Two new public drinking water dispensers were installed at Redmond Square and The Bullring. Aside from providing free drinking water to the public, people will be encouraged to reuse and refill their bottles of water and so reduce the amount of plastic bottles being discarded and reduce litter in the town centre.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Redevelopment of Wexford Quays and Trinity Wharf Site

Wexford County Council is committed to revitalising, regenerating and facilitating the redevelopment of the core urban centre of Wexford Town for the benefit of the town's employees, local residents and visitors alike. In 2016/2017, the Council commissioned an Economic & Spatial Strategy specifically focusing on the Quays, the Town Centre and the connecting links to develop plans for the redevelopment of these areas as an economic driver for the town & environs.

Within the study area, Trinity Wharf, Crescent Quay and the Waterfront have been identified as key sites for redevelopment over the next 3 – 5 years.

The Trinity Wharf site will be delivered under a number of phases and will facilitate a mix of office, leisure & residential development, with a primary objective of increased sustainable employment. It will also include a marina, a landmark cultural and events building, the development of high quality public realm spaces and pedestrian friendly links along the waterfront linking to the Crescent and to the town centre.



Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for this multi million euro project and funding of €18.4m was secured under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund in 2020.

COMMUNITY

Community Supports

- The scheme of Amenity, Arts and Residents Association Grants provides much needed assistance to community and voluntary groups and to committees in local housing estates.
- A number of voluntary and community groups were successful in their applications for funding under the Community Enhancement Programme to assist with community based projects and initiatives.

Festivals and Cultural Programme:

Wexford Borough District promotes and supports a vibrant festival programme throughout the Wexford District each year. However, due to the impact of the Covid pandemic on the live performance industry, all annual festivals and events were cancelled in 2020.

The annual Culture Night Festival was held on 18 September, 2020 with a reduced programme of online music and cultural events.

Enniscorthy Municipal District 2019

Introduction

During 2019, the Enniscorthy Municipal District continued to develop collaborative approaches with local groups and communities, the retail and business sector and relevant organisations to strengthen and respond to economic, social, and cultural opportunities for Enniscorthy Town and District. 2019 marked significant development of the tourism brand for the district, focusing on a range of festivals and the Enniscorthy Castle. Working with the Tidy Towns Committees on public realm and environmental enhancement improvements the town secured a Bronze Award with a gain of 10 extra points to 319.



Enniscorthy town is on the cusp of significant change in its landscape with a number of major infrastructure projects planned for the town. The role of Enniscorthy Municipal District is to lead and champion the potential opportunities from the investment programme. A key infrastructural project to the town is the Enniscorthy By-Pass which opened in August 2019 and has impacted substantially on the town and district, creating jobs during its construction, and greatly improving access and traffic management in the area since completion. This has also maximised the connectivity of the town to larger population urban centres for economic growth and improved access for local citizens of the district.

Enniscorthy Municipal District implemented the following work programme for 2019, supporting an inter-departmental approach with Wexford County Council:

- The Orchard Peace Park officially opened in May 2019 providing a wonderful amenity space within the town for people of all ages.
- Refurbishment of the Courthouse was completed in September 2019 and provided temporary accommodation for the Municipal District Office. The development of the iconic cultural building located strategically in the town centre will provide new office accommodation, complementing the investment for jobs with the technology park.

Tourism

- The All-Ireland Farmers Market was held with The Birds and the Teas, Kilcoole, Wicklow winning the overall trophy.
- The Enniscorthy Tourism Project provides for the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on Enniscorthy Castle that will have the capacity to significantly increase tourism visitor numbers to the town.

Festivals and Events

Under the 2019 Festival Programme the District delivered a wide range of festivals and community events throughout the year.

- 52nd Strawberry Festival/Street Rhythms & Roots – June Bank Holiday featuring the crowning of this year’s Strawberry Queen, Ms. Joy Quigley. The festival provided activities for all the family on the streets of Enniscorthy Town.
- Streams of Bunclody Festival – July 2019.
- Rockin’Food Festival – August Bank Holiday 2019, the 5th Rockin’Food Festival to take place in Enniscorthy which provided an impressive programme of free and value ticketed events which included, food and crafts markets, cookery demos, family fun activities and workshops along with live outdoor entertainment.
- Wexford Literary festival was held in July 2019.
- St. Patricks Day Parades.
- Easter Monday Commemoration, April 2019.
- Blackstairs Blues Festival, September 2019.
- Halloween Festival, October 2019.
- Santa’s Enchanted Castle 2019 – Enniscorthy welcomed visitors from around the country to experience a fantastic time in our historical town.



Enniscorthy Municipal District

Grant Aid

- Delivery of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme Investment programme continued in 2019 with Ballindaggin securing funding of €100,00 for Community Hall Renovations.

Road Transport and Safety

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government funding of €1,880,000 under the Restoration Improvement Grant along with funding of €600,000 under the Restoration Maintenance Grant allowed further improvements to the road network throughout the town and district. Numerous footpaths in the district were also improved in relation to condition and access.

The Local Improvement Scheme continued in 2019 and funding of €156,000 was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development. This allowed for the completion of works to three laneways. The Community Involvement Scheme also continued, and this allowed for the completion of drainage and resurfacing works on the public road at Ballynaslaney and Boolabaun lane.

Environmental Protection

The presentation of the District is of utmost importance to the Enniscorthy Municipal District as represented by the Council's annual Parks Improvement Programme which continued in 2019. In addition to maintenance of 60 acres of green areas throughout the town of Enniscorthy the Council also planted roundabouts on the entrances to the town and maintained impressive street side floral displays in many areas. Wildflower planting and invasive species control in various locations within the town continued during 2019.

Council Street Cleaning and Town Presentation Crews continued to present the town in an excellent light and the fruits of their labours were enjoyed throughout the year by shoppers, visitors, and residents alike.

The Country Walk is a 3km long pathway opened in 2011 adjacent to the Slaney River south of Enniscorthy. In late 2016 the upper section of the Country Walk was resurfaced and widened where necessary.

Following the completion of major environmental works on the Orchard Peace Park the expanded park was opened on May 20th, 2019. The Park is situated to the rear of the Presentation Centre on Nunnery Road. The works involve extensive tree planting and shrub planting and provide a fully accessible pathway linking the Presentation Centre on Nunnery Road to Irish Street and the town centre. The park is designed being mindful of the local ecology and surroundings as well as potential uses for education purposes by children and teachers at the adjacent school.

The Tidy Towns Committees throughout the Enniscorthy District, supported by the Council made further progress in search of National Honours with Enniscorthy Town securing a Bronze Medal in the Tidy Towns Awards 2019. Congratulations are extended to all the Tidy Towns Committees, and it is hoped that their commendable efforts will receive further recognition in the near future.



Refurbishment of Enniscorthy Courthouse

In September 2019, the refurbished Historic Enniscorthy Courthouse building was reopened to provide office accommodation for up to thirty-four people in Enniscorthy Town centre. This protected building which was vacant for 10 years was used as a temporary hospital for wounded United Irish insurgents in 1798 and seventy-six wounded insurgents lost their lives when Crown Forces set the building on fire on June 21st, 1798.

The refurbished building provides for a public reception area, new canteen, a meeting room, three individual offices and three open plan offices, toilets including an accessible toilet.

The refurbished building includes open plan offices to cater for up to twenty-nine workstations in the three separate locations within the building, one of which includes the addition of an internal mezzanine at first floor level to provide up to eight workstations. The development allows for subdivision of the accommodation for 2 separate tenants. From September 2019 Wexford County Council's Market Square Office transferred to the refurbished building which provided temporary office accommodation for twenty-two people.



Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

The town of Enniscorthy, located on the banks of the River Slaney, has a long history of flooding. Extreme floods have occurred in 1924, 1947, 1965, 2000, 2002, 2009, 2011, 2014 and more recently in December 2015. Flooding has resulted in inundation of properties and roads in the town and represents a risk to the health & safety of its inhabitants, causing property damage and traffic disruption and adversely affecting commercial activity in the town and its environs. Over 130 properties were affected by the flooding in December 2015.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) in conjunction with Wexford County Council undertook a study of the flooding problem, following which, a preliminary design for the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme was exhibited for public consultation in 2009. This was further improved and went on public display again in 2012.

Wexford County Council appointed Design Consultants Mott MacDonald and Roughan & O'Donovan to start work on the detailed design of the scheme in November 2015.

Ground Investigation Works, Ecological Surveys, Traffic Surveys and Archaeological Investigations commenced in 2016 and were completed in 2018.

A four-week public display & information event, to inform the public of the developed design, took place in Enniscorthy in June 2018. Observations received during the event were considered and the scheme documents were amended to include further improvements to the design.

The amended scheme was exhibited for public consultation in Enniscorthy Library during May & June 2019. Over 400 people attended the public exhibition. Following consideration of responses received during the public exhibition, the scheme was submitted to the OPW for Ministerial Consent in December 2019. The scheme was forwarded by the OPW to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) for approval in March 2020.

Enniscorthy Municipal District

The Flood Defence Scheme combines several measures to prevent flooding in the town. These include river channel widening, river deepening, bridge relocation, and the construction of extensive glass panelled flood walls through the town.

The proposed construction works will cover a 3.5km stretch of the River Slaney, extending from 1.5km upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge to 2km downstream. The main elements of the project include:

- Construction of flood defence walls on both banks, upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge, through the town, finishing just south of the Riverside Park Hotel.
- River channel widening and deepening.
- Deepening of the riverbed beneath the existing Railway Bridge & the Old Enniscorthy Bridge.
- Removal of the existing Seamus Rafter Bridge.
- Construction of a new road bridge over the River Slaney and Railway Line, located approx. 100m south of the Riverside Park Hotel.
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre.
- Development of a new traffic management plan for the town.

It is estimated that the scheme will cost €50M to complete.



Recreation and Amenity

The role of community groups in the provision of recreation and amenity facilities in the Enniscorthy District has long been recognised by Wexford County Council. In 2019 the Enniscorthy Municipal District further supported these worthy organisations by awarding funding in excess of €40,000 to some 111 local groups under the Amenity & Arts Grants Scheme 2019.

The Enniscorthy Municipal District also administered funding to Residents Associations to assist with planting and general estate improvements in excess of €10,300.00 to 18 Resident Associations throughout the district.

Presentation Centre

Enniscorthy Presentation Centre is a Community Arts facility in Enniscorthy. Enniscorthy Municipal District works in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre to manage and promote the community arts venue in the County. A variety of exhibitions were held in 2019 supporting local and international artists. The centre hosts a number of creative works with the opportunity to take part each year during the Annual Open Call Exhibition.

During 2019 the Presentation Arts Centre hosted a number of events such as First Fortnight – European Mental Health Arts Festival, Mick Comerford Live with Friends, Crowman starring Jon Kenny, Colla Voce End of year Showcase, Roald Dahl's The Twits performed by Red Moon Creative Arts Theatre, Paddy Casey, Elmore, Culture Night with the Orchard Recording Studio, Santa's Sooty Christmas Panto along with many other performances from renowned artists.



Africa Day

The Inaugural Africa Day with Wexford Local Development was held in May at the Presentation Centre. The event celebrated the culture, music and food from the various countries in Africa and promoted awareness and celebration of the African culture. Funding of the event was supported by the Department of Justice and Equality



Enniscorthy Castle and 1798 Centre

Visitor numbers between the two facilities of the Castle and the 1798 centre was 28,462. A number of events and civic receptions were held at the Castle in 2019.



Enniscorthy Municipal District 2020

Introduction

During 2020, the Enniscorthy Municipal District continued to develop collaborative approaches with local groups and communities, the retail and business sector and relevant organisations, however, the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic impacted greatly on the economic, social and cultural opportunities in the district.

Covid 19

Enniscorthy Municipal District put in place all the necessary health and safety measures as part of the national response to the Covid 19 virus outbreak. All decisions taken in the interest of staff and public welfare. The following measures were taken:-

- The cancellation of the St Patricks Day Parade.
- The closure of the 1798 Centre.
- The closure of Enniscorthy Castle.
- The closure of the Presentation Centre.
- The closure of the Enniscorthy Sports Hub.
- The closure of all playgrounds in the Municipal District.

The Management Team in the Municipal District monitored the evolving situation and took all necessary measures required in the interest of the health and safety of both staff and the public.

Enniscorthy District Community Support (EDCS)

The Enniscorthy Community Support Initiative was led by Enniscorthy Municipal District, in partnership with Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce, the County Wexford Community Workshop, Bunclody GAA Club, Ferns GAA Club, Ballyhogue GAA Club, Bunclody Gardaí, Monageer Volunteers and Enniscorthy Volunteers.

The establishment of the EDCS was a response to an emerging need within the Enniscorthy Municipal District during the pandemic. Assistance was provided to vulnerable elderly people in the Enniscorthy District, the majority of which live alone and were over 70 years of age (90%). This community support was well received within the respective communities, who rallied around their elderly citizens at a particularly hard time. In delivering the support the dignity of each and every recipient was respected at all times. The support received from the business community and all of the partners was outstanding.

In collaboration with Wexford County Council the Enniscorthy Municipal District successfully operated the Community Call Programme which included assistance in the transport to and from Vaccination Centres, assistance with the provision of medical supplies along with other valuable services.

Sports Hub

Wexford County Council welcomed the announcement by the Department of Tourism Transport and Sport of a grant of €300,000 for the Enniscorthy Sports Hub. This funding will allow for Phase 2 of the Enniscorthy sports facility to proceed.

Festivals and Events

Under the 2020 Festival Programme the District delivered a Santa Experience in Market Square which gave our community a festive uplift during an unprecedented difficult time.

Grant Aid

Delivery of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme Investment programme continued in 2020 with Clohamon Community Development Group securing funding of €100,00 to facilitate a multi-purpose Community Centre and Playground.

Road Transport and Safety

This was the first year of new Roads District Boundaries which lead to the reorganising of staff and equipment. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government funding of €1,656,158 under the Restoration Improvement Grant along with funding of €451,573 under the Restoration Maintenance Grant allowed further improvements to the road network throughout the town and district. Numerous footpaths in the district were also improved in relation to condition and access.

The Local Improvement Scheme continued in 2020 and funding of €65,976 was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development. This allowed for the completion of works to three laneways. The Community Involvement Scheme also continued, and this allowed for the completion of drainage and resurfacing works on the public road at Ballindaggin and Killealy.

Environmental Protection

The presentation of the District is of utmost importance to the Enniscorthy Municipal District as represented by the Council's annual Parks Improvement Programme which continued in 2020. In addition to maintenance of 60 acres of green areas throughout the town of Enniscorthy the Council also planted roundabouts on the entrances to the town and maintained impressive street side floral displays in many areas. Wildflower planting and invasive species control in various locations within the town continued during 2020.

Council Street Cleaning and Town presentation Crews continued to present the town in an excellent light and the fruits of their labours were enjoyed throughout the year by shoppers, visitors and residents alike.

The Country Walk is a 3km long pathway opened in 2011 adjacent to the Slaney River south of Enniscorthy. In late 2016 the upper section of the Country Walk was resurfaced and widened where necessary.

The Tidy Towns Committees throughout the Enniscorthy District, supported by the Council continued to preserve their Bronze Medal status for 2020.

Refurbishment of Market House, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Project Description:

In 2020 the Market House was refurbished to create a modern Civic office whilst reinstating some of the original architectural features of Market House.

The refurbished works provided for the enhancement of the front elevation of the building with the restoration of the original five bay three storey building. The plans provide for an improved public area with meeting rooms as well as improved office workspaces on the first and second floors. The refurbishment includes Health and Safety improvements and Fire Safety improvements.



- The Market Square office is a protected building of regional importance under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and had fallen into disrepair. The building is over 200-year-old.
- The Refurbishment works were designed (by Aughey O'Flaherty Architects) to renovate the offices to facilitate the provision of a modern building with appropriate Fire Safety standards, Health and Safety standards and improved public reception facilities in a strategic location in the town.

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Description *cont'd*:

- The completion of this project facilitates the revitalisation of this area of Enniscorthy which is the commercial centre of the town.
- Enniscorthy Municipal District Offices in Market Square has been used by Wexford County Council since 1973.
- Previous uses include the use as a parish school in 1813, a Methodist Chapel in 1837 and a Technical Institute from the extensive renovation post 1908 until 1973 when it was adapted to offices by Enniscorthy Town Council.
- Extensive alterations were carried out in 1910 when a second-floor extension was provided overseen by Town Civil Engineer and Town Surveyor, William Casey.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

On foot of the the scheme being submitted to the OPW for ministerial consent in December 2019, it was forwarded by the OPW to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) for approval in March 2020.

During July and August 2020, DPER ran a statutory public consultation and in September 2020 it engaged consultants to carry out a review of the scheme to ensure compliance with the relevant environmental directives and regulations. In November 2020, DPER requested supplementary environmental information to be provided to the Department in April 2021 in respect of the scheme. The scheme is currently under review and approval of the scheme by the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform is expected in 2021. It will take over 3 years to complete the construction work.

The Flood Defence Scheme combines several measures to prevent flooding in the town. These include river channel widening, river deepening, bridge relocation, and the construction of extensive glass panelled flood walls through the town.



Recreation and Amenity

The role of community groups in the provision of recreation and amenity facilities in the Enniscorthy District has long been recognised by Wexford County Council. In 2020 the Enniscorthy Municipal District further supported these worthy organisations by awarding funding in excess of €36,000 to some 88 local groups under the Amenity & Arts Grants Scheme 2020.

The Enniscorthy Municipal District also administered funding to Residents Associations to assist with planting and general estate improvements in excess of €7,500.00 to 13 Resident Associations throughout the district.

Presentation Centre

Enniscorthy Presentation Centre is a Community Arts Facility in Enniscorthy. Enniscorthy Municipal District works in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre to manage and promote the community arts venue in the County. During 2020 the Presentation Centre was closed for a period of time due to the Pandemic, however, a number of events were hosted early in the year with some later events being hosted through zoom.

Events included The Glass Asylum, Mid-Term Art Workshop, After School Art Classes, Virtual Drawing Group, the 5th Annual Open Call Exhibition Online, National Drawing Day with Artist David Begley, A Very Sketchy Culture Night, Mandala Drawing Workshop, Virtual Tours of the Centre along with many other online events.

Enniscorthy Castle and 1798 Centre

Visitor numbers between the two facilities of the Castle and the 1798 centre was 3,699. The fall in numbers reflect closure during the pandemic.



Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District 2019

The staff and elected members of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District continued to work together successfully throughout 2019. They were committed to delivering high quality services, building productive working relationships with local stakeholders and championing issues of importance to the district. This commitment underpins a shared vision to develop the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District as a location of choice to live, work and visit.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 2019

Infrastructure Projects

There was a continuous roll-out of works, both large and small during 2019.

Gorey Town Park Redevelopment

Gorey Town Park Redevelopment Project was officially launched before the April 2019 GMD meeting with the announcement of Niall Barry & Associates as senior contractor.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Town and Village (T&V) Renewal Schemes

A total of €1.3m was awarded under the 2018 scheme with €360,890 for the following projects in the Gorey district.

T&V 2018 – Askamore

This project involved refurbishing Askamore Hall and erecting signage along Heritage Trail. Project completed.

T&V 2018 – Ferns

This project involved developing an interpretive space and music rehearsal room at Ferns Community Centre including provision of a medieval themed playground. Project due for completion July 2020.

T&V 2018 – Courtown

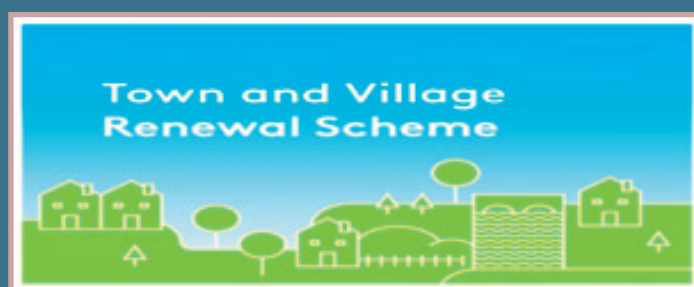
These enhancement works on the wooden ship on the pier and surrounding areas were due for completion in November 2020.

T&V 2019 – Kilmuckridge

Funding of €200,000 was awarded to one project in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019 to install a walking trail at Kilmuckridge-Morriscastle. Completion was due in summer 2020.

Wexford Community Enhancement Programme 2018

In the Gorey District €17,325 was allocated to five community groups to improve community hubs / centres with €52,334 going to 10 community groups to support development of smart villages through improved use of local community centre / facilities.



WORKING TOGETHER

Community Groups Presentation Night

Presentation of the 2019 Amenity and Arts and Resident Association Grants took place in the Civic Offices and Library on 16 April where over 100 groups were supported.

Civic Awards

A civic awards ceremony was held in Wells House and Gardens on 8 May to recognise national award winners from Gorey District.

North Wexford 2K (NW2K) Clean Awards

This Gorey District initiative, in its fifth year, encouraged 31 groups to register 120 roads. The presentation of results and plaques for the NW2K Clean took place in the Civic Offices and Library on 16 May. Wexford County Council Annual Environment Awards NW2K winners included Ferns Tidy Towns, Hollyfort Tidy Towns and the Gap Tidy Towns and Heritage Group.



Circe Pavilion

Gorey Civic Square's newly erected Circe Pavilion, commissioned as part of Dublin's North East Inner City's Treeline Project (funded by the Arts Council), led by curator Oonagh Young, and now on long-term loan to Gorey town, was launched as part of 2019 Gorey Market House Festival. It comprised a series of live music performances from young Gorey bands and was preceded by a talk between Pavilion Architect Donal Colfer, Oonagh Young and Wexford County Council Architect Laura O'Gorman, in Gorey School of Art. The facility, open to community and arts groups free of charge, is managed by Gorey and Kilmuckridge Municipal District with support from the Arts Office.

Civic Square Art Wall

Local artist James Kirwan added a new mural to the art wall at Gorey Civic Square after residents of The Avenue approached Gorey Tidy Towns offering to fund new artwork for the area. Kirwan's design reflects one theory that Guaire (Gorey) means 'place where goats grazed' or Town of Goats. In November artist Kate Kos added another mural.

In 2019 Gorey celebrated 400 years of formal town status. This was an opportunity for the entire community to celebrate and mark the event. Principal projects were the publication of the Gorey 400 Book and the commemorative planting project led by Gorey Tidy Towns on 31 January.

Launch of Gorey 400 Tree Project

Gorey Tidy Towns and Wexford County Council distributed 400 trees to households across North Wexford on 10 November at Gorey Civic Square. The Gorey 400 Project, supported by Wexford County Council's Environment Section, saw 400 householders sign up to accept and plant a native Irish tree at their homes. In addition, an oak tree was presented to every school in Gorey Town not only to mark its 400 years, but to highlight the important role young people can play in championing environmental issues.

Gorey Tidy Towns

Gorey Tidy Towns was invited to the Tidy Towns National Awards Ceremony in Dublin on 30 September, the first time in over a decade. It received a bronze medal award and an increase of 10 points on its 2018 entry.

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Launch of Water Bottle Filling Stations – Gorey

In a major initiative to encourage people to top up refillable bottles rather than buy single-use ones, Gorey Tidy Towns and Wexford County Council installed three water bottle filling stations at Gorey Civic Square, on the Paul Funge Boulevard, and on the Main Street at Ulster Bank.

Age-Friendly Parking

Marked bays and signage were installed in Gorey Town at three locations: the post office, on Main Street, and at Altura Credit Union.

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE

Love Gorey

A significant number of new partners joined the Love Gorey initiative in 2019 and the online presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram continued to grow.



Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Awards

On 5 December, Gorey Town was awarded the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Award Regional Category Winner 2019 at a gala dinner in Lyrath Estate, Co Kilkenny.

Visiting Dignitaries / Civic Receptions

Month	Event
8 April	Visiting delegation from Yingtan Province, China
23 October	Visit of Moroccan Ambassador to Ireland, HE Mr Lahcen Mahraoui
7 November	Visit of Polish Ambassador to Ireland, HE Ms Anna Sochanska, and launch of Eamonn Carter Photographic Exhibition, Lest We Forget Krakow 1939-45
7 June	Visit of Mr Tadeusz Puszkarczuk, Mayor of Puck District, and Cllr Przemyslaw Grandicki, Chairman of the Puck District Education, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee



Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Celebrating Our Culture

Festivals, civic receptions and events hosted or supported by Gorey Municipal District

Month	Event
31 January	Launch of Gorey 400 Programme
21 February:	Gorey Night Run 2019
17 March:	St Patrick's Day Parade
8 April:	Visiting deputation from the Yingtian Province, China
16 April:	Presentation of Amenity and Arts and Residents Association Grants to groups at Gorey Civic Offices and Library
8 May	Civic Awards Ceremony at Wells House and Gardens
9-12 May:	Festival of Choirs 2019
7-16 June:	Launch of the PolskaÉire Festival with opening of two Exhibitions at Gorey Civic Offices and Library: Polish Artists in Ireland – From Landscape to Abstract; and My Home Your Home, Joe Dixon Photography
15 June	Gorey Agricultural Show 2019
15 June	Cruinniú na nÓg – National Day of Creativity for children and young people
16 July	Launch of Gap Arts Festival at Gorey Civic Offices and Library
1 August	Official opening of Gorey Market House Festival, launch of Texaco Children's Art Exhibition and Gorey Photographic Club Annual Exhibition at Gorey Civic Offices and Library
1 August	Gorey School of Art's Periphery Space exhibition of photography, Lonely Cloud by George Muncey, and a group exhibition, Ideologies
1 August	Launch of Circe Pavilion, Gorey Civic Square
1 August	Gorey Market House Festival 2019 and Fringe Events
9-11 August	Gap Arts Festival 2019

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Month	Event
14-15 September	Sean Nós Singing in Guaire on board the Gorey Caravan
20 September	Culture Night 2019
20-22 September	Wexford Walking Trails Festival 2019
24 September	Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Towns Award judging
24 September	Launch of Interreg project, The Saints – Rediscovering Ancient Connections, in Pembrokeshire, Wales
26 September	Make Way Day 2019
12-13 October	Ferns Conference 2019 – The MacMurrough Inquiry
23 October	Visit of Moroccan Ambassador to Ireland, HE Mr Laheen Mahraoui
26 October	A Very Gorey Halloween Fancy Dress Competition for Gorey Businesses followed by Halloween Monster Mash Dance Class and Fire Spectacle Show at Gorey Civic Square
7 November	Visit of Polish Ambassador to Ireland, HE Ms Anna Sochanska and launch of Eamonn Carter Photographic Exhibition, Lest We Forget Krakow 1939-45
15-17 November	North Wexford History and Heritage Festival 2019
23 November	The Big Switch On – Gorey Christmas lights switch on 2019
7 December	Launch of Christmas Radio Programme, Nollaig in Guaire, at Gorey Market House
11 December	New Communities Welcome and Awards Event at Gorey Civic Offices and Library

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District 2020

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Road Maintenance

Up to 1,133km of road was maintained in the district (ratio of 33km per worker requiring the equivalent of 34 workers); 28m of road was strengthened; 38m of road surfaces dressed.

Housing Estate

One housing estate was taken-in-charge.

Water Services

This service involved Gorey District Public Water, servicing Gorey Urban, Gorey Rural, Kilmuckridge, Coolgreaney, Boolavogue, Ferns and Camolin.

8.9 megalitres of water per day was treated; 36 per cent of water was unaccounted for; up to 5.7 megalitres was consumed per day.

Infrastructure Projects Delivered in 2020

Roll-out of large and small scale works continued.

Gorey District Park Redevelopment

Redevelopment works, due for completion in summer 2021, continued in Gorey District Park in 2020 when public health guidelines permitted.

Esmonde Street Regeneration – Part VIII

Part VIII planning was approved in December 2020 for regeneration of Esmonde Street. A Department decision on a funding application under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund was expected at the earliest by end of the first quarter in 2021.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Town and Village Renewal Schemes (TVR)

Courtown TVR (2018)

Following considerable delay the upgrade of the boat and pier seating area was tendered for in December 2020. Work was due to begin in 2021 when public health guidelines permit.

Kilmuckridge-Morriscastle TVR (2019)

Funding of €200,000 was awarded to one project in the district to install a heritage trail from Kilmuckridge to Morriscastle. This was completed in September 2020 with signage due for erection by March 2021.

TVR Accelerated Measures in Response to Covid-19 (2020)

This scheme, introduced in response to Covid-19, was rolled out in three rounds in July and August 2020. The Gorey-Kilmuckridge District secured funding in all three rounds as follows:

Round 1: Gorey Town Business Front Scheme – €25,000

Round 2: Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Villages Business Front Scheme – €25,000

Round 3: Development of Kilmuckridge as a Destination Coastal Village – €25,000

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Courtown-Riverchapel TVR (2020)

€100,000 funding was secured to create a 2km maritime walking trail with picnic areas from Riverchapel to Courtown. These works were to begin by end of the second quarter in 2021.

Boolavogue TVR (2020)

Boolavogue Development Group secured €97,934 to restore the vacant national school and transform it into a digital hub and community centre. An onsite landscaped garden was also planned.

WORKING TOGETHER

Community Groups Presentation Night

Covid-19 restrictions halted the annual presentation of Amenity and Arts and Resident Association Grants in 2020. Between them, the schemes released €80,000 funding to 155 groups.

Blackwater Tidy Towns was recognised as overall winner for 2020 at the annual Wexford County Council Environment Awards.

Kilanerin National School was recognised for receiving its first Green Flag.

North Wexford 2K Clean Awards

This year instead of choosing an area to tidy in North Wexford, Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District and Love Gorey asked families to look after a 2km area within the radius of their home in keeping with Covid-19 restrictions during April 2020. Applicants were entered into a draw for a selection of prizes.

IPB Pride of Place Awards

This all-island competition recognises improvements made by local communities to enhance civic pride in their areas. Its focus is on people coming together to achieve that aim. Kilmuckridge won the Islands and Coastal Communities Award in 2020.

Feasibility Study for Gorey Multi-User Community Facility

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District acting for Wexford LCDC tendered for a feasibility study for a multi-user community facility in Gorey Town. Method Consultants along with ODLA Architects won the tender.

Civic Square Art Wall

In August, local artist Amanda Doran added another mural to the colourful art wall at Gorey Civic Square. This piece, focusing on Gorey's people and three of its iconic shopfronts, was commissioned by Gorey Tidy Towns. The featured businesses are French's Pub, Myles Doyle and Funges of Gorey.

Sensory Garden

A sensory garden, planned for Gorey Town Park on behalf of Gorey Tidy Towns, will feature surfaces, objects and plants to stimulate the senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing.

Green Flag Judging – Le Chéile Park, Askamore

Le Chéile Park in Askamore secured Green Flag status in July 2020.

CCTV – Application for Authorisation of CCTV System under Section 38(3)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 for Courtown-Riverchapel

The Garda Commissioner approved this scheme on 29 October, 2020. Comprising 21 no. CCTV installed cameras at seven locations, the system aimed to enhance security for residents living in Courtown-Riverchapel and to improve general safety. It is now operational.

Christmas Lights Grant Scheme

As Covid-19 restrictions prevented Gorey from hosting its annual Christmas Lights Switch-On event, a Christmas Lights Grant Scheme was announced to assist communities wishing to light up their local village. There were 14 applications with an average grant of €500 approved.

Wexford County Council (Prohibition of Overnight Camping on Roads and in Public Places in Courtown) Bye-Laws 2020

The above bye-laws were adopted at a full council meeting on 14 December, 2020. They are now with the Minister for consideration.

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE

Love Gorey

Love Gorey continued to promote the Gorey and North Wexford region throughout 2020 despite the pandemic. In strong social media campaigns – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – the focus was on communicating additional services and support for the vulnerable along with aiding businesses that needed to rethink how they delivered their services during lockdown. Love Gorey used short, positive messaging to support them and create a sense of safety and energy in the town and region.

A Gorey Christmas video received 300,000 hits and ended the year on a positive note.

Love Gorey planned to launch a new website in 2021 to make events and news listings easier to navigate along with information on services and amenities.

EVENTS

Due to Covid-19 restrictions festivals like the St Patrick's Day Parade, PolskaÉire Festival, Gorey Market House Festival, Halloween and the Christmas Big Switch On were cancelled.

The following events moved online this year:

Culture Night

Sleepertown: A self-guided listening walk through Gorey – offline

Traditional Archive Channel: Ár dTeanga sa Bhaile – online

Ceol mo Chroí Culture Club – online

Robin James Hurt: singer / songwriter – online

Halloween

Public health measures meant Halloween 2020 was cancelled and all efforts instead went into creating a Halloween atmosphere in the town and surrounding areas.

Two large witches on Main Street were a hit locally and on social media. Many businesses used their websites to promote their own businesses and Gorey Town.

Christmas

The great effort and expenditure that went into lighting and decorating for Gorey Town for Christmas 2020, along with a video was launched to coincide with switching on the lights, should yield future benefits.

New Ross Municipal District 2019

2019 was a significant year for New Ross Municipal District, with works continuing on the New Ross bypass and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge as well as funding approval for a number of major projects. New Year's Day began with the 340-year-old Reclaiming the Estuary ceremony at Hook Head. In May 2019, six councillors were elected to New Ross Municipal District with Cllr John Fleming elected Cathaoirleach. Two retiring councillors, Larry O' Brien and Martin Murphy, were honoured for their long service to the public.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Bypass and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge

During 2019, the N25 New Ross bypass and bridge became an iconic project attracting attention at home and abroad. The opening of the longest bridge of its kind in the world (900m in length) was planned for January 2020. A 15ft glass and steel prism, designed by artist Caoimhe Kilfeather, was chosen as the Per Cent for Art sculpture to mark the project.



South-East Greenway

In June 2019 an €8m grant from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was added to €5m already committed by Wexford, Kilkenny and Waterford Councils for 24km of greenway to connect the Quay in New Ross, with Ferrybank in Waterford. The greenway, due for completion in 2021, is expected to attract domestic and overseas visitors thereby boosting tourism in New Ross and its environs.

Rural Regeneration

In November 2019, New Ross received over €9m through the Rural Regeneration programme, the largest sum of any town in Ireland.

Wexfordia Norman Project

The county's first capital funding for a Wexfordia Norman project will deliver a visitor centre on New Ross Quay. This will involve repurposing the old bank and Murphy's buildings and the facility will tell the story of Norman Wexford and house the Ros Tapestry.

Norman Trail

The grant will also help develop the High Hill, creating a Norman trail between St Mary's Church and the quays.

Dunbrody Famine Ship and Visitor Centre

Funding of €1.6m for the Dunbrody Famine Ship and Visitor Centre will help develop a new and immersive visitor experience.



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Mannion's and Oaklands Roundabouts

The official opening of the roundabouts at Mannion's and Oaklands took place in May 2019.

Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns Initiative

In December 2019, New Ross received a €500,000 grant through the Destination Towns initiative. This help to develop the town's tourist attractions.

Town and Village Renewal Schemes (TVR)

New Ross Medieval Town Wall Trail

A TVR grant of €100,000 was secured to highlight areas of historical interest along a town wall trail being created in New Ross, once Ireland's biggest walled town and the busiest port in Ireland (1300-1400). A series of 50 plaques was laid in late 2019, along with informative signage.

Online Access to New Ross Town Corporation Minutes 1658-1732

The New Ross Corporation Minutes 1658-1732 were made available online and officially launched on 9 November, 2019.

New Ross Shopfront Scheme

In 2019 12 shops availed of a pilot shop front grant totaling €10,000 to enhance the New Ross streetscape.

Green Flag for Parks Awards

Pearse Park and the Library Park in New Ross both retained their internationally recognised Green Flag awards in 2019 for well managed green spaces.

Tidy Towns

In 2019, Adamstown entered the competition for the first time and all towns in New Ross Municipal District which had previously entered the competition improved their scores on 2018. These were Clonroche, Courtnacuddy, Killane and New Ross.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE

Christmas Market in Conduit Lane

A Christmas market in Conduit Lane received positive feedback from traders and the public.

Bannow 1169 Norman Festival

In May 2019 a weekend festival at Carrig on Bannow commemorated 850 years since the Norman Knights landed at Bannow. A commemorative plaque was unveiled and there were historical talks, battle reenactments, pageantry and a tented Norman living history village. RTE's Nationwide programme featured the event.

WW2 Memorial

New Ross Municipal District funded a World War II Memorial that was unveiled at Kinnagh Cemetery outside Ballycullane in memory of three RAF airmen whose plane crashed there in 1943, and 32 airmen who died over Wexford.



New Ross Municipal District

AWARDS AND EVENTS

In May 2019, the District Civic Awards were presented to individuals and groups at the Brandon House Hotel. Those honoured were Boley Tug of War Team, Dean Kennedy, Dick Lyng, Good Counsel TY Burren Chernobyl Project, New Ross Pantomime Society, St Michael's Theatre, Tadhg Furlong, Val Flanagan, New Ross Workman's Club.

Civic Reception for the Indian Ambassador to Ireland

On 23 June, 2019, Cathaoirleach Cllr John Fleming welcomed the Indian Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Sandeep Kumar, to a civic reception in the Tholsel in New Ross. Mr Kumar was visiting New Ross as it had been selected as a venue to host an event marking International Yoga Day.

Festivals

St Patrick's Day Festival, AIMS Choral Festival, Hike to the Hook, Hooked on the Sea Festival, New Ross Park Fest, Kennedy Summer School, Culture Night, New Ross Piano Festival, Eugene O' Neill International Festival of Theatre.



New Ross Municipal District 2020

Despite the challenges of 2020, it was another good year for New Ross.

Transforming New Ross

Our Invest Wexford 'Transforming New Ross' event in March attracted many of the area's business leaders generating new ideas and potential innovations.

Hook Lighthouse

Work began on developing two new experiences at Hook Lighthouse.

Pearse Park Playground

Work began on the creation of a new playground at Pearse Park.

Kickstarting New Ross

Kickstarting New Ross was an initiative led and funded by New Ross Municipal District. It included pedestrianising for outdoor dining, a shop front grant scheme, murals painted by the Walls Project and Summer Sessions where dancers, actors and musicians brought life back to the town's streets in summer.

Begin Together Award

In October, New Ross Municipal District won the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Local Town Promotion Award for the Kick Start New Ross campaign. It was an All-island award with a prize of €10,000.

Destination Towns

Planning for works began on the €725,000 Destination Towns project to rejuvenate the laneways of New Ross and prepare for the visitors the South East Greenway will bring.

South East Greenway

In August, works began at New Ross on the South East Greenway delivering a cycling and walking route linking New Ross with Waterford, through south Kilkenny. The greenway is due to open in 2022.

New Ross Fire Station

Funding was approved in November 2020 for a new fire station for New Ross.

Christmas Festival

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, New Ross celebrated Christmas. Events were funded by Wexford County Council and St Michael's Theatre. Street scenes were created and a Christmas video was commissioned through Visit New Ross. It had over 24,000 hits and featured music, storytelling, local businesses and the community and New Ross's diaspora.



Rosslare Municipal District 2019

Following the Local Electoral Area Boundary Review 2018 and the subsequent reorganisation of the original four borough / municipal districts directly following the 2019 elections on 24 May, the new Rosslare Municipal District was created.

The uniquely rural district consists of 21 full electoral divisions and parts of two other electoral divisions. It stretches from Rosslare to Clongeen, across to Taghmon and the Drinagh roundabout, with over 605km of roads, and about 100kms of coastline that has five green and two blue flags.

The Rosslare Municipal District has a population of 21,275, based on the 2016 Census, and has five elected members. At the 2019 annual meeting on 19 June, Cllr Ger Carthy became the district's first elected Cathaoirleach / Chairperson.

The following major projects continued to be advanced throughout the calendar year;

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Kilmore Quay Wastewater Treatment Plant

The plant is expected to move to construction following the project's progression to detailed design stage and pre-planning during 2019.

Kilmore Quay Relief Road

This is expected to progress to construction having secured the required planning during 2019.

Rosslare Harbour and Access Road

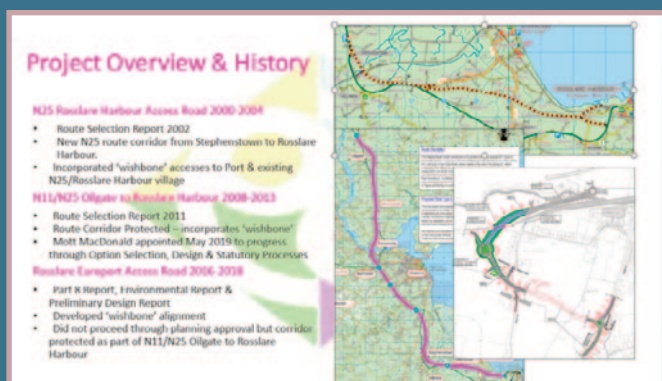
A major milestone achieved in 2019 was the signing of the N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road as well as the Rosslare Harbour Access Road contracts, a much-needed scheme in light of Brexit and the development of Rosslare Harbour. The roundabout at Roche Freight, which forms part of the new access road, was also advanced and construction of this roundabout was planned for 2020.

Rosslare to Waterford Greenway

The Rosslare to Waterford Greenway continued through preliminary design and the numerous assessments required during 2019 to bring the project to planning application stage.

Norman Way and EuroVelo

The Norman Way and EuroVelo cycle route continued to attract attention and visitors. It is expected that the remaining Norman Way sites in Rosslare Municipal District will be completed in 2020.



With 2020 being the first full year for the Rosslare Municipal District following the reorganisation of the original four borough / municipal districts immediately after the local elections of 24 May, 2019, the general municipal allocations now fully recognise its addition with the appropriate and relevant discretionary programmes providing funding for local community / district priorities and initiatives in 2020.

Key projects continued despite public health restrictions and their consequences due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. Inevitably, service delivery on the ground presented its own challenges.

Rosslare District has the strategic infrastructure of Rosslare Europort providing access directly to Europe which Wexford County Council continues to promote in an effort to expand its role post-Brexit.

The following major projects continued to be advanced throughout the calendar year:

- N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road
- Rosslare Harbour Access Road
- Kilmore Quay Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Kilmore Quay Relief Road
- Rosslare to Waterford Greenway

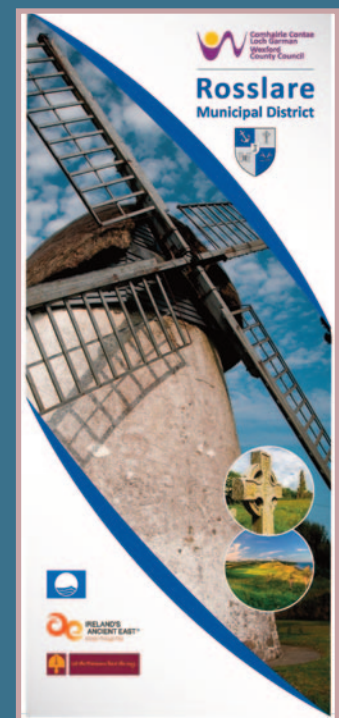
Construction work began on the new district office on the ground floor of the existing County Hall building in Carricklawn.

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVR) remains a priority in this uniquely rural district.

The following projects were further advanced or completed during the year;

- Clongeen TVR 2018 – €100,000 / completed Q3 2020
- Bridgetown TVR 2019 – €99,820 / on schedule
- Foulksmills TVR2019 – €100,000 / on schedule
- Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane TVR2019 – €191,386 / on schedule

Rosslare Municipal District continues to promote its visitor attractions and works closely with Fáilte Ireland under its brand, Ireland's Ancient East.



Housing Services 2019

The Housing Services Department of Wexford County Council provides housing solutions to individuals and families who are unable to fund appropriate accommodation from their own resources. These include provision of local authority houses and nominations to Approved Housing Bodies, leasing of private housing for letting to persons on the housing list, provision of grants to improve private houses, repair and maintenance of local authority houses, housing Services for the Homeless, and Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Social Housing Supply Programme 2016 to 2021

The following table shows the developments that were delivered by Wexford County Council (WCC) during 2019:-

Delivery method	No of units	Details
Designed and Built by WCC	11	9 in Gorey and 2 in Rosslare
Buy & Renew	7	Purchased by WCC
Turnkey Developments	39	Purchased by WCC
Approved Housing Bodies	79	Social housing applicants were nominated for housing units provided by AHB's
Part V	19	Units delivered
TOTAL	155	

Housing Allocations

From the 1st January to 31st December, 2019 Wexford County Council allocated 497 properties to social housing tenants. This included re-lets, transfers, new lets, Approved Housing Bodies and Mortgage to Rent. In 2019 there were 89 offers of social housing refused (26 were deemed reasonable and 63 unreasonable).

Private Rented Sector

Wexford County Council continues to work with the Private Rented Sector to provide housing solutions to social housing applicants through the provision of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Leasing, and the Repair & Lease Scheme. The table below shows the amount of units delivered in 2019.

Delivery method	No of units	Details
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	443	New HAP tenancies
Lease Scheme	34	New long-term leases in 2019
TOTAL	477	

Private House Grants

The Housing Department aims to assist works which improve the living conditions of people with a disability, persons with mobility issues and older people. In 2019 a total of €2,322,317 was allocated to the grant schemes to assist 430 households.

Grant Type	No of Applications	Amount Paid
Housing Adaptation Grant for persons with a Disability (HGD)	52	€578,803
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	222	€928,965
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	156	€814,549
TOTAL	430	€2,322,317

Housing Stock

Wexford County Council manages a housing stock of 4,594 Council owned housing units in the County as at the end of December 2019. In addition, WCC manages 153 leased units. Wexford County Council provides a maintenance service to its tenants and in 2019 WCC carried out 3,605 repairs. Housing maintenance completed an Energy Retrofit Upgrade scheme in 2019 to 20 Domestic Properties at an investment of €420,724.00. Elements included in the scheme were attic insulation, external insulation, LED lighting, power-flush, Air to Water Heat Pump and Energy Monitor.

Housing First Initiative

The Housing First Initiative was rolled out in July 2019 following the signing of a Service Level Agreement with Focus Ireland who will work in collaboration with Wexford County Council to provide the services and support to homeless people who are primarily entrenched in homelessness for a long time. The programme allows for the local authority to Licence 6 Units from their own stock to Focus Ireland who will also provide 6 of their own units, the acquisitions of which will be funded by CAS.

Housing Services 2020

Housing Section and Covid-19

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, 2020 has been a challenging year for the Housing Section but we continued to provide the following critical services during the pandemic:

1. Essential Repairs
2. Homeless Services

Plans were drawn up to allow the Housing Section to deliver both services throughout the Covid 19 emergency. Housing Staff are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable. We continued to operate in two teams for the following reasons:-

- Allow social distancing
- Prevent any possible spread of infection throughout the entire Housing Staff
- To maintain a presence in the main office for the core working hours

Private Residential Tenancy inspections (classed as non-essential) were suspended. HAP and Rents continued as normal. The Grants Section continued to process applications. However, in the absence of inspections actual activity was greatly reduced. The Area Housing Officers continued to process all Housing Applications and the Tenant Liaison Officers dealt with anti-social behaviour issues as they arose.

Social Housing Supply Programme 2016 to 2021

The following table shows the developments that were delivered by Wexford County Council (WCC) during 2020:-

Delivery method	No of units	Details
Designed and Built by WCC	18	Cloghultagh, Taghmon
Buy & Renew	2	Purchased by WCC
Turnkey Developments	29	Delivered by WCC
Approved Housing Bodies	120	Social housing applicants were nominated for housing units provided by AHB's
Part V	43	Units delivered
TOTAL	212	

From the 1st January to 31st December, 2020 Wexford County Council allocated 376 properties to social housing tenants. This included re-lets, transfers, new lets, Approved Housing Bodies and Mortgage to Rent. In 2020 there were 81 offers of social housing refused (14 were deemed reasonable and 67 unreasonable).

Private Rented Sector

Wexford County Council continues to work with the Private Rented Sector to provide housing solutions to social housing applicants through the provision of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Leasing, and the Repair & Lease Scheme. The table below shows the amount of units delivered in 2020:-

Delivery method	No of units	Details
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	434	New HAP tenancies
Lease Scheme	17	New long-term leases
Repair & Lease Scheme	14	Completed in 2020
TOTAL	465	

Private House Grants

The Housing Department aims to assist works which improve the living conditions of people with a disability, persons with mobility issues and older people. In 2020, a total of €1,985,226 was allocated to the grant schemes to assist 341 households.

Grant Type	No of Applications	Amount Paid
Housing Adaptation Grant for persons with a Disability (HGD)	63	€666,781
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	168	€757,012
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	110	€561,433
TOTAL	341	€1,985,226

Housing Stock

Wexford County Council manages a housing stock of 4,635 Council owned housing units in the County as at the end of December 2020. In addition, WCC manages 178 leased units including Repair & Leasing. Wexford County Council provides a maintenance service to its tenants and in 2020 WCC carried out 3,303 repairs.

Roads & Transportation Services 2019

Road Safety

Wexford County Council continued to work closely with An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority and other Government agencies and local voluntary organisations to promote road safety in the county.

Road Safety Initiatives – Just One Life

Wexford County Council with An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Rotary Club of Wexford continued to deliver this important Road Safety Initiative targeted at transition year students.

Participation is countywide and the programme is delivered in a local cinema theatre.

Up to 1,400 students took part in the initiative during 2019.

Strategic Policy Committee – Transportation and Water Services

This committee met twice during 2019 (March and November) to discuss the New Ross and Enniscorthy bypass projects; County of Wexford Traffic Speed Limit (Amendment) bye laws; the N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour project; and the Europort access road and Ballygillane roundabout.

Community Employment Programme

Wexford County Council sponsors two Community Employment schemes employing two supervisors and one assistant supervisor who oversee up to 70 participants. The schemes operate from six locations including Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey as well as Wexford Library Archives and Duncannon Fort.

Four participants moved into full employment during 2019 with many others availing of mentoring and training programmes while engaged on the scheme.

Public Lighting

A total of 3,426 public lights were upgraded to LED lighting in 2019. This work represented year three of a five-year upgrade programme to install a more modern, cost effective and efficient public lighting network.

National Roads

The M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy public private partnership scheme includes 39km of new national road network; 3km of new regional road, 10 overbridges, five underbridges; 31 accommodation underpasses; and three rail / river bridges.

The scheme, opened by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on 18 July, 2019, aimed to reduce travel times on the Dublin-Wexford route by about 15 minutes during off-peak times and 30 minutes during peak times.

New Ross Bypass Public Private Partnership Scheme

Work progressed towards the proposed official opening of the New Ross bypass in the fourth quarter of 2019. Significant construction milestones were reached and the project was completed by year end.

The official opening of this strategically vital project with the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge at its centre was delayed until 2020.



Roads & Transportation Services 2020

National Road Schemes

N25 New Ross Bypass PPP Scheme

Opened by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, on 29 January, 2020, this scheme consists of 14km of new dual carriageway; 22km of new regional, local and access roads; a new railway overbridge facilitating the proposed New Ross to Waterford Greenway; 46 principal structures including overbridges, under bridges and farm underpasses; and the 887m Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge carrying the mainline over the River Barrow.

N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Wexford County Council, along with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) continued to prepare proposals for the development of up to 30km of a high-quality transport corridor to link Rosslare Europort / Wexford with Dublin (via the M11) and Cork / Waterford (via the N25).



These routes form part of the European designated E01 Route and TEN-T EU transport network and together with Rosslare Europort provide a direct link to mainland Europe and Britain.

During a public consultation in July-August 2020, eight potential primary road corridors were presented with 97 separate route options identified for further assessment. The project has also considered public transport alternatives and measures to identify the optimal choice to achieve the project's objectives while adhering to principles of proper planning and sustainable development. The assessment of all possibilities continued with the outcome to be announced in June 2021.

Project updates are available at www.oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

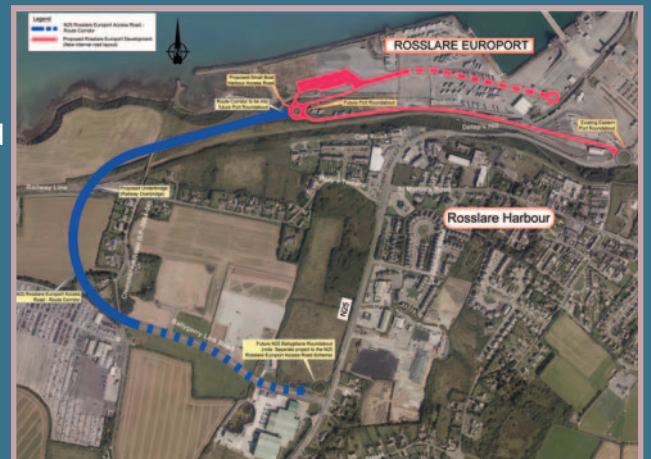
This is being developed to deliver optimum integration with Rosslare Europort's approved masterplan development, the N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road project, the N25 Ballygillane Roundabout Road project and the proposed Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour greenway project.

The outcome was confirmed in December 2020 following public consultation on the options that June. Design and environmental assessment of the scheme will progress through 2021 and a planning application should be submitted before year end.

Project updates are available at www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout

This TII funded project has begun the CPO stage following preliminary design.



Roads & Transportation Services

National Road Resurfacing / Overlays

N11 Kileen to Newtown Pavement Overlay Phase 2

This involved 1.35km of foundation repair, pavement overlay and drainage improvement works on the N11 between Ferrycarrig Bridge, and the New Ross Road roundabout has been completed.

N25 Wexford Ring Road Surface Repair

This involved resurfacing 1.2km of the N25 between the Duncannon Road Roundabout and the Drinagh Roundabout.

R714 (old N30) Mountelliot Pavement Scheme

This involved 1.35km of pavement overlay and footpath rehabilitation on the R714 Mountelliot Roundabout to Ballyanne junction in New Ross.

All the above schemes were funded by TII.

Road Improvement / Restoration on Regional / Local Roads

Restoration Improvement Programme

95km of Wexford's roads was improved under the Restoration Improvement Programme.

Restoration Maintenance Programme

103km of the county's roads was resealed / maintained with surface dressing.

Community Involvement Scheme

A further 13.5km of roads was improved under the Community Involvement Scheme, primarily funded by the Department of Transport and partially funded by the community living on the respective roads.

Local Improvement Schemes (Private Lanes)

Thirteen (or 4.5km) of Wexford's private lanes were resurfaced, substantially funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and part funded by lane residents.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Ten of the county's masonry arch bridges were repaired, funded by the Department of Transport.



Active Travel

Twenty-seven projects to improve walking and cycling facilities in Wexford's towns and villages were completed.

Public Lighting

A total of 3,332 public lights were upgraded to LED lighting in 2020. Of these, 332 were funded by TII on national routes; the remaining 3,000 represented Year 4 of a five-year upgrade of the public lighting network on non-national roads to a modern, cost effective and efficient system.

Road Safety

Wexford County Council continued to work closely with An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority, other Government agencies and local voluntary organisations to promote road safety in Wexford.

County of Wexford Traffic Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye Laws

In 2020 an amendment to the existing Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2018 was created to allow necessary changes to be implemented following the opening of the New Ross and Enniscorthy bypass schemes.

Winter Maintenance

In the calendar year to 31 December, 2020 there were 48 winter maintenance call-outs.

Community Employment Programme

Wexford County Council sponsored two Community Employment schemes employing two supervisors and one assistant supervisor to oversee some 75 participants. The schemes operated from six locations including Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey as well as Wexford Library Archives and Duncannon Fort. Three participants transitioned into full employment during 2020 with many others availing of mentoring and training programmes while on the scheme.

Strategic Policy Committee – Transportation and Water Services

This committee met twice in 2020 via Teams to discuss the following:

- Rosslare Europort Access Road;
- N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour update;
- Roadworks programme Update Covid-19;
- Water services programme update Covid-19;
- Speed limit update and review;
- Wexford Bus – plans / strategies update;
- Cycling issues in the county.



Water Services 2019 - 2020

The Water Services Department of Wexford County Council is responsible for providing and maintaining the county's water infrastructure. It does so under a service level agreement with Irish Water which commissions work needed and contracts the local authority to carry it out. The unit then recoups costs from Irish Water. The infrastructure comprises up to 2,050km of water supply piping, 647km of sewers, some 100 water treatment plants, over 50 sewage treatment plants, 130 wells and eight water abstraction locations.

In addition, the council supports many privately owned water networks constructed and maintained locally.

In 2019, Wexford County Council spent €9.652m on water services which Irish Water later reimbursed.

Waste Water

On behalf of Irish Water, the council operated 186 facilities and 442km of public sewer throughout the county, treating waste from domestic and trade / industrial sources. Private contractors operated the wastewater treatment plants serving the area's six main towns.

Drinking Water

On behalf of Irish Water, the authority operated 142 facilities and 2,050km of public water mains serving up to 115,000 people. Drinking water production in 2019 was 15,658,500 m³, averages at 42.9 mld during the year.

The council supervised the operation of 69 group water schemes serving up to 4,250 people, and the Individual Well Grant scheme.

New well grant applications came to 362 in 2019 giving 7,480 individual well grants that were administered to end 2019.

Grant aid was administered to existing group water schemes and new group sewerage schemes under the Rural Water Programme. The new multi annual programme 2019-21 was announced in 2019 with funding of €1.225m provided for Wexford including €0.834m for the Bing group sewerage scheme.

Up to 75 per cent of the county's population is served by public water, 5 per cent by group schemes and 20 per cent by private wells.

The percentage of unaccounted for water (UFW) for 2019 is measured at 35 per cent or 14.952 million litres per day (mld). In 2019, 444 leaks were detected and repaired, achieving a minimum saving of 8.5 mld.

Other savings for 2019 were 1.147 mld from Backyard Service Replacement in Wexford and Enniscorthy, and 0.17 mld for water main replacement in Ferns, Carrigbyrne, Murntown and Ballyhogue.

Performance Indicators

Water Services Performance Indicators	
Percentage of private drinking water schemes in compliance	96.5%



Capital Projects

Projects listed below are Irish Water capital schemes carried out in partnership with Wexford County Council.

Gorey Regional Water Supply – South Wellfield

The Gorey water supply was to be upgraded and a new 8 million litres per day water treatment plant and 7,500m³ capacity reservoirs built at Ballyminaun. Construction began during 2019 and completion was due in 2021.

Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon

These three villages were to be provided with new wastewater treatment infrastructure. The tender process concluded with one contractor selected. Local authority planning permission was granted and work began in 2020.

Kilmore Quay

The scheme design was completed and ready to go to tender for a new wastewater treatment plant and ancillary works. Land acquisition was finalised and planning permission granted.

Enniscorthy Intake

A new water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten on the River Slaney aimed to improve water supply to Enniscorthy town. Planning permission was granted in September 2019. The design and preparation of tender documents was under way.

Enniscorthy Sewer Network Upgrade

Survey work was carried out in 2019 so that a hydraulic model of the sewer network could be completed. The model will highlight areas requiring rehabilitation / upgrade.

Fethard-On-Sea Sewerage Scheme

A new wastewater treatment plant, sea outfall and pumping station was planned for Fethard-on-Sea. Preliminary design was completed and the next stage was to appoint a contractor for design & build and to complete land acquisition.

Watermain Rehabilitation (Direct Labour Crew)

The council's direct labour crew completed a number of projects in 2019 which included water main rehab works in Kilmyshall, Carrigbyrne, Redshire Road, Killmallock, Askamore.

Ferns Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Moves to upgrade the Ferns wastewater treatment system began in 2019.

Wexford Drainage Area Plan

This project should produce a complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system and identify all pipelines / infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. The necessary survey of works and infrastructure was done in 2019.

Capital Programmes (Minor Capital Works)

An ongoing disinfection and pH control programme is being carried out at some of the county's water treatment plants in addition to ongoing automatic coagulation and dosing.

Treated Water Storage

Additional reservoir storage to lift schemes to the required 24 hours of storage of treated water was approved for Camolin, Kiltealy and Killmallock. Site selection was ongoing in 2019.

Trinity Street Pumping Station Upgrade

Improvement works were carried out at Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station, the main such station in Wexford town.

Economic & Enterprise 2019- 2020

Murrtown

A new wastewater pump station serving Murrtown village was completed in 2019. Wastewater is now pumped to Wexford Town via Piercestown.

Tradebridge

This initiative, initially developed by Wexford County Council and Wexford Enterprise Centre, sought to develop export market opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the south east of Ireland and in 16 counties in south east Georgia in the US.

After a successful pilot that spanned 2018-19, an application for funding under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund succeeded in securing just under €250,000 for the initiative. The investment provided a real opportunity for south east SMEs to explore new markets and opportunities beyond Brexit and work closely with Enterprise Ireland in the US.

Official Opening of Georgia Southern Global Hub – Wexford

The Savannah-based Georgia Southern University (GSU) officially opened its Global Hub Ireland in Wexford Town in November 2019. It was the first US public university to open an outreach learning facility in Ireland.

Founded in 1906, GSU educates over 27,000 students from undergraduates to postdoctoral research students through nine colleges on 900 acres of campus in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and through online instruction. The initiative will welcome its first intake of students and faculty members in spring 2022.

Engineering the South East

Engineering the South East, launched in Wexford on 20 June 2019, aimed to see companies working together to address skills needs, promote careers in the area and advance the region's engineering capabilities.

Enniscorthy Technology Park

Construction started on Enniscorthy Technology Park to provide quality A1 rated and passive certified office buildings in Enniscorthy.

Trinity Wharf Wexford

The 10-acre town centre site was for a regional high-quality business park to provide office blocks, a boutique hotel, a cultural centre, car parking, residential apartments and a new marina.

On 30 April, 2020 An Bord Pleanála granted planning approval for the masterplan.

Restart Grants

Restart Grants paid out to County Wexford businesses totalled €22,506,153.



Tourism Development 2019 / 2020

In 2019 the county showed significant upward trends in visitor numbers.

Fáilte Ireland – Ireland’s Ancient East

Wexford continued to lead the way in implementing Fáilte Ireland’s Ancient East proposition.

Norman Way Heritage Trail

In February 2019 the Norman Way, received the Silver Award in the Best Heritage Project category of the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA.

The Normans Are Here

2019 was the 850th anniversary of Anglo-Norman forces arriving in Wexford. To commemorate the moment, a programme of events called ‘The Normans Are Here’ took place in the four municipal districts and included, re-enactments, historic talks, music concerts and craft demonstrations.

Savannah Collaborates with County Wexford,

On 4 September a ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience, New Ross, to officially open the Savannah Landing Point. A delegation from Savannah, Georgia, came to New Ross for the ceremony.

Launch of the County Wexford Tourism Strategy 2019-23

On 14 October, 2019 Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Sheehan launched the County Wexford Tourism Strategy 2019-23 at Johnstown Castle. This aimed to work with the industry and Fáilte Ireland to strengthen, develop and elevate Wexford’s range of compelling visitor experiences.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

On 6 November, 2019 the Government announced funding for tourism projects under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. A New Ross Tourism Transformation project was awarded €5.5m.

Visit Wexford

Visit Wexford continued to promote Wexford’s diverse tourism industry and the county itself as a premier tourist destination, at home and abroad. It aligned the region further with Fáilte Ireland’s campaign Ireland’s Ancient East.

Tourism Ireland’s 2020 Marketing Plans

2020 started with Tourism Ireland launching details of its new three-year strategy for 2020-22 and marketing plans to promote the island of Ireland overseas.

Once Government produced a roadmap for coming out of Covid-19 lockdown, the county’s tourism marketing began in earnest with a focus on the domestic market and staycations.

Visit Wexford, supported by Wexford County Council, had an excellent response from the tourism industry. Fáilte Ireland confirmed the region was the top hotel accommodation provider in July and August nationally.

Destination Recovery Task Force

After prolonged lockdown, Fáilte Ireland set up several short-term destination recovery task forces for key tourist areas as they opened up again to visitors. County Wexford became one of these task forces.

Special Projects 2019 / 2020

This office covers the development of:

- Industrial, commercial, technological and business infrastructure to facilitate and act as a catalyst for economic development
- Town centre space revitalisation, public buildings and regeneration projects
- High value recreational amenity and tourism projects

The Special Projects Office is the lead for regional greenways, a function resourced by Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils to develop a strategy for an integrated network of greenways in the region and advance strategic greenway projects.

TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

Trinity Wharf

This 3.6 hectare waterside site was acquired by Wexford County Council in 2015 to create an urban quarter in Wexford Town with the capacity to attract investment and stimulate economic development. When completed, the development aims to open up a new sustainable urban public quarter with a mix of modern office space, hotel accommodation, leisure and residential development, a landmark cultural and events building, residential units and a multi-storey car park. The leisure and residential element will include a 64-berth marina, a boardwalk linking Trinity Wharf with Paul Quay and The Crescent, new public spaces and an urban greenway.

Applications for development and foreshore consents were submitted in 2019 with An Bord Pleanála approving the project in April 2020 and a decision on the foreshore application expected from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 2021.

The access road's detailed design progressed in 2020 and tendering for a works contractor and construction was to begin in 2021.

Grant aid of €2.028m was secured in 2018 from the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley

This park lies alongside the old N11, south of Enniscorthy. The site is about 14.5 hectares and was developed by Wexford County Council as a technology park with associated services infrastructure to encourage investment by the science and technology sectors.

Niall Barry and Co Ltd was awarded the contract in August 2018 and the project was substantially completed in 2019.

John Street Building Regeneration Project

Wexford County Council applied to the Department of Rural Development for rural regeneration funding to acquire and redevelop the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross.

These buildings were to be converted into a high quality enterprise hub. ODKM Architects was appointed in April 2019 to provide design services for the project. The land acquisition process started in 2020 and drawings and reports required for a compulsive purchase order were advanced that same year.

Kilmore Quay Link Road

Construction of a new 375m link road to the north of Kilmore Quay village was to provide local industry with better access and connectivity to regional and national road networks and associated export markets. It aimed to remove HGV traffic from the village centre, enhance its appeal for tourists and encourage increased visitor numbers.

Planning approval was obtained in February 2019 with detailed design and tender documents completed in December 2019. An award of contract was made in early 2020 and work began in November 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions eased.

TOWN CENTRE, PUBLIC REALM AND REGENERATION PROJECTS

Crescent Quay

The Wexford Quay and Economic Strategy recommended improvements for the public spaces at the Crescent Quay / Waterfront areas along with an upgrade of the pedestrian links to Main Street. The aim was to transform the Crescent into an attractive civic space and reduce heavy traffic.

A contractor was appointed in December 2018. Work began early 2019 and was substantially completed by the following December.

Templeshannon Regeneration Plan

The Templeshannon regeneration strategy, adopted by Enniscorthy Municipal District in January 2018, identified several transformational projects for the area, including:

- Improving Templeshannon's public realm and streetscape
- Constructing a pedestrian bridge to create a new link to the town centre
- Managing and gradually transforming the Leisure Centre Car park
- Creating new urban blocks for infill development

A master plan was needed to coordinate and deliver the work for Templeshannon along with developing the proposed urban blocks, an approach that aligns with that set out in the National Planning Framework.

A Part 8 street improvement proposal submitted in October 2018 was not approved.

The preliminary design, environmental and site investigation work for the pedestrian bridge was advanced in 2019 and 2020.

An application for urban regeneration funding in 2018 was unsuccessful.



Special Projects

High Hill, New Ross

High Hill is a strategic urban site connecting John Street and the town centre to the derelict 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery.

A plan to develop the site as a new amenity / public space, in keeping with the town's Norman history, was developed by New Ross Municipal District Council. A Part 8 application was approved in July 2019 for preliminary design and detailed design and works tender documents got under way. An unproductive tender for works went out in July 2020 and should be reprinted in 2021.

A Rural Regeneration application for the project as part of the New Ross tourism project application succeeded.

Esmonde Street

Rural Regeneration funding was secured in 2019 to enhance and transform Esmonde Street in Gorey. The €95,224 allocation allowed the project to proceed to 'shovel ready' status. The plan involved upgrading public spaces and developing Esmonde Street as a premier retail and entertainment destination to encourage more year-round visitors.

A design team was appointed in early 2020 and a Part 8 planning application was advertised in October and approved by December 2020. A category 1 application for rural regeneration funding was submitted in December 2020.

Monck Street Public Realm Works, Wexford

In March 2020, tenders were invited for design services to improve Monck Street and in July a contract was awarded and the work got under way.

New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks

Site investigation works and inspections for the removal of the defunct oil tanks on New Ross quay began early 2020 and tender documents for demolition works were advertised in August 2020. An award of contract was planned for early 2021.

Crescent Quay – Dredging

A tender for design services for engineering and environmental assessment and for preparation of consent applications as required for dredging works at Crescent Quay was advertised in October 2020 and an appointment scheduled for early 2021.

RECREATION, AMENITY AND TOURISM PROJECTS

Min Ryan Park

Wexford County Council got planning consent to develop a new public park on 16-acre site at Killeens, Wexford, in 2015.

Work started in early 2019 and was substantially completed in June 2020 when the park opened to the public. A contract for the design and build of a skatepark and multi-use games area (MUGA) for the amenity was awarded in September 2020 and work begins in 2021.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre

Carrigfoyle was identified for construction of an activity centre along with Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board. The centre, for local residents and visitors, provides recreational, social, health and wellbeing activities.

Works began on Phase 1 (access road, car park, trails and services) in November 2019 and were substantially completed by December 2020 when walking trails opened to the public.

Gorey Town Park

This new amenity aimed to incorporate the existing Gorey Town Park and Gorey Showgrounds into a well-designed and coherent landmark in the area. It aimed to become an exemplar in landscape architect-led design and a template for modern parks in Ireland.

Niall Barry & Co Ltd led the redevelopment works at Gorey Town Park in March and work began on site in May 2019. Covid-19 restrictions significantly affected the 2021 completion date.

WEXFORDIA

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

Wexford County Council has secured Rural Regeneration category 2 funding to develop a cluster of tourism projects.

Services to develop new visitor experiences at the Irish National Heritage Park and Hook Lighthouse and to bring those projects to 'shovel ready' status were procured in 2019 and 2020. While Covid-19 restrictions delayed the awarding of contracts these services were expected to be in place in 2021.

Works on the Dunbrody ship, begun in late 2020, were due for completion mid-2021.

A preliminary interpretive plan to develop a new Norman centre in New Ross was completed in 2020 in partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project

This project focuses on developing Enniscorthy as a tourism destination of significant tourist attraction, making it a key stop-off in Failte Ireland's brand, Ireland's Ancient East.

Work on a preliminary plan begun in 2019 was presented to Enniscorthy Municipal District in July 2020. The phased development of a new tourism project, centred on the castle, aimed to ramp up visitor numbers to the town and strengthen links with similar schemes planned for the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross.

PUBLIC BUILDING PROJECTS

Gorey Market House

This historic building forms an important part of the urban fabric and public realm plan for Gorey Town.

A Part 8 planning application to redevelop the building into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was approved in May 2018.

Initially, efforts to secure private sector investment foundered and in May 2019 Gorey Municipal District members requested that the Market House be redeveloped as a public building / space. Work proceeded on this basis until September 2019 when members opted for a second private sector procurement process to create a multi-functional performance venue on the site. This opened in 2020.

Rural regeneration funding of €429,145.00 was secured in 2019 to bring the project to 'shovel ready' status.

Wexford Arts Centre

Plans to revamp the existing arts centre are on a firm footing with a grant of €1m from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht. Wexford County Council has matched this funding.

An appointment for design services was completed in April 2019. The Part 8 planning process begun in October 2019 was approved in January 2020. Detailed design and tender documents were completed by mid-2020 and tenders for works received in October 2020. An award of contract is planned for 2021.

Special Projects

Enniscorthy Sports Hub

Enniscorthy Municipal District received a sports infrastructure grant of €300,000 to construct a building at the town's Cherryorchard sports hub.

A procurement process for a design team to complete the detailed design and tender documents began in November 2020 with an appointment due in early 2021.

Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

In late 2020, Wexford County Council allocated funding to prepare a draft masterplan for the Old Dublin Road and began to procure engineering design services.

This is a key commercial, business and industrial area with over 90 businesses and employing up 2,000 people.

GREENWAYS

South East Greenway

The greenway will employ the disused rail corridor from Mount Elliot, north of New Ross, to Ferrybank in Waterford running through south Kilkenny. Along with the North Quays projects and Bilberry Greenway in Waterford, it will connect the South East and Waterford Greenways. This will create a 72km amenity to attract domestic and international visitors thereby acting as a prime economic driver for the region.

Planning was finalised in 2018 and the detailed design developed significantly during 2019-20. An initial contract for site clearance and lifting of rail sleepers was awarded in 2020 and work was substantially completed by end year.

Tendering for the main works was divided into lots with initial contracts for urban sections advertised in late 2020. Award of contract is planned for early 2021.

The initial €8m grant allocation from the Department of Transport approved in June 2019 was increased by €7.7m by the Minister in November 2020, €15.7m in total.

Rosslare to Waterford Greenway

This 56km amenity will run along the existing rail corridor from Rosslare to Waterford City with a link from Rosslare to Rosslare Harbour. It will provide an off-road cycle and walking path from Rosslare Harbour to Waterford City, taking in Kilrane, Rosslare, Killinick, Mayglass, Bridgetown, Wellingtonbridge, Ballycullane, Campile in Wexford, Belview in Kilkenny and Ferrybank in Waterford.

The route will form part of a proposed integrated network of greenways, blueways and EuroVelo routes proposed for the South East, with an array of recreational facilities for local residents and visitors.

Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents were completed in 2019. Public information events were held in Wellingtonbridge and Rosslare Strand in May 2019 with further consultations at Rosslare and Belview in October 2020. The Environmental Impact Assessment and Natura Impact reports were completed in 2020 and preliminary design, planning application and compulsory purchase orders are due for completion in early 2021.

Wexford to Rosslare Greenway

A design team appointed in August 2020 prepared a feasibility study, route selection report, preliminary design, environmental assessments and planning and related consents applications to develop a greenway from Wexford Town to Rosslare. Works were due to begin on the environmental studies and investigations in late 2020 and into 2021.

Courtown Coastal Protection and Beach Nourishment Scheme

Following completion of a coastal engineering feasibility study to investigate developing and providing major infrastructural coastal works in Courtown to reinstate the north beach, tenders were invited for engineering services including preliminary design, environmental studies and preparation of consent applications in late 2020.

FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEMES

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The Office of Public Works, in partnership with Wexford County Council and other local authorities, completed the South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAM).

This study affirmed the viability and effectiveness of a flood relief scheme for the community of Wexford Town and environs to protect property and infrastructure from coastal and fluvial flooding.

The Office of Public Works allocated €9m for this work and the procurement process for engineering design services opened in 2020.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Enniscorthy has a long history of flooding. Extreme events took place in 1924, 1947, 1965, 2000, 2002, 2009, 2011, 2014 and more recently in December 2015 when 130 properties were affected. Flooding has damaged the town's properties and roads and is a risk to inhabitants' health and safety, causing traffic disruption and affecting commercial activity in the area.

This project has been underway since 2009.

A revised scheme was exhibited for public consultation in Enniscorthy Library during May-June 2019 and attracted over 400 viewers. Responses received during this exhibition were considered and the scheme was then submitted to the OPW for Ministerial Consent in December 2019. The OPW sent the scheme to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for approval in March 2020.

During July-August 2020, the Department ran a statutory public consultation and in September 2020 engaged consultants to review the scheme to ensure compliance with relevant environmental directives and regulations. The scheme remains under review and approval by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is expected in 2021. Construction work will take over three years to complete.

The flood defence scheme combines several measures to protect the town. These include river channel widening and deepening, bridge relocation, and constructing extensive glass panelled flood walls through Enniscorthy.

The work will take in a 3.5km stretch of the River Slaney, from 1.5km upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge to 2km downstream. The project's main elements include:

- Construction of flood defence walls on both banks, upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge, through the town, finishing just south of the Riverside Park Hotel.
- River channel widening and deepening.
- Deepening of the riverbed under the existing Railway Bridge and Old Enniscorthy Bridge.
- Removal of the existing Seamus Rafter Bridge.
- Construction of a new road bridge over the River Slaney and Railway Line, about 100m south of the Riverside Park Hotel.
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre.
- Development of a new town traffic management plan.

The estimated cost is €50m to complete.

Planning 2019

Forward Planning and Biodiversity

Wexford County Development Plan

Preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2020-25 and associated strategies continued. As well as general planning policies and development objectives the new plan included strategies for renewable energy, housing, retail, strategic flood risk assessment of the county (including flood maps) and landscape character assessment.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The Forward Planning Section, the Planning SPC and Wexford County Council members of the regional authority prepared detailed submissions on the Spatial and Economic strategy before it was adopted. These ensured:

- Critical infrastructure for County Wexford was prioritised and delivered
- Economic drivers, including the port and technical university, were supported and developed
- Strong objectives were included to support balanced regional development and Wexford's economy, its towns, villages and rural areas.
- Wexford County Council's proposed strategic development projects were supported

Biodiversity

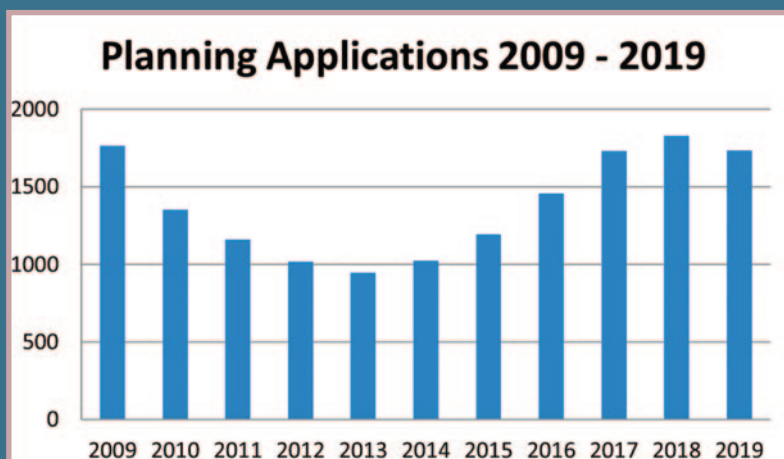
The Biodiversity Action Plan continued to deliver. Among the contributors were: Wex Bee Aware, a first point of contact for all things pollinator; Changing Landscapes, working to change the way people manage outdoor space; Bug Hotel Materials Bank in Holmestown, collecting waste building products to help people fill bug hotels; Green Clean, moving Wexford County Council from chemical cleaners to greener products; Natural Wexford, creating and installing information panels at important geological and biodiversity sites in the region.

Development Management

Planning Application Statistics

Up to 1,733 planning applications were received in 2019 compared with 1,829 in 2018 and 1,730 in 2017. In addition:

- 11,408 phone queries were received at planning CSU in 2019.
- 4,339 members of the public called in to the planning CSU counter.
- 608 applications for pre-planning meetings were received in 2019.
- 67 major pre-planning meetings were held in 2019.
- 48 planning searches received in 2019. The planning unit ceased conducting planning searches in May 2019.
- 1,460 decisions were made with 81 per cent of planning applications granted.



CSO Returns – 2019 (Permissions Granted)

Permissions	December 2019
Total Number of Permissions (All Uses) (see Circular PD 10/00 appendix 2)	717
Total number of dwellings permissions (new construction houses, including one-off houses and apartments)	350
Total Number of Units (New Construction)	
Houses (excluding one-off houses)	962
Apartments	155
One-off houses	289
Commercial	24

Planning Enforcement

The 186 complaints received in 2019 related primarily to unauthorised developments or non-compliance with planning permissions.

168 warning letters and 52 enforcement notices were issued following assessments of complaints and site inspections.

214 enforcement cases were closed after warning letters were issued, or compliance with enforcement notices, or the outcome of legal proceedings in 10 District Court cases. Fines totalling €6,700 were imposed on defendants in three cases.

Building Control

In 2019 Wexford County Council received 786 commencement notices for new buildings.

National Guidelines recommend 12-15 per-cent of new properties be inspected by a local authority to ensure compliance with building standards. Wexford County Council inspected 42 per-cent in 2019.

In 2019, six estates were taken in charge in County Wexford. This was a benefit to 159 houses as the Council became responsible for road / footpath / service / public lighting maintenance in these estates.

ACCESSIBILITY

Significant Achievements

The first pilot design for fully accessible, gender neutral public toilet facilities was completed with the Department of the Environment at Duncannon village.

Make Way Day

Wexford County Council actively engaged in national Make Way Day Campaign.

Planning

Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition

Eleven entries were received for the Access for All Category. First prize for Gardens, Parks and Community Spaces was awarded to Rosslare Community Development Association CLG / Friends of Rosslare, with the ICA Garden, Bree, awarded first prize for Improved Access in Infrastructure.

Proactive Engagement

The review of Wexford County Council's Disability Strategy included consultation with disability service providers and stakeholders; collaboration internally with departments; engagement and information events with local groups and agencies.

The results will be published in 2020 as the new Disability and Inclusion plan.

To continue to ensure that infrastructure and capital works include universal design principles, 22 disability proofing assessments were carried out in 2019.

105 requests / complaints were logged on the issue in 2019.

Significant Items and Their Status at Year End

District	Area	Issue	Progress
Enniscorthy	Burial ground	Circulation and footpath widths	Works agreed
	Court Street	Footpath access points	Works agreed
	Presentation Centre	Access to stage	Works in progress
	Templeshannon	Footpath connectivity	Works notified
Gorey	Askamore Graveyard	Steps handrails and circulation	Works complete
	Clones Beach	Walkway	Works complete
	Railway Road	Crossing points	Works complete
	Kilanerin Community Walking trails	Assistance use of all-terrain wheelchair	Request complete
New Ross	Irish Town	Junction crossing points	Works complete
	Dunbrody Heights Housing Estate	Access	Works complete
	Bawnmore Heights Housing Estate	Footpath connectivity	Works notified
Rosslare	Wellingtonbridge	Crossing point	Works notified
	Rosslare Strand	Car parking	Works in progress
Wexford	Curracloe-Raven Walk	Access	Works notified
	Castlebridge - various locations	Footpath crossing points and connectivity	Works in progress
	1798 Street (park)	Footpath	Works notified

Disability Access Certificate (DAC) Applications

Enniscorthy	23
Gorey	12
New Ross	9
Rosslare	6
Wexford	21
Total 2019	71

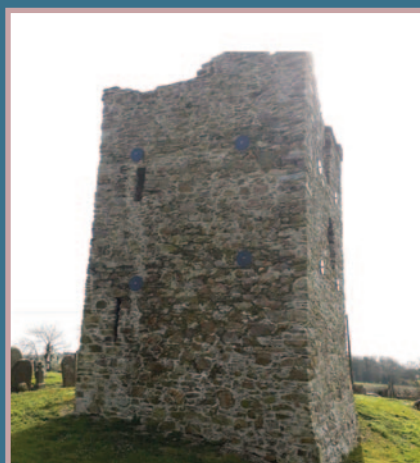
BUILT HERITAGE

The planning section's heritage services provided financial support for a number of county projects including the Carrick project at the Irish National Heritage Park; Gorey's Market Square Graveyard; Bannow Church; Forest Graveyard Taghmon;, and works in Ferns Village.

Main projects included repair works to a section of Wexford's Town Wall and significant repairs to Kilmannon Church Tower.



Support was provided to publications including the Wexford Historical Society Journal, The Forth and Bargy Dialect (Yola) and funding to reprint Billy Colfer's Arrogant Trespass.



Planning 2020

Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-27

This item was the Forward Planning team's principal project for 2020. When the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region was adopted in January 2020 and planning functions began again after Covid-19 restrictions were paused, the pre-draft County Development Plan (CDP) was finalised and presented to Wexford County Council members for their consideration on 24 July, 2020.

Setting out a six-year spatial planning framework for the county, this comprehensive document of 13 volumes contains the policies, objectives and development management standards to guide the county's development during the plan period (vol 1-2).

It includes settlement plans for Bunclody Town, Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane and specific objectives for Castlebridge and Rosslare Standard (vol 3). It contains the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas (vol 5-6), the Landscape Character Assessment (vol 7), the County's Retail Strategy (vol 8), the Housing Strategy (vol 9) and the Energy Strategy (vol 10).

The County Development Plan was subject to various assessments required under EU directives – the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment are in volumes 11-13.

Members considered the pre-draft at special meetings that began 27 July, 2020 and approved it for public display on 14 September, 2020.

The display lasted 10 weeks from 28 September, 2020 to 9 December 2020. The Council's planning unit used several communication tools to exhibit and promote engagement with the draft CDP including the council's new online consultation portal. The public responded and it proved an invaluable communications tool, particularly given Covid-19 restrictions throughout the 10 weeks. It allowed viewing of the Draft Plan from the safety of home and submissions to be made directly to the portal.

The Forward Planning team used Microsoft Teams to hold Stakeholder Consultation Meetings and used the Council's various social media platforms to publicise the draft county development plan consultation. In all, 168 submissions and observations were received covering a broad range of issues.

At the end, work began on the plan's next stage which was preparation of the Chief Executive's report on submissions / observations received for Members' consideration.

Wexford Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2022-28

Background preparation work continued on this plan.

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Action Plan continued to deliver.

Wex Bee Aware

Funding was secured from National Biodiversity of Ireland for pollinator planting projects on council lands (community apple orchards / staff pollinator planting at County Hall) and remains a first point of contact for all such matters.

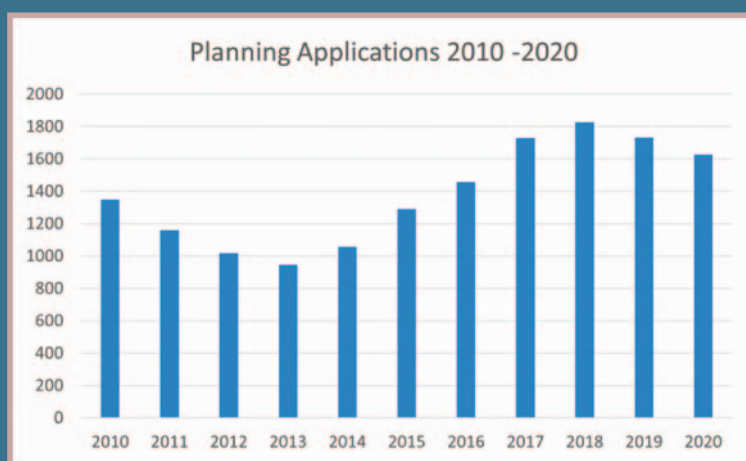
Signage

Natural Wexford information signs were installed along with other information panels at important geological and biodiversity sites in the county.

Development Management

Planning Application Statistics

1,628 planning applications received in 2020 compared with 1,733 in 2019; 1,829 in 2018; and 1,730 in 2017.



The Planning CSU counter dealt with 907 clients up to 27 March, 2020. After this it was closed to comply with Covid-19 restrictions. Since then, file viewing has been by appointment only.

- 524 applications for pre-planning meetings were received in 2020.
- 42 major pre planning meetings were held in 2020.
- 1,251 decisions were made with 81 per cent of applications granted planning permission.

CSO Returns – 2020 (Permissions Granted)

<u>Permissions</u>	December 2020
Total Number of Permissions (All Uses) (see circular pd 10/00 appendix 2)	628
Total Number of Dwellings Permissions (new construction houses, including one-off houses and apartments)	323
Total Number of Units (New Construction);	
Houses (excluding one-off houses)	284
Apartments	58
One-off houses	277

Planning

Planning Enforcement

Formal complaints increased by 30 per cent in 2020 to 241. They related primarily to unauthorised developments or non-compliance with planning permissions. A further 73 complaints were considered to have no role for planning enforcement, civil matters and so on.

247 warning letters and 33 enforcement notices were issued following assessments of complaints and site inspections.

173 enforcement cases were closed following the issue of warning letters, or compliance with enforcement notices, or the outcome of legal proceedings in District Court cases. Fines totalling €5,750 were imposed on defendants in four cases.

Regulation of Short-Term Letting (in Gorey Rent Pressure Zone)

Short-term let files totalled 66 in 2020 while warning letters served came to 23 and 13 cases were closed.

Building Control

Wexford County Council received 792 commencement notices for new buildings in 2020.

National Guidelines recommend that 12-15 per cent of new properties be inspected by a Local Authority to ensure they comply with proper building standards. Wexford County Council inspected 36 per cent in 2020.

In 2020, 15 estates were taken in charge in the county. This was a benefit to 344 houses as the local authority became responsible for maintaining roads, footpaths, services and public lighting.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

- The Council's derelict sites Executive Technician inspected 220 sites in 2020.
- 46 notices of intention were issued to property owners notifying them of the council's intention to put their property on the Derelict Site Register. Five were remediated and avoided this.
- 5 Section 11 Notices were issued listing the works that were required. Five properties were put on the Derelict Site Register.
- Commercial valuations were arranged for 14 properties and notices issued to owners informing them of the market valuation. No appeals were lodged regarding these.
- 23 Derelict Site Levy invoices were issued in 2020.
- 11 properties were removed from the Derelict Site Register after owners saw to the required works.
- 13 properties on the Derelict Site Register were referred to property management for acquisition by CPO for housing, community use, car parking or return to the open market because of probate / title difficulties.
- 11 Dangerous Structure Notices were issued in 2020, including demolition notices for the Westgate B&B, Wexford; the Macamore Inn, Ballygarret; and the Bake House, Carne. Monitoring the demolition of Bayview Hotel, Courtown, continued in 2020.
- 1 Dangerous Place Notice was issued in 2020.
- 96 Derelict Site and Dangerous Structure / Place Executive Orders were signed in 2020. This number is halted during the Covid-19 lockdown.

ACCESSIBILITY

Significant Achievements

Wexford County Council's Disability and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2022

The Council's Disability and Inclusion Strategy was published. It aims to provide accessible services for all across the organisations' service provision. The strategy acknowledges how important this is for the council, the people it serves now and in the future.

Wexford County Council's Communications Board

Communication and a means to communicate are essential for everyone's physical and mental well-being. For a child the ability to communicate is even more vital for their overall development and safety. The inclusive communication board designed by Wexford County Council along with other agencies and individuals acknowledges this fact in a fun, practical, interactive and self-explanatory way. This initiative has been adopted in playgrounds nationwide.

Changing Places Facility

Changing Places promotes the inclusion of additional toilet facilities for those who need them in public places nationwide. The installation of such a facility in Min Ryan Park means the county now has two open and operating with proposals for a further two in 2021.

Website

The Council's website – www.wexfordcoco.ie – underwent a substantial review to ensure it was accessible to all as required under current standards. The audit's outcome was considered within the ICT programme of work. Text to audio software ReCiteMe was installed to ensure all users were catered for.

Make Way Day

Wexford County Council took part in the National Make Way Day Campaign. This resulted in proposals to look at an accessible walking trails programme for 2021.

Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition

Thirteen entries were received for the Access for All category. First prize for Gardens, Parks and Community Spaces was awarded to Ballyduff Development Group while the Ramsfort Woodland Walking Trail won first prize for Improved Access in Infrastructure.

Proactive Engagement

To continue to ensure that infrastructure and capital works include universal design principles, 99 planning applications were disability proofed in 2020. A further 38 such audits of proposed capital works projects or site visits from complaints were carried out during the year.

Complaints

Twenty-three public requests / complaints were logged and acknowledged in 2020. Their current status is either referred, acted on, in progress or completed as appropriate and practicable under Covid-19 restrictions.

Disability Access Certificate (DAC) Applications

In 2020 changes took place in how Disability (and revised disability) Access Certificate applications were managed and processed. They aimed to bring the process under the Building Control Management System and this should be completed in 2021.

DAC applications in 2020 totalled 114 of which 92 were valid.

Planning

GRANTS

Built Heritage

Tellerought Castle

In 2019 Tellerought Castle was declared dangerous and the adjoining public road was closed. It was taken into council ownership and funding was sought to carry out urgent work. Planning section staff supervised efforts to stabilise the castle and the road reopened in March 2021. Additional funding was secured to complete repair works later in the year. The project was jointly funded by the council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

Twelve projects were awarded grants in the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in 2020 in County Wexford. Covid-19 restrictions hampered their completion. Four projects were withdrawn from the scheme and the grant of €79,000 was re-distributed among the remaining eight. At least 416 days' work was created through the Built Heritage Scheme 2020 in County Wexford and the projects together cost over €164,500.

Historic Structures Fund 2020

Wexford County Council secured a grant from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund for works to stabilise Tellerought Castle in Terrarath, New Bawn, New Ross.

July Jobs Stimulus Package 2020

St Peter's College, Gorey, received a grant under the July Jobs Stimulus Package to complete repairs to leaded glass windows in the south elevation of the Pugin Chapel. The college said the chapel was of national importance as one of Ireland's first Pugin projects.

Community Monuments Fund 2020

Wexford County Council secured funding of €39,587 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the following three projects.

Community Monuments Fund Ref	Structure	Total Grant
CMF 20/1/49	St Mary's, Bannow	€18,756
CMF 20/1/51	Lady's Island Church, County Wexford	€12,467
CMF 20/2/47	Barntown Castle, Wexford	€8,364
		€39,587

Publications

The Council's Planning Section helped produce several publications including the new history of Wexford Castle and Barracks by Monica Crofton. It also supported the Wexford Historical Journal, and research for the Atlas on New Ross.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 2019-2020

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Council's environment section kept all its essential waste management, pollution response, pier, harbour, beach and coastal and animal control services operating throughout 2019-2020.

Coast and Harbour Management

During 2019-2020, the environment unit continued to monitor the effects of coastal erosion along the county's extensive coastline.

Blue Flag Beach Awards

Blue Flags beach awards went to Ballymoney, Ballinesker, Carne, Courtown, Curracloe, Morriscastle and Rosslare in 2019 and again in 2020, except for Courtown as beach erosion prevented the council from applying. In 2019 and 2020, Blue Flag marinas awards went to Kilmore Quay and New Ross, both council-owned / operated.

Green Coast Awards

These awards recognise beaches with excellent water quality, environmental information and local community involvement. Culleton's Gap, Cullenstown, Cahore, Ballyhealy, Booley Bay, Grange, St Helen's Bay, Grange were all recognised in 2019, and Baginbun was added in 2020.

Amenity works were carried out at Cullenstown Beach in 2019 including fencing to help regenerate beach vegetation and restrict vehicular access.

The Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study was completed and Wexford County Council applied to the Office of Public Works for funding for its next stages in 2019.

Curracloe won Ireland's Favourite Beach in 2019 and 2020 under the Irish Independent Travel Awards. Other coastal works included upgrading harbour lighting at Kilmore Quay along with repair of its pontoon sections; pontoon repairs at New Ross Marina and structural repairs to Harbour Walls at Duncannon in 2019 and a new slipway barrier for Courtown in 2020.

Air Quality, Water Quality and Noise Monitoring

Throughout 2019-2020 the council's water, air and noise unit monitored, sampled, analysed and reported on the quality of water, wastewater, air, noise and various other environmental aspects in accordance with EU and National legislation. There were two ongoing noise complaint cases in 2020.

Waste Management

The waste operations section maintained two closed landfill sites, four household recycling centres and 110 bring bank sites in the county.

In December 2018, elected members adopted the Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws. These came into force on 2 January, 2019 and were implemented by the Council's Waste Enforcement Staff in 2019-20.

Segregated food waste was accepted at all four household recycling centres.

3,311 tonnes of glass and aluminium cans was collected via council bring centres in 2019; 4,327 tonnes in 2020 (up 31 per cent).

In 2019 the council issued 341 litter fines with 13 successful court convictions for litter offences. In 2020 there were 213 litter fines issued and 20 successful prosecutions for littering offences.

Complaints about littering and illegal dumping were reported through the new Customer Service Unit using the DASH customer relations management system. In 2020, 3,144 complaints were received about littering or illegal dumping compared to 3,132 in 2019.

Environmental Services

17,874 clean-ups, bring bank and ring-boy inspections and other works were carried out by the rapid response crew during 2019; in 2020 the figure was 27,176.

Wexford County Council uses a combination of Community Wardens, anti-litter freephone – 1800 DUMPED (1800 386733), Environment Enforcement Staff and mobile CCTV cameras to enforce the Litter Pollution Act.

The Council participated in the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment's Anti-Dumping Initiative for 2020 and received grant assistance of €95,939.

The Council uses the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System to measure the extent and composition of litter pollution in the county. The table below compares the years 2020-04 and shows improvement in the seriously littered category.

Wexford Co. Council – National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys 2004-20 Percentage of County Littered (Litter Pollution Surveys)

Year	Litter Free %	Slightly Littered %	Moderately Littered %	Seriously Littered %	Grossly Littered %
2020	9.4	68.8	18.8	3	0
2019	9.9	67.9	18.8	3.4	0
2018	10	70.5	17.7	1.8	0
2017	18.3	67	14.7	0	0
2016	12.1	65.6	21.9	0.4	0
2006	0	53	23	20	3
2004	0	23	56	21	0

Litter Fines

Litter Fines Issued by Wexford County Council					
Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Number of Litter Fines Issued	213	341	324	218	274

Control of Dogs and Horses

Thirty-one dog breeding establishments were on the register under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010 at end December 2020.

The percentage of dogs put to sleep dropped from 17 per cent in 2017 to 5.8 per cent in 2018, a welcome downward trend.

Dogs	2019	2020
No in pound at beginning of year	33	17
No seized by dog warden or an Garda Síochána	630	409
No surrendered to dog warden or an Garda Síochána	146	123
Total	809	549
No reclaimed by owner	152	127
No re-homed / transferred to dog welfare groups	561	373
No put to sleep	77	32
No dying from natural causes	2	2
Total	792	534
No of dogs in the pound at year end	17	15

Horses	2019	2020
No impounded by ACS Ltd	33	30
No reclaimed by owners	4	3
No transferred to welfare organisations	29	27
No put to sleep	0	0

Environmental Services

Environment Education and Awareness

Schools Programme

Green Flag

By end 2019, 108 or 86 per cent of all county schools were flying the prestigious Green Flag awarded by An Taisce. Many school workshops and environmental tours of Holmestown Household Recycling Centre were suspended due to the pandemic in 2020.

Green Schools Seminar

The Annual Green Schools Seminar held in October 2019 was well attended with presentations given on all themes of the Green-Schools Ireland programme.

Environment Workshops

Twenty-six schools participated in environment themed workshops in 2019.

Recycling Centre Tours

Seven schools toured Holmestown Waste Management Facility in 2019.

Environment Competitions

The Christmas Recycling Competition had 305 entries going forward to the county final from 47 schools. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Michael Sheehan, congratulated the winners on 19 December, 2020.

The Keep Wexford Beautiful event received 113 entries from 60 community groups across 12 categories.

Over 300 people attended the Environment Awards held on 11 November, 2019. Monageer Parish Grotto Group won the overall award in 2019 followed by Blackwater in 2020. The awards were broadcast on South East Radio on 10 December, 2020.

The Planting Grant attracted 211 voluntary community group applications, the highest number ever approved.

Environmental Campaigns and Community Initiatives

National ReUse Month

This took place in October. Several events were organised to promote reuse. Children's art workshops took place in libraries and a reuse library was displayed in County Hall during October.

Tidy Towns

The 2019 campaign was launched in Wexford Town in July with representatives of Wexford Tidy Towns. The campaign aims to encourage all to *'bin their gum when they are done'*.

Tidy Towns Groups were assisted in preparation for the National Tidy Towns Competition and six clinics were held with a National Tidy Towns adjudicator.

The National Tidy Towns results were announced in September.

Wexford Town regained its silver medal, with Rosslare and Enniscorthy retaining their bronzes.

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns scooped the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland Award.

The Sustainable Development award went to Monageer Tidy Towns with Rosslare as runner up. Ballyduff Tidy Towns was runner up in the CAN IT Award.

Mary Gethings from Ferns Tidy Towns received the Overall SuperValu Tidy Towns Community Heroes award. Lili Masterson, Ballycanew Tidy Towns received highly commended in this award.

The County awards went to Rosslare, Ballycanew and Blackwater with Rosslare Harbour netting the Endeavour Award.

Conscious Cup Campaign

Wexford County Council continued to encourage people to cut down on waste by using reusable cups for their takeaway beverages during 2019-2020.

Mattress Amnesty

This amnesty was held at the four household recycling centres in August / September 2019. In all 2,715 mattresses and 2,118 sofas were received. In 2020 a mattress amnesty was held at Holmestown Household Recycling Centre July / September with 2,680 mattresses received.

Green Dog Walker Campaign

This was promoted throughout 2019-2020.

WEEE Promotion

Information on correct disposal of household electronic and electrical waste (WEEE) was circulated along with a WEEE pledge in schools.

National Tree Week

Saplings were distributed to groups and schools during National Tree Week.

Tree Shredding

In all 2,415 Christmas trees were shredded at seven locations in the county.

Clean Coast Week

Promotion and assistance was offered to groups for Clean Coast Week, Big Beach Clean Up Weekend. Two-minute Beach Clean Up stations installed at all Blue Flag beaches.

Waste Prevention Projects

An application for funding under the 2018 grant scheme was successful and a grant of €8,625.20 was approved. Projects funded were waste prevention community-based projects.

National Spring Clean

This was held in April and assistance for community clean-ups continued throughout the year with 716 cleans up carried out.

Curracloe Nature Trail

Guided walks of this trail took place in June-July every day at 12 noon, 2pm and 4pm This initiative is part of the county's Blue Flag education programme.

Food Waste Demo

TV Chef and Food Writer Catherine Fulvio ran a well-attended, and free, food waste prevention cookery demonstration titled, Food – Making the most of it this Christmas in November 2019.



WEXFORD COUNTY FIRE SERVICE 2019 - 2020

Wexford County Fire Service continued to maintain five retained fire brigades in the county's main towns with a fleet of 27 vehicles and 66 firefighters.

In 2019-2020 the Wexford Fire Authority got approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to appoint a building contractor for the New Ross Fire Station on completion of the tendering process. The Fire Authority also got the green light to extensively upgrade the Gorey facility and to buy and additional Class B fire appliance.



Figure 1 Artistic Impression of New Ross Fire Station. Credit: CJ Falconer and Associates, Architects

CTrí Project Update

To date, the CTrí Project has replaced all fire station-end communications and sub-communications, and installed a wide area terrestrial trunked digital radio network, (TETRA), an IP network connecting all five fire stations is in place along with the installation of two national resilient data hubs in commercial data centres. The final component, the command and control system for the three centres, is undergoing site acceptance testing.

Fire Safety

Wexford Fire Authority is notified annually of all relevant applications to the District and Circuit Courts for music and singing events, dances, clubs and transfer of licences and lottery / gaming certificates. In 2019-2020, 282 notifications were received. In 2019 the fire authority received 193 notifiable applications; in 2020, the figure was 89. In 2019-2020, 407 inspections in all were carried out on a broad range of premises.

For Fire Safety Week, Halloween and the Christmas period key fire safety messages were advertised in local papers, Council Websites and Twitter. Stands were set up in busy town areas and the message was delivered to various community groups including via talks and safety adverts in local papers.

In 2019 as part of the National Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme up to 2,000 third class students heard the fire safety message from firefighters who presented a lesson in the classroom.

In all, 115 fire safety certificate applications were received in 2020 and 129 in 2019.

Fire Safety Certificates

Application Type	2020	2019
Fire safety certificate	79	84
Revised fire safety certificate	2	9
7-day notice fire safety certificate	20	16
Regularisation certificate	14	20
Total	115	129

In 2019 advice was issued on 1,073 planning referrals; the following year it was 334.

Operations

The fire service attended 927 incidents in 2020; 902 in 2019. The following is a breakdown of incidents attended by fire brigade area:

Fire Calls By Brigade 2020

Incident Type	Wexford	Gorey	Enniscorthy	New Ross	Bunclody	TOTAL
Chimney fire	49	17	26	29	11	132
Domestic fire	11	12	20	15	1	59
Road traffic accident	27	14	20	16	8	85
Industrial fire	4	1	3	3	0	11
Commercial fire	1	2	2	1	1	7
Assembly fire	3	0	0	1	0	4
Agricultural fire	0	1	0	0	3	4
Motor vehicles	12	13	8	14	4	51
Forest / bog / grass etc	29	26	13	9	12	89
Rubbish	28	14	21	15	14	92
Non-fire rescues	23	7	14	8	3	55
False alarms – good intent	129	49	50	43	12	283
Malicious false alarms	3	0	0	3	0	6
Miscellaneous	17	5	16	9	2	49
Totals	336	161	193	166	71	927

Wexford County Fire Service

Fire Calls By Brigade 2019

Incident Type	Wexford	Gorey	Enniscorthy	New Ross	Bunclody	TOTAL
Chimney fire	56	18	25	21	7	127
Domestic fire	20	13	14	9	2	58
Road traffic accident	31	23	22	28	6	110
Industrial fire	5	0	3	1	0	9
Commercial fire	2	5	0	0	0	7
Assembly fire	0	2	1	0	0	3
Agricultural fire	1	0	1	1	0	3
Motor vehicles	9	17	5	10	2	43
Forest / bog / grass etc	24	18	15	10	4	71
Rubbish	26	9	20	16	3	74
Non-fire rescues	14	7	5	4	1	31
False alarms – good intent	111	45	61	47	8	272
Malicious false alarms	2	0	0	0	0	2
Miscellaneous	27	25	23	17	0	92
Totals	328	182	195	164	33	902

Wexford Fire Authority continued to be an OHSAS (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment System) 18001 accredited organisation and signed up to move to the standardised ISO 450001:2018 Health and Safety Management System by June 2021. This followed successful implementation in 2015 of the International Quality Standard OHSAS 18001:2007 by the Fire Services section for its health and safety management system.

A comprehensive training programme was delivered in 2019-2020 to update and maintain the many firefighter and fire officer skills needed to deliver a full range of services from operational fire brigades and community fire safety to licensing inspections and building control certification. In addition to the standard two hours on-station weekly training, various initial and refresher training courses were carried out.

In all 64 training courses were organised and attended by fire service personnel during 2019. A competency-based training programme was introduced in 2020 due to the pandemic during which 33 training courses were organised and attended. These ranged from half days to three weeks in some cases. Some core training courses undertaken by Wexford County Fire Service were: breathing apparatus for firefighters and instructors; compartment fire behaviour training; recruits courses; winch instructors course; emergency traffic management; and emergency services driving standard.

The Fire Service's pre-incident planning programme continued in 2019 but was curtailed to a risk-based programme in 2020 due to Covid-19. This involved Fire Brigades inspecting premises and formulating a plan for responding to incidents at such premises.

Major Emergency Management

The development committee maintained the Major Emergency Development Programme with monthly meetings and exercises.

The dedicated local coordination centre was maintained and tested throughout the period to cater for a major emergency response. Wexford County Council staff participated in several internal exercises during 2019-2020. These had a strong focus on flood and severe weather preparedness to ensure best outcomes.

Covid-19

Covid-19 significantly affected all public elements of Wexford Fire Authority's activity during 2020. A specific business continuity plan was developed for the fire unit alongside the council's own plan and procedures were put in place to ensure essential services were delivered during the pandemic. In 2020, the fire safety message was circulated via social media and more traditional outlets; community groups were engaged where possible. In-person meetings, home and school visits were curtailed when a safe social distance was not possible. In these cases web-based technology was used where available to maintain contact. A new risk assessment process helped ensure activities such as home fire safety checks and advice and the smoke alarm project were still delivered to the most vulnerable citizens.

A Covid-19 operations plan with extensive procedures ensured a continued response to fire and emergency calls. These were reviewed regularly with updates sent to fire stations. Focused training and information sessions aimed to guarantee the health and safety of staff and the public.

Fire brigade training was initially reduced to essential elements only but was gradually reintroduced as safe procedures were developed.



CIVIL DEFENCE OPERATIONS / TRAINING 2019-2020

Civic Duties 2019

Wexford Civil Defence completed 72 civic duties - covered by 284 volunteers - totalling 1,709 work hours.

Civic Duties 2020

The council completed nine civic duties - covered by 23 volunteers - totalling 54.8 work hours in 2020.

Weekly Training 2019

Weekly training was maintained in 2019.

Enniscorthy Unit

A new unit was set up in 2019 and recruitment took place 28 January. The first training night was 18 February with 22 recruits and two designated Enniscorthy instructors.

Weekly Training 2020

Weekly training ceased March 2020 and began again in late August 2020.

In August / September most volunteers completed Covid-19 induction training as a return to training module. Weekly training recommenced in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.

Social Distancing

These measures were in place to ensure volunteer safety.

Recruitment

Twelve new recruits completed Cardiac First Response (CFR) training and induction on 10 October. On 24 October, they were assigned to their units.

Training Courses 2019

One Missing Person (MISPER) Search Responder course was held. Two Manual Handling and People Handling courses and one CFR advanced and EMT CPG took place. Two 'Food Safety and You' programmes ran; two Swift Water Flood First Responder courses; one Radio Course; an SOG upskilling for boats took place along with coxswain level 2 x 3vols and swiftwater and flood boat rescue x 3 vols

Inter-County Training Day

In Carrigbyrne on 24 August, 2019, 42 volunteers took part in missing person exercises, including hasty search, forest search and criminal / forensic/ evidence search instructed by An Garda Síochána.

Inter-Agency Exercise

This was hosted by ICG and RNLI at Curracloe in May 2019. A misper search, recovery on land, recovery from sea to land, recovery from sea to HELO.

Miscellaneous Training

Other training courses during 2020 included severe weather off-road driving re-certification with eight volunteers; and EFR course (one); CFR advanced and EMT CPG (one); SWFFR instructors re-certification with three instructors; Covid-19 PPE training (four); manual handling and people handling (two); FAR (two).

Missing Persons Search 2019

In March 2019 a missing person search took place over three days. The person was found deceased on March 23.

Missing Persons Search 2020

On 8-9 February, a drone search for a missing fisherman from Kilmore took place. On 23-25 February, a missing person in Enniscorthy was found safe and well. On July 12-17 a missing person search was conducted in the Cahore-Courtown area. The body was recovered 19 July. After a hasty search on 10 August the missing person was found safe and well.

Covid-19 – Response 2020

Wexford Civil Defence was asked to provide support to the community forum helpline in County Hall, HSE and Department of Defence since 23 March, 2020.

Covid-19 – Response 2020

Covid-19 responses in 2020 came to 143 activities carried out by 320 volunteers who put in 1,311 work hours. The responses included 77 patient transports; 34 covers of Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinics; one assist at a temporary mortuary; twice preparing of vehicles for transports; six packing of personal protective equipment for test centres; 11 deliveries of PPE to nursing homes; and 12 deliveries of packs.

Vehicles 2019-2020

On October 11, 2019, Defence Minister Paul Kehoe presented a new 191 Ford Ranger on behalf of the Department of Defence from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

In 2020, a new 201 Ford Ranger was presented from the same source.

A 152 reg Mercedes Sprinter ambulance was donated by the National Ambulance Service to the Department of Defence.



HEALTH AND SAFETY 2019

The main focus of the Health and Safety section was to maintain certification to OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series) across the entire organisation, with an associated management system developed to this standard. This was achieved throughout 2019.

The Health and Safety section continued to deliver a targeted corporate improvement programme ensuring the continued health, safety and wellbeing of employees, contractors and members of the public. No enforcement action was taken against Wexford County Council by the Health and Safety Authority and the overall accident trend continued to fall.

Use of new technologies continued in 2019 with systems introduced to manage the hire of equipment and to control chemical safety data sheets.

OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment System)

Achieving this standard involved an ongoing surveillance audit by an externally accredited body. The Council had to demonstrate a structured and managed approach to health and safety with a commitment to monitored continuous improvement. Wexford County Council was successfully audited by Certification Europe in June and October.

Wexford County Fire Services successfully maintained the OHSAS 18001 standard for health and safety management. Certification is renewed every three years and this is the second time that fire services have achieved full certification. Wexford Fire Services also won the South East Regional award in the National Irish Safety Organisation in the 27th Annual Occupational Safety Awards.

Violence and Aggression

Wexford County Council continued to be challenged by incidents of violence and aggression towards staff. During 2019, the Health and Safety section continued to monitor and intervene in such cases. The Council works closely with other agencies, such as the Garda Síochána to ensure staff are protected while providing an effective service. In addition, delivering suicide prevention training to employees was maintained. Wexford is the first local authority to introduce a suicide prevention strategy that trains all employees.

Events Management

The Health and Safety section recognises the importance of public events to tourism and economic development in Wexford. Its support ensures these events are facilitated and organised to be safe for the public and staff and utilise a monitored, online events application system. Wexford County Council has a dedicated Events Management Officer at Assistant Engineer level.



HEALTH AND SAFETY 2020

Covid-19 restrictions were a major feature of the work of the Health and Safety team in 2020. The unit played a significant role in business continuity planning and worked to establish risk assessments for all operating areas to ensure the safety of staff who had to work during the pandemic. A significant challenge was to maintain a supply chain of personal protective equipment and to ensure sufficient stocks. The unit established a working party with Fire Services and managed to maintain all necessary supplies.

The Health and Safety section continued to deliver a targeted corporate improvement programme, ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of employees, contractors, and members of the public. No enforcement action was taken against the council by the Health and Safety Authority and the overall accident trend continued to reduce.

OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment System)

Wexford County Council was successfully audited by Certification Europe in May and November 2020. These audits were carried out remotely.

Violence and Aggression

Wexford County Council continued to be challenged by incidents of violence and aggression towards employees. During 2020, the Health and Safety section monitored and intervened in such cases as per usual. The Council worked closely with other agencies, such as Garda Síochána, to ensure staff safety and service user standards. Incidents of violence and aggression fell significantly in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Events Management

Events across County Wexford were suspended for 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2019

The Community unit of Wexford County Council manages and delivers the authority's community function. The latter has been significantly expanded under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 with the addition of several statutory functions including the Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), community elements of the County Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), and the county's overall management of the LEADER programme. The community unit's function is outlined in the table below.

Wexford County Council's Community Function		
Wexford LCDC	Graveyards	Pride of Place
Wexford LECP	Social Inclusion	Joint Policing Committee
LEADER Programme	Community Resilience Initiative	Public Participation Network (PPN)
Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)	Town and Village Renewal Scheme	Comhairle na nÓg
Community Enhancement Programme	Health Ireland Fund Local Agenda 21	3 Counties Blueway
Playgrounds	Celtic Routes	Age Friendly County
Traveller Inter Agency Group (TIG)	Bunclody Rural Economic Development Zone REDZ	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

SICAP – Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2018-2022

SICAP aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion / equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights respected.

The LCDC is the individual contracting authority for the SICAP contract.

SICAP 2018-22 succeeds SICAP 2015-17. Its two-pronged approach supports individuals and groups. It has 13 target groups. While an improved programme, SICAP 2018-22 is still not a radical departure from its predecessor. It is an upgrade rather than a replacement.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021

Key functions of the LCDC as per Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 (inserted by Section 36 of the 2014 Act) include preparing, monitoring and implementing the community elements of a six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

Wexford's plan was completed in December 2016. Its development as an evidence-based timebound plan with specific times and measurable actions has put in place the framework essential for effective and greater coordination of the county's publicly funded community development programmes. The LCDC's coordinating role will build on the plan's collaborative work during its lifetime.

Playgrounds

The Community section manages 47 play facilities in County Wexford. The Playground Strategy 2017-2022 sets out a framework for development of play provision by enabling local groups to develop and manage it at community level.

Burial Grounds

The community unit manages 12 open and up to 150 closed burial grounds in the county in accordance with the Burial Ground Maintenance and Development Strategy 2017 and all relevant legislation.

Community Environment Action Fund 2019

Wexford County Council, on behalf of the Department of Communications, Climate Action, allocated funding of €27,600 to 27 applicants under the Community Environment Action Fund (LA21) 2019 in November. This fund targets projects promoting sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental and local activities. Funded ventures include delivery of environmental workshops to primary and secondary school students, creating and developing bug hotels, pollinator areas and wildlife meadows and making a community composting site.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN is a network of not-for-profit volunteer-led groups spread across Co Wexford. Members include Wexford's community and voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups.

Based at Wexford County Council HQ, Wexford PPN is independent and run by a volunteer committee. The secretariat, drawn from the membership, is responsible for overseeing the network's development. Wexford PPN has one full-time member of staff. This is the support officer who assists the secretariat in the PPN's day-to-day running and development.

Wexford PPN is represented on Wexford County Council committees including the Local Community Development Committee, SPCs and JPC. It also has seats on the South East Fisheries Local Action Group, Sports Active – Wexford Local Sports Partnership, South East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce, Connecting for Life Wexford – implementation steering group, and Wexford Traveller Inter-Agency Group. In addition, the PPN Support Officer sits on the Community Resilience Steering Group at Wexford County Council and Comhairle na nÓg.

At end 2019 Wexford PPN had 359 member groups.

Wexford PPN Member Groups	31 December, 2019
Community / Voluntary	283
Environment	9
Social Inclusion	67
Total Number of Members / Groups	359

Age Friendly Programme

Older Peoples Council 2019 AGM

In October 2019 County Wexford's Older People's Council held its Annual Meeting in Riverside Park Hotel. Established under the County Wexford Age Friendly Programme, it aims to give voice to older people and involve them in decision-making on matters affecting their everyday lives.

WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities

County Wexford applied for and was accepted into the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities. It is now part of a growing international movement of communities, cities and other sub-national levels of government striving to better meet the needs of older residents.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Age Friendly Parking

Wexford County Council working with Enniscorthy Municipal District Council and the County Wexford Older People's Council aimed to launch Age Friendly parking spaces in Enniscorthy Town and County Hall HQ, Carricklawn, Wexford.

Ferns Bfriendly – Telephone Befriending Service for Older People

The volunteer-led service Ferns Bfriendly, offering friendship and support to older people in Ferns and its environs, started up and made weekly phone calls to service users. A drop-in information event in Ferns to publicise the service was well attended by older people and other community members. Led by Wexford County Council, Ferns Bfriendly is supported by a range of agencies including the HSE, ALONE, Wexford LCDC and Ferns Development Association with funding from Healthy Ireland and private sponsorship from Innovate.

Cultural Companions

Cultural Companions, a volunteer-led group supported by the Community and Arts units of Wexford County Council, has grown and now has 122 members. It caters for those aged 50-plus interested in going to arts and cultural events but with no one to go with. It offers them access to a network of like-minded people who attend events together as a group. Members are regularly sent a listing of potential events and this is facilitated by a volunteer 'meeter and greeter'.

The Big Hello

Wexford LCDC approved 57 applications from community groups and organisations for the May bank holiday event. The Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €10,000 to the project and the council added €1,200.

Funding for Men's and Women's Sheds

Wexford Local Community Development Committee, on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, supplied funding of €19,634 to 16 men's and women's sheds under the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) in October 2019.

Administered by Wexford County Council's Community unit for Wexford LCDC, the funding enabled groups to buy equipment or upgrade their premises via small grants.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg's annual meeting was held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, on 24 October, 2019. Representatives of 20 second level schools attended. The theme for the day's discussion was suicide and self-harm prevention.

Young people launched a hashtag campaign – #mindfulnessmonday, #tranquiltuesday, #wellbeingwednesday, #thankfulthursday, #feelgoodfriday, #socialaturday, #selfcaresunday. This inspired an art campaign for positive mental health and the outcome will be displayed in a calendar. The annual meeting voted on the selection of artwork to be carried. A subsequent workshop focused on suicide and self-harm prevention.

Traveller Inclusion Programme

Wexford County Council, with FDYS, delivers the Traveller Inclusion Programme in Wexford. Based in the Local Authority's Traveller community building in Drumgoold, Enniscorthy, it offers satellite services in New Ross, Clonroche, Bunclody and Taghmon.

Along with a general brief to support personal development and engagement with relevant support agencies, a schedule of activities under this project included: setting up a pre-school Traveller Childcare Service; setting up a primary school afterschool service for Travellers; creating a Youth Work Programme for Traveller teens; providing pre-development training for Traveller mothers and young women to improve family living skills, for instance cooking, diet and so on; offering Traveller-led information services and assisting with literacy and form filling in each location.

Supporting Our Communities

The Community section continued to provide advice, information and funding for community and voluntary groups. The intention was to ensure all funding opportunities available were maximised to the benefit of the entire county.

Community Resilience and Community Emergency Planning

A guide to help people prepare for emergency events - Preparing for the Unexpected – was launched by Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Keith Doyle on 11 February, 2019. Destined for all households in the county, it aimed to help individuals and community groups respond to and recover from emergencies in their local areas.

Garda Youth Awards

The Council hosted the Wexford Garda Youth Awards in the County Hall on 29 March, 2019. The awards acknowledged young people who have made their communities and society a better place in which to live. Over 250 people attended the presentation of 22 awards.

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

The €2m tourism project seeking to encourage visitors to explore lesser known areas of Ireland and Wales began in 2018. Partners included Wicklow / Waterford / Wexford County Councils and Wales's Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The contract was partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Cooperation programme 2014-2020. A project officer was appointed in June.

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025, is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland's coming generation. The fund aims to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives supporting implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health.

LEADER

In July 2016 the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 LEADER contract was signed with the Department of Rural and Community Development. The LCDC became the local action group for LEADER delivery. The implementing partner is Wexford Local Development. In 2019 €1,554,234 in grant funding went to project promoters in County Wexford.

Local Community Development Committee and Local Action Group

The LCDC held five meetings and the Local Action Group eight during 2019. Grant applications under LEADER 2014-20 were considered and approved at LAG meetings while SICAP matters were considered at LCDC meetings. The latter played a key role in monitoring and evaluating SICAP's effectiveness through bi-annual performance reviews and ongoing engagement with WLD.

The LCDC approved funding under the community enhancement programme, the national community event (The Big Hello), the Healthy Ireland fund and LEADER.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Wexford Science Festival – Science Week 2019

Wexford County Council, along with its Community Development and libraries sections, was awarded a research grant of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland to deliver the WexSci Wexford Science Festival 2019. Science Week previously ran 10-17 November but was extended in 2019 to run 11-24 November. This grant helped organise, manage and deliver the festival with the national Science Week campaign managed by Science Foundation Ireland. It was led by Wexford County Council and delivered in partnership with IT Carlow; Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board, EPA, BIM and Wexford Local Link along with community groups, national, regional and local agencies.

A key aspect of WexSci 2019 was its aim to encourage participation from harder-to-reach members of disadvantaged communities, particularly in Southend, Clonroche and Taghmon. Many events included Traveller Inclusion projects, youth groups, school completion programmes and family resource centres.

This year, Science Week focused on climate action and sought to help people to learn how science and technology help to create a positive climate future and to understand the impact human beings continue to have on climate change.

Over 100 events for families and the general public included a sustainability science show, Meet the Environmental Scientist career talks, a visit to a planetarium, a rivers and lakes talk and cool planet climate change workshops. Meet the Scientist career talks offered an insight into STEM related careers.



Community Enhancement Programme 2019

Wexford Local Community Development Committee, for the Department of Rural and Community Development, allocated funding of €150,000 to 101 community groups under the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 during August.

The latter provided vital support to community groups to help them improve local facilities. It supported small-scale funding of community-based projects, ranging from buying defibrillators and IT equipment to minor renovations of community facilities. In its third year, this programme has had a positive benefit on Wexford's local community development. To date 1,200 groups have benefited from it.

2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme: €691,206 for Five Towns and Villages

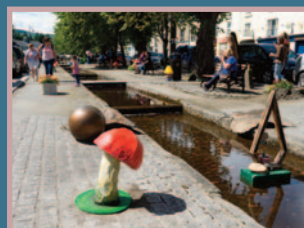
Five locations in the county shared €691,206 in funding for community-led projects. The allocations were announced on 1 November, 2019 by Rural and Community Development Minister Michael Ring.

Summary of Projects Approved in County Wexford

Name of Town / Village	Project Address	Project Summary Description	Amount Approved
Ballindaggin	Ballindaggin Community Hall, Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, County Wexford	Community hall renovations	€100,000.00
Bridgetown	Bridgetown Village, County Wexford	Recreation park, MUGA pitch, agility equipment, walking path, heritage feature, planting, food bank and feasibility study	€99,820.00
Foulksmills	Foulksmills Park, Foulksmills, County Wexford	Development of Foulksmills Park, website, playground, landscaping etc.	€100,000.00
Kilmuckridge	Kilmuckridge, County Wexford	Kilmuckridge Morriscastle walking path and heritage trail	€200,000.00
Rosslare Harbour / Kilrane	Rosslare Harbour / Kilrane Village, County Wexford	Public realm plan, economic master plan, tourism feasibility study, playground and outdoor equipment, environment and heritage measures	€191,385.60
Total			€691,205.60

Bunclody

Bunclody Town Team, with Wexford County Council, progressed well with projects including the Community Food Hub, new walking trails and Bunclody Tourist Office. The team met monthly and succeeded in carrying out works including town enhancement in Market Square, support for local enterprises and local community groups and developing the town's new summer festival.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2020

Community Development Department

The Council's Community functions were significantly expanded under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. Additional statutory functions included the Wexford Local Community Development Committee, community elements of the County Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan, and overall management of the county's LEADER programme.

The Department's main services and functions are; Wexford LCDC and Local Action Group (LAG); Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 and Wexford Science Festival; Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP); Public Participation Network (PPN); Wexford Age Friendly; Healthy Ireland Fund; Sports Active Wexford; Comhairle na nÓg; Community Enhancement Programme; Community Grants Scheme; Playgrounds; Burial Grounds; Joint Policing Committee; Pride of Place; Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020; Traveller InterAgency Group (TIG); Garda Youth awards; Celtic Routes; Ancient Connections.

Significant projects undertaken during 2020 include:

LEADER 2014-20

In 2020 the LEADER Rural Development Programme ended. Under the programme, 272 people in County Wexford received training. A further 317,017 benefited from basic services for hard-to-reach communities. Rural initiatives attracted 5,180 young people and an estimated 57,340 others visited tourist attractions in the county due to LEADER support.

A new two-year transitional programme should open in 2021. LEADER's main purpose is to strengthen the rural economy and improve quality of life in rural areas. The Local Community Development Committee acts as a local action group for its delivery. The programme's implementing partner is Wexford Local Development. In 2020 project promoters in the county shared €1,064,614.66 in grant funding.

Local Community Development Committee and Local Action Group

The LCDC's main function is to prepare, implement and monitor the community elements of the six-year Local Economic and Community Plan. Seven LCDC meetings were held in 2020 and eight LAG meetings. Applications for grant funding under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 were considered and approved at the latter. The former was key to monitoring and evaluating SICAP's effectiveness through bi-annual performance reviews and ongoing engagement with WLD.

Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-21 and Wexford Science Festival

Wexford's plan had six high level goals incorporating the objectives and actions of multiple organisations working to improve social and economic outcomes for the county's population.

In 2020 Wexford's science festival, a joint community development and libraries initiative supporting high level goal 1, delivered 68 events to 2,710 people. Maximising access for all 45 community events involved working with DEIS schools, disadvantaged communities, migrant and Traveller communities, young people and those in second chance education.

SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme) 2018-2022

In 2020, Wexford LCDC continued managing SICAP which has a budget of €8.5m for the five years 2018-22.

Its aim is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. Covid-19 and its fallout profoundly affected individuals, communities and implementation of the annual SICAP. It changed how the programme was delivered in Wexford most notably in the transfer to online support systems.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)

This independent, not-for-profit network is run by volunteer-led groups across County Wexford. Members include community and voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups active in the county. Based at Wexford County Council HQ, the PPN's secretariat is drawn from the membership whose responsibility is to oversee the network's development.

Wexford PPN informs, develops and represents its member groups and offers community a seat and a voice at the County's decision-making tables.

At the end of 2020 Wexford PPN had 403 member groups.

Wexford Age Friendly

Wexford County Council was officially recognised as an age friendly county by the World Health Organisation's Senior Health Adviser on ageing, Alanna Officer, and An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, at an event in late 2019.

Wexford Age Friendly took the lead in a National Telehealth Pilot Project with the HSE, Waterford IT and Tunstall Emergency Response. Clinicians from Wexford Hospital involved in diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic heart disease are using technology provided by Tunstall Emergency Response to monitor discharged patients with follow-up research conducted by Waterford IT.

Work continues on the Age Friendly Action Plan with partners from the Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council working to '*make Wexford a great county in which to grow old*'. Wexford Age Friendly was involved in the county's Covid-19 response as members of the Community Resilience Forum and introduced supportive initiatives for older people including Covid care concerts and tablet computers for nursing home residents.

Healthy Ireland Fund

Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund, running from July 2019 and extended to 31 December, 2021, allocated funding of €246,050 to Wexford LCDC.

This funded six Healthy Ireland projects and one Community Mental Health action, a Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme, Community Engagement Activity, and employment of a Healthy Ireland Coordinator for the county who took up office in March 2020.

Healthy Wexford

Healthy Wexford delivers the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022 that was formally launched in October 2020 and overseen by the Healthy County Committee. Wexford has joined the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network, which is accredited to the World Health Organisation.

Sports Active Wexford 2020

Sports Active Wexford envisions a county where all people are encouraged and enabled to start participating in physical activity; to stay physically active across all life stages; and to succeed in achieving their personal goals - physical and / or mental wellbeing, social interaction or competition.

In 2020, it aimed to continue encouraging participation in physical activity regardless of age, gender or ability. This should contribute to the health of the general population and potentially stimulate an economic impact through creation of social capital.

Covid-19 severely limited possibilities during 2020. The sports partnership, however, alongside its 16 community and sporting interagency partnerships, including Wexford County Council's partnership with Wexford GAA, Leinster rugby and FAI, produced online support for physical activity and support programmes outside. Two initiatives were launched: the exercise effect, the integrated exercise practitioner with Wexford Mental Health Services, and the Wheelo Orienteering Programme in Min Ryan Park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sports Active Wexford facilitated 90 initiatives delivering 649 programmes from which 49,942 participants benefited.

Adults - females 4,386.

Youth 35,136 of which boys numbered 18,732 and girls 14,831.

People with a disability totalled 754 of which 421 were male and 333 female.

Sports Active Wexford supported clubs and community groups to the tune of €66,462.05 in grant aid.

It supported disadvantaged communities, women and girls in sport, people with a disability, men's sheds, schools, workplace initiatives, healthy woodlands, cricket in schools, European week of sport and open water swimming, Walk with Wexford and the Wexford Together campaigns.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020

Wexford Local Community Development Committee, for the Department of Rural and Community Development, allocated €68,047 to 124 community groups in July under the main CEP scheme. It emphasised assisting with Covid-19 re-opening protocols. The LCDC allocated an additional €190,698 to 101 community groups under the Community Enhancement Programme – community centres and buildings in November 2020.

The CEP, which helps community groups to improve local facilities, in 2020 supported small-scale funding of community-based projects.

Covid-19 Emergency Fund 2020 (round 1)

In March to April 2020, funding of €79,870 was allocated during March/April to support 83 community groups directly and actively involved in the Community Call Covid-19 response, locally.

Playgrounds

The Community Section of Wexford County Council maintains and manages 48 public play facilities across County Wexford. The Playground Strategy 2017-2022, implemented during 2020, is a framework for developing play provision by enabling local communities to develop and manage facilities at community level.

A state-of-the-art playground was opened at Min Ryan Park in 2020, adding a significant public amenity to Wexford Town and beyond.

Funding of €300,000 was secured for a major redevelopment of the playground at Pearce Park (New Ross Town Park) from 2021.



IPB Pride of Place Competition

Kilmuckridge Village and Glenbeg Point estate were the county's entries in the 2020 IPB Pride of Place Competition. Kilmuckridge won this prestigious national title in the Islands and Coastal Communities category at the virtual awards ceremony in November.

Burial Grounds

The Local Authority's Community section manages 12 open burial and 112 closed vested burial grounds in the County in accordance with the Burial Ground Maintenance and Development Strategy 2017, and all relevant legislation.

Significant access improvement works were completed at Ballymurn and Enniscorthy cemeteries in 2020.

Funding of €124,000 was secured in 2020 to extend St Stephen's Lawn Cemetery, New Ross.

The revised Burial Ground Bye-Laws moved to the public consultation phase during 2020 with a final draft to be considered by Wexford County Council in the first quarter of 2021.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The Joint Policing Committee provided a dedicated forum to support consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, elected representatives, local authority officials and the community and voluntary sectors.

Joint Policing Committee Meetings 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic restricted JPC meetings to three in 2020. They were held on 14 February, 15 September (by teleconference) and 9 November (MS Teams) and included a presentation by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris on the new operating model for An Garda Síochána by four new JPC attendees from the Oireachtas and a representative from the Policing Authority.

Regional Festival Fund 2020

The Festival and Participation Event fund 2020 allocated €22,000. The emphasis was on supporting in-house events given Covid-19 restrictions on mass gatherings.

The fund aimed to support participative events to lift domestic tourism and improve the visitor experience in County Wexford.

Community Grants 2020

Through this scheme, Wexford County Council disbursed €241,000 in 2020 to community and voluntary projects to promote local involvement and improve quality of life for county residents.

2020 Garda Youth Awards

The Council hosted the 2020 Wexford Garda Youth Awards on 27 February, 2020. The event acknowledges the young people who make their communities and society in general a better place to live in.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg's Annual meeting, held virtually on 14 October, 2020, drew over 70 attendees from 16 secondary schools and two youth projects. Young people chose mental health as their topic of choice for 2021. Wexford County Council continued to support delivery of Comhairle na nÓg's programme along with FDYS.

Comhairle na nÓg provided a forum for children and young people to discuss local and national issues of relevance to them. The organisation is recognised by the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth as the official structure for participation by children and young people in developing policies and services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Traveller Interagency Group (TIG)

Wexford Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) continued its work during 2020 to ensure the relevant statutory agencies and State-supported initiatives providing services to Travellers would focus on improving their integrated practical delivery. The TIG sub-groups focused on developing specific actions to respond to issues identified in the 2018 Traveller Needs Analysis Report, funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Wexford County Council.

Celtic Routes

This programme continued during 2020 with development of photographic, video story content and a suite of comics - all available at www.celticroutes.info. Covid-19 provisions meant postponing some planned thematic working groups and subsequent learning journey.

Trade and travel shows were postponed or held as virtual events in 2020. In the meantime, printed and social media, influencers, travel writers continued where possible, with ongoing mid-term evaluation.

Ancient Connections

Covid-19 restrictions severely curtailed the public activities of the INTERREG Ireland-Wales Ancient Connections project in 2020.

The project managed to deliver some successes including a pre-Covid community led dig at Clone Church in Ferns; small arts projects and artists-in-residence programmes; History Hunters story sharing; oral history; online research training events; and the second draft of the Exploring a Shared Past literature review.

Plans, tender and procurement processes were conducted for future activities for a post-Covid recovery phase in 2021, including an enterprise and innovation stimulus for Ferns; a destination marketing plan and schedule; a traditional skills renaissance training programme; a public art public consultation process and a tourism ambassador scheme.

Sports Active Wexford 2020

The overall aim of Sports Active Wexford is to further stimulate participation in physical activity by all Wexford people regardless of age, gender or ability. This should contribute to the population's overall health and could potentially have a positive economic impact.

The group is guided by the Sport Ireland Participation Plan (2021-2024) that is built on and guided by the National Sports Policy 2018-2027 (NSP) and the Sport Ireland Strategy 2018-2022.

Sports Active's Participation Plan will take account of Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 and the National Physical Activity Plan.

The group complements two high level goals in Wexford's LECP to 'support and promote the development of socially inclusive, sustainable communities and ensure that all citizens enjoy optimal health and wellbeing (HLG2)'; and 'continue to develop and promote County Wexford as a great place to live, work and visit'.

Sports Active Wexford utilises these strategic themes:

Theme 1: Empowering Communities

Goal: To empower communities to increase sustainable and inclusive participation in lifetime physical activities.

Theme 2: Enabling Inclusion

Goal: To encourage and enable locally identified low participation groups access opportunities for meaningful participation in physical activity.

Theme 3: Support The Sport Sector

Goal: To support the key providers in the sport sector promote a sport for all culture and increase participation in recreational sport.

Delivery was severely affected by Covid-19 but the group participated in many national and countywide initiatives to support promotion of physical activity.

The sports partnership alongside its 16 Community and sporting interagency partnerships (this includes Wexford County Councils partnership with Wexford GAA, Leinster Rugby and FAI), worked to produce online support for physical activity and when allowed to support actual programmes outside. Two initiatives were launched: the exercise effect; the integrated exercise practitioner with Wexford Mental health services; and the Wheelo orienteering programme in Min Ryan Park.

Sports Active Wexford delivered 62 programmes with 41,793 participants benefiting from these programmes.

This included

Participant Type	Total	Male	Female
All	45,084	25,867	19,217
Adult	11,521	7,135	4386
Youths	33,563	18,732	14,831
With a Disability	754*	421	333
*People with a disability are also included in adult/youth numbers so 754 is not added a second time.			

Clubs and community groups shared €66,462.05 in grant aid.

Also supported were disadvantaged communities; women and girls in sport; people with a disability; men's sheds, schools; workplace initiatives; Healthy Woodlands; cricket in schools; European week of sport; open water swimming; Walk with Wexford; Wexford Together campaign.

Sports Active Staffing 2020

In 2020 full time Sport Ireland staff included a Sports Co-ordinator; Sports Administrator; Community Sports Development Officer; and a Sports Inclusion Disability Officer. In addition, one full-time employee was funded by Sláintecare on an 18-month contract as the Integrated Exercise Practitioner for Mental Health.

Inevitably, the year saw significant changes to the lived in and working environments. In addition, Covid-19 affected the organisation's operational practices. In the short to medium term, plans to deliver sport and physical activity have had to consider health, legal and social distancing requirements.

Sports Active Wexford had to change working practices and engage in a more flexible, collaborative approach working with networks to find new ways to achieve goals. While the aims stayed the same, delivery continued to change rapidly.

Sports Active Wexford acknowledged and thanked staff, volunteers and interagency partners who contributed to the delivery and accessibility of sport and physical activity opportunities in County Wexford during unprecedented times. Wexford County Council support was invaluable as was the role played by all individuals and organisations involved in continuing to connect people and communities.

CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES 2019

Creative Ireland

During 2019 Creative Ireland, Wexford, received funding of €121,774 that facilitated the following projects under Wexford's culture and creativity strategy 2018-22.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Wexford County Council, with Creative Ireland, delivered a day of cultural activities on 15 June, 2019 for children and young people. Other partners were Gorey School of Art; St Michael's Theatre New Ross, Wexford Arts Centre; Presentation Centre Enniscorthy; Enniscorthy Castle; the National Opera House; Irish National Heritage Park; and Wexford Library Service. The programme delivered free workshops in art, storytelling, music and drama. Cruinniú na nÓg, an initiative of the Creative Ireland programme at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, was presented along with RTE and local authorities.

Creative Communities Scheme

This scheme targeted arts and creativity programmes at priority groups. Three groups were involved in 2019: Crushín Traveller Women's Group, Wexford General Hospital, and the Direct Provision Centre in Courtown.

Business Support for Creatives

This provided mentoring clinics and professional development workshops for artists and creatives in partnership with Visual Artist Ireland and Gorey School of Art.

Co-Creation, Production and Mobility Awards

These awards supported interdisciplinary work with collaborations by two or more Wexford or Wexford-based artists from different sectors. The two selected in 2019 were Kilmore Quay – Film and Visual Art and Wexford Arts Centre – Music and Dance.

Makers and Designers Residency

This created opportunities for craft makers and designers to work with communities. Three projects were selected in 2019: Tomhaggard Women's Shed, Friends of Rosslare Community Group, Access 2000 and the Irish National Heritage Park.

Promotion of Traditional Arts, Irish Language and Sense of Place

An open call went out in 2019 for projects engaging with themes of wellbeing; sense of place; Irish language; heritage; and science, technology, engineering, the arts and maths (STEAM). Eleven projects countywide were supported.

Cultural Animation Programme

This pilot programme highlighted the role of design and architecture in everyday life. An exhibition by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland was held during September in County Hall. Several public talks on architecture and design were also hosted.

Digital Strategy

Coding and gaming workshops ran in the five libraries in summer 2019 and the work was highlighted during WexSci Science Festival.

The Living Arts

This programme was expanded with the commissioning of an online art teaching resource pack due for launching in 2020.

Decade of Centenaries

The Wexford County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2019 ran commemorative activities to mark the centenary of the struggle for independence. These were held in public libraries and municipal districts under these themes:

- Those who suffered and died during the War of Independence
- The journey from violent revolution to functioning democracy
- Ireland and the wider world
- Aftermath of the first World War
- Women in the struggle for independence
- Contribution of the army and police services
- Creative thinking and the arts, culture and sport
- Specific personalities and events within the county

Those who Suffered and Died During the War of Independence

In 2019 lectures on the War of Independence and its consequences were held in County Wexford public libraries. About 520 people attended. The talks examined the independence struggle's impact locally as well as its social impact on the lives of ordinary citizens.

Topics and speakers included:

Wexford's War of Independence 1919-21: Activities of the South Wexford Brigade of the IRA by Dr Barry Lacey in New Ross Library.

Wexford and the War of Independence: Who died and why? with Professor Eunan O'Halpin of Trinity College Dublin at Riverside Hotel, Enniscorthy. A consultative workshop on the next phase of commemorations 1920-23 followed this lecture. It sought suggestions from local community groups, commemorative committees, local history societies in developing commemorative plans for 1920-23. Both lecture and workshop attracted 190 people.

Wexford - The Irish Revolution 1912-23 with Kieran Costello in Enniscorthy Library.

The Journey From Violent Revolution To Functioning Democracy

Wexford Library hosted a day-long seminar on the Centenary of the First Dáil – An Chéad Dáil. Speakers included Dr Maurice Manning on The First Dáil in Retrospect; Dr Elaine Callinan on Following through on the Plan of Abstention – A revolutionary parliament called Dáil Éireann; and Dr Jim Ryan spoke on the Ryan Family and James Ryan's early years in the Dáil. An exhibition of relevant documents, pamphlets and photographs from the County Wexford Archive also featured.

Ireland and the Wider World

As part of the North Wexford History and Heritage Festival Seminar, held in November, a lecture with Dr Kate O'Malley – Amritsar 1919, Indian independence, and the Irish connection explored and compared the Struggle for Independence internationally.

Aftermath of the First World War

To coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Cross award to Company Sergeant Martin Doyle, New Ross Library hosted: Martin Doyle VC – British Hero and Irish Freedom Fighter, a lecture with journalist and historian Ronan McGreevy.

The aftermath of the Great War was also dealt with in a lecture by Dominic Price – The Forgotten: The lives of Irish soldiers who served in and survived the Great War, as part of North Wexford History and Heritage Festival Seminar.

CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Women in the Struggle for Independence

Wexford Library hosted a lecture, Women in War, with Dr Linda Connolly, Director of NUI Maynooth's Social Sciences Institute. It investigated the various roles of Wexford women during the War of Independence and the latter's effect on the female population.

Contribution of Army and Police Services

The Royal Irish Constabulary in County Wexford During the War of Independence was addressed by Dr Barry Lacey in Bunclody Library in July.

Creative Thinking and the Arts, Culture and Sports

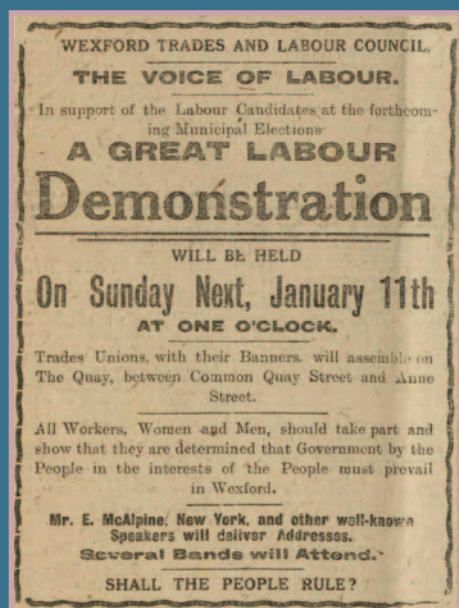
In New Ross Library singer Stephen Murphy gave a vocal performance of songs from 100 years ago. These were interspersed with information on composers, original performers and society at the time. An Evening of History and Song 1919 – 1923 with local historian Seamus Kiely was also held. Dr Paul Rouse examined the county's sporting endeavours a century ago with his lecture, Sporting County Wexford 1919-1923.

Specific Personalities and Events Within the County

A talk on the Ryans of Tomcoole was given by Dr James Ryan in Enniscorthy Library. He shared his insight into how generations of his family helped shape the Irish Free State and Republic.

A one-day seminar was given by North Wexford History and Heritage Festival on 16 November 2019 at Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey. Its focus, the Decade of Centenaries, examined significant local, national and international events of the period. A panel of expert speakers highlighted the Indian Independence movement, the social impact of the Land Acts, and the post-war experiences of Irish First World War veterans in the new Free State.

Other elements covered in the 2019 programme included conservation and framing of an original early 20th century tricolour from Enniscorthy used at meetings and marches at the time. Microfilming the Enniscorthy Guardian 1911-1927 gave wider access to local newspapers of the period, from the beginnings of the Labour Movement during the Wexford Lockout to the Struggle for Independence and formation of the Free State.



LIBRARY SERVICES

My Open Library Gorey

County Wexford's first My Open Library service was officially launched in Gorey Library on 31 August, 2019. Users could access the library on a self-service basis 8am-10pm seven days a week. Fully staffed library opening hours remained in place Monday to Saturday.

The service was extremely popular and many people used it to study for exams.

The service's operating system was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Wexford County Council.

Removal of Fines

From 1 January, 2019 fines for overdue library items ended. The removal was an action included in the National Strategy, Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities. Launched in June 2018, the strategy aimed to improve access to and increase use of the library as a community hub.

Right to Read

This programme delivered literacy and reading development initiatives to children and families. In April and May 2019 over 700 children attended 30 Spring into Storytime events in county libraries.

Summer Stars

The Summer Stars summer reading adventure was completed by 2532 children. Librarians visited local schools to promote the event and encourage students and their families to join and encourage reading for pleasure.

Children's Book Festival

In October 2019 up to 2,470 children, school groups and family groups took part in 108 events during the festival.

Family Time At Your Library

This December event attracted 588 children who attended 16 reader events. The service to support literacy in primary and second level schools continued. Demonstrations on the use of new technologies like VR headsets were introduced in libraries as part of school visits.

Reader in Residence

This programme delivered literacy and creative writing events in DEIS schools and brought classes to the library.

Touch Typing Course

A new touch typing course was launched to support children with specific learning difficulties by teaching keyboard skills. It aimed to build literacy and numeracy skills and increase confidence and self-esteem as users master the art of keyboarding. Its multi-sensory approach to tuition made it suitable for those with additional physical and specific learning needs.

Fighting Words Wexford

A new writing and story-making programme for children was launched in Wexford Library. Fighting Words, set up in Dublin by Sean Love and Roddy Doyle, aims to help children and young people to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. It offers creative writing workshops to all primary schools in County Wexford, is based in Wexford Library and supported by library staff and a team of voluntary mentors.

CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Right to Read Awards

Junior Minister for Rural and Community Development Seán Canney presented the Right to Read Champion Awards to Wexford County Council in 2019 in recognition of its ongoing efforts to support literacy development through the library service.

Dormant Account Funds Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities Projects

Wexford County Council received €37,500 through the Dormant Accounts Fund to provide library services and projects to disadvantaged communities. Projects focused on removing barriers to access library services with a specific focus on communities and individuals at risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or disadvantage.

Autism Friendly Library Service

A series of library events for children with autism was provided in association with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Dormant Accounts Fund. Events included arts and crafts, Lego storytelling, yoga, dance and robots. Each was tailored specifically for children with autism and their families. A longer term plan aims for the integration of sensory spaces and quiet time in libraries.

Homebound Library Service

In Autumn 2019, a pilot homebound library service was introduced in Wexford and Enniscorthy. Designed with HSE assistance, it delivered reading materials to people in their homes and in day care centres. The service, coordinated through the mobile library service, was for people in rural and urban areas who could not get to the library themselves.

Age Friendly Library Service

New Ross Library became the first of the five libraries in County Wexford to achieve age friendly library status. Other county libraries will follow suit.

WexSci Wexford Science Festival

WexSci Wexford Science Festival offered a two-week celebration of science, technology, engineering, the arts and maths (STEAM) for people of all ages with the chance to take part in over 100 science events.

WexSci 2019's programme highlighted climate action and environmental issues.

On 16 November, the WexSci Science Showcase Day was launched at the National Opera House. Exhibition stands on The Street, Carricklawn provided interactive displays, learning opportunities and scientific demos. Multiple venues were attended by over 1,200 people.

The WexSci Festival, one of 13 regional events offering the public opportunities to engage with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, is led by the community development and libraries departments of Wexford County Council along with Science Foundation Ireland, IT Carlow, Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board, EPA, BIM and Local Link Wexford and the business sector, community groups, national, regional and local agencies.



Parenting Today

This second series of free talks on parenting, held in all county libraries in 2019, was a joint initiative by Wexford's public library service and Wexford CYPSC. Over 35 talks by practitioners working in community care, education and health sectors covered many aspects of parenting - from the importance of play to speech and language development and paediatric first aid.

Healthy Ireland

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library service provided health information and support to communities and individuals through book stock, events and online resources.

During 2019, Wexford's libraries hosted events in all five branches. The health and wellbeing book collection had over 100 titles on the three Healthy Ireland themes: Eat Well, Think Well, Be Well. Each book was specially selected nationally to give individuals and families reliable, accessible information to manage their general health and wellbeing. The collection included books for children and young adults. A selection of health and wellbeing eBooks, e-audiobooks and ezines were available to download via the library website. During the year the collection was expanded to include 22 titles on the Healthy Ireland Sexual Health reading list, a list of 14 different children's and young adult titles. During 2019, 813 Healthy Ireland book issues were recorded for county libraries.

Work Matters

The Work Matters initiative offered support and resources for businesses, entrepreneurs and job seekers through the public library network. For business and employment these were provided in the areas of: infrastructure, resources, expertise, events and programmes.

Usage of online business resources increased in 2019 and over 30,000 reports documents and business records were accessed through Business.ie, Vision-net and MINTEL.

Archives

The Wexford County Archive facilitated 92 researchers in the reading room in 2019. Family historians, genealogists and third level students continue to represent the largest user groups, with Estate Paper collections and Poor Law Union material the most used in academic and family history research. It also handled 426 enquiries mostly by email.

Fifteen archival collections were deposited during the year particularly enhancing the archive's commercial, sporting and educational holdings including:

- Grand Jury assizes for County Wexford (1817-1823)
- Estate paper collection of the Power family of Edermine (c1718-1930)
- Registers, roll books and daily attendance books for St Colman's National School, Ballindaggin (1880-2016)
- Rent ledger for Tottenham estate, New Ross (1908-1910)
- Archive of late Historian and Author Billy Colfer comprising research notes, draft manuscripts, photographs, maps and slides
- Collection of 26 diaries written by Edith Elgee of Selskar Street, Wexford, giving a rich social narrative of life in the town and its environs during 1936-60
- Archives of Enniscorthy Hockey Club (1980-2006)

Preservation

A distinguished visitors' book was handmade by Conservator Thomas Carroll to form a permanent historical record of individuals and groups on official visits / receptions to Wexford County Council.

CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Conservation

As part of its annual conservation programme, the archive prioritised volumes of minutes from the former Enniscorthy UDC / TC (1956-2014) and from New Ross UDC / TC (1961-2014) to be rebound in acid-free bindings.

Digitisation Projects

A project involving application of OCR to the typescript data was concluded to ensure the earliest records of local government in New Ross became fully accessible to all research user groups.

A finding aid for the Marquis of Ely estate in Fethard (1884-1927) was developed.

Outreach Services

Lectures, preservation workshops and exhibitions given by the Archivist to individuals and groups were a means of increasing awareness of the County Archive's contents, of engaging with potential users and of forging future collaborations at local, national and international levels. Included in the year's outreach was an April talk delivered in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, on primary sources in the county archive relevant to family history research. The Archivist also curated two displays during the year – one in September in the Athenaeum, Enniscorthy to commemorate the centenary of Seamus Rafter's death, and in November as part of the centenary seminar on Brendan Corish.

ARTS

Arts Department

In delivering the second year of Advancing the Arts - Arts Plan 2018-22, the Council's Arts Section continued to address its objectives that link directly to the higher level goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP 2016-2021): education, local economy, urban and rural regeneration, social inclusion, wellbeing, distinguishing Wexford from other places, with the additional goal of supporting the artist.

Music Generation Wexford

The continuing partnership between the council, Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board and the National agency Music Generation, promoted access to high quality performance music education for Wexford's young people working in pre-school, primary school and youth work / community settings. Thirty-two schools took part in the Music Generation Wexford Programme 2019-2020 that opened in October 2019. It included the ongoing Vocal Programme, now in its third year in 16 primary schools. It continued to build the music instrument bank and asset tagging of instruments with an additional 270 ukuleles, 300 tin whistles, and 20 Early Year's implements.

Creative Hub

This hub gives subsidised work, retail and exhibition units to over 50 of Wexford's artists and creatives. The new Creative Hub in Wexford Town is overseen by the Arts Office and managed by Wexford Arts Centre. In 2019, the hub leased out 10 artist units serving over 30 artists / creatives / craft makers, arts collectives along with additional dance studios that ran daily dance classes and yoga sessions, serving over 100 people a week.

Following an open call, 10 exhibitions in the Creative Hub in 2019 were by local emerging and established artists. The work of others continued to be showcased.



Arts In Health Care – Art Ability Programme

Since 1993, the Art Ability programme (visual, creative writing and music) has been a priority in Wexford County Council's Arts Plan, Advancing the Arts 2018-2022.

Person-centred and participation-focused, the initiative is set in a caring environment whose primary goal is to give access to high quality art experiences based on meaningful engagement between participant artists and professional artists.

A solid partnerships between Wexford County Council and the HSE has ensured a sustainable infrastructure for long-term access and participation to creative art experiences for people with long-term mental health issues and / or additional needs and to support their professional development as artists.

In 2019 Arts Ability won in the Sustaining the Arts category in the 16th Annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Sponsored by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the awards recognised and celebrated outstanding work carried out by Ireland's local authorities.

Film Development

Film Skills Training

The Council's Arts and Economic Departments, along with Screen Ireland, developed an upskilling programme in film development for Wexford practitioners in the film and audio visual area.

Short Film Award

Established by the Council's Arts Department with Bodecii Film, a Wexford production company, this award funded and supported film-making teams trying to develop ambitious and creative short films based in the county.

Its focus was on writer / director / producer collaborations. The winning team comprised Film Director Brian Rossney, Producer Edwina Forkin of Zanzibar Productions and Wexford Writer Hannah McNiven. Their film, The Lady on the Hill, was launched with a post-screen discussion in the National Opera House in December 2019.

Per Cent For Art / Public Art

The Arts Section continues to manage Per Cent for Art schemes that are overseen by the public art working group.

N25 New Ross Scheme

One permanent art project was commissioned by Caoimhe Kilfeather. It consisted of two coloured glass and steel structures that were installed in 2020.

M11 PPS Gorey to Enniscorthy

Three public art projects were commissioned. These were:

- Christine Mackey's Safe Hold Pollinating Pastures, a collaborative art project between artist and local communities in Gorey and Enniscorthy to raise awareness of the plight of wild pollinators. In 2018-2019 artists, local residents and Tidy Towns in Gorey and Enniscorthy reclaimed waste land to create pastures for pollination of wild flowers. In addition an exhibition was held.
- Maria McKinney's collaboration with the farming community in the Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts developed a project involving farmers' responses to memories of their own farms and animals while considering contemporary agricultural innovations and the future. The project linked Teagasc in Gorey and Enniscorthy and local farmers.
- DisPatch was the entry from an artists' collective comprising Ciara Roche, Astrid Newman and Becks Butler. A pop-up post office was installed in Castle Street, Enniscorthy to coincide with 2019's annual Strawberry Festival.

CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

An Urgent Enquiry – Art and Biodiversity Programme

In 2019, local authorities in Wexford, Fingal and Dublin City came together to explore art and biodiversity via an artist residency programme in each council area that was called An Urgent Enquiry. Funded through the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme, it supported innovative, ambitious local authority collaborations and was being led by Wexford County Council's arts office.

In 2019, the selected Wexford artist, Mark Clare, was in residency for three months in Carrig on Bannow. Clare researched the solitary bee common to south eastern shorelines. He engaged local communities in free workshops exploring coastal and woodland biodiversity, foraging, and bee habitats with local invited experts and scientists. The outcome consisted of several public poster interventions along 14 Wexford beaches. These highlighted bee coastline habitats. The project, assisted by the Environment Dept, also funded public workshops in Johnstown's Castle's inaugural bee festival in September 2019.



CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES 2020

Creative Ireland

During 2020 funding of €196,944 was allocated to the Creative Ireland programme in County Wexford. The following projects were funded under the strategic priorities of Wexford's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-22.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Wexford County Council, with Creative Ireland, delivered a virtual day of cultural activities on June 13, 2020, for children and young people. Covid-19 health measures drove the project online with live and pre-recorded workshops. Partners included Gorey School of Art; Wexford Arts Centre; the National Opera House; Irish National Heritage Park and Wexford Library Service.

Seventeen free events in art, storytelling, dance, music and drama attracted 538 people with over 1,000 having viewed the content.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 was a collaboration between the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Creative Ireland Programme, local authorities and RTÉ. It was part of the Government's #InThisTogether campaign which encouraged everyone to stay active, connected and look after physical and mental wellbeing.

Creative Communities Scheme

Through Creative Ireland in 2020, this scheme targeted arts and creativity programmes at priority groups. Three community groups were involved:

- **LINK Resource Centre and Adult Mental Health Services**

Visual artist Clare Breen and dance artist Vivian Brodie Hayes worked with LINK Resource Centre and Adult Mental Health Services to develop an in-depth, multidisciplinary art project for older adults to improve mental / physical health and well-being.

- **Direct Provision Centre, Rosslare**

Delivered in partnership with Wexford Local Development, this programme was for women seeking asylum. Offering activities such as jewellery and craft making, it encouraged participants to express themselves creatively and thus strengthen a sense of community.



- **Shamrock Men's Shed Raheen**

Shamrock Men's Shed includes farmers, builders, jewellers and carpenters who live in rural County Wexford. The shed worked with artist Mairead Stafford to create a kinetic art installation using different mediums and materials to raise awareness of men's ability to work together and to overcome challenges and changes.

Film Wexford

Creative Ireland, with Film Wexford, devised a series of programmes to incentivise growth in the County's film and audio-visual sector.

Development of Screen Wexford website

This project aimed to develop film and attract film companies to Wexford. It was completed with help from the Economic Development and Arts departments of Wexford County Council, and Screen Wexford.

Passport to Production

This workshop series, tailored for people seeking work in the film industry, was provided in partnership with Screen Skills Ireland.

Screen Wexford Master Classes

These provided a series of film workshops with leading industry professionals in partnership with Bodecii Film and Screen Directors Guild of Ireland.

CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Business Support for Creatives

Creative Ireland supplied a series of mentoring clinics and professional development workshops for artists and creatives in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland and Gorey School of Art.

Culture, Creativity and Wellbeing

Several programmes were funded via Creative Ireland to address themes of culture creativity and wellbeing in 2020 including:

- **Wellbeing Information Booklet**

This publication on significant locations in the county was based on recommendations from young people and produced with the HSE and Wexford Mental Health Association.

- **Arts and Health Workshops**

This series of multidisciplinary workshops for community care centre residents was a product of collaboration between Creative Movement Artist Dee Grant, Music Exploration Officer / Community Musician Emily Redmond and Senior Clinical Psychologist Dr Denise Rogers. Under strict Covid-19 guidelines, weekly music and creative movement sessions aimed to offer an uplifting experience to participants.

- **Concerts in Care Homes**



Thirty concerts were commissioned for residential care homes in the county in partnership with Wexford Mental Health Association and South East Community Healthcare. Covid-19 social distancing rules were observed in the grounds of residential care home and hospital / community settings. The concerts aimed to offer emotional and psychological respite to residents, patients and staff.

- **Sense of Place, Heritage and Well-Being**

Nine projects responded to an open call in 2020 for work on the themes of wellbeing, and a sense of place and heritage. These were to be showcased in 2021. The following artists were selected: Aileen Lambert – music; Katherine Atkinson – music; Helen Gaynor – visual arts; Sylvia Cullen – literature; Emma and Ciara Roche – visual art; Rachel Rothwell – visual art; Marnie McCleane Fay – theatre; Ciana Fitzgerald – visual art; Caoimhe Dunn – visual art.

Cultural Animation Programme

Highlighting the role of design and architecture, this programme celebrated the legacy of Enniscorthy-born Architect and Designer Eileen Gray. Students from Meánscoil Gharman worked with artists and a member of the Irish Architecture Foundation in workshops designed to culminate in an outdoor sculpture in 2021.

Civic Events Programme

A series of Creative Ireland funded events in each municipal district provided in partnership with local creative partners aimed to animate Wexford's towns and villages in 2020.



Wexford Municipal District

Engagement with local communities aimed to enliven local environments by creating artwork on ESB boxes.

Gorey Municipal District

Participative workshops were held in Courtown and Riverchapel focusing on the important theme of local community and aiming to culminate in an art piece.

Rosslare Municipal District

A local heritage mural was created in Carrig on Bannow.

New Ross Municipal District

An art installation for Duncannon was based on the theme of local heritage.

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Illuminated art installations at prominent locations in Enniscorthy created a unique environment for celebrating the town's heritage.

Digital Strategy

Two short digital films marrying themes of science and circus skills were commissioned and showcased during the WexSci Science Festival.

Heritage

Discovery Boxes containing documents and artefacts from the War of Independence in County Wexford were commissioned. These were intended to be available for loan to primary schools for study and discussion.

Decade of Centenaries

Wexford County Council's programme for the Decade of Centenaries 2020 was designed and adapted to fully comply with public health restrictions imposed by Covid-19. The plan was adapted to enable online delivery and to increase public access of the digital collection for the revolutionary period of the War of Independence and the Civil War in County Wexford.

The event was organised under two strands: historical and community.

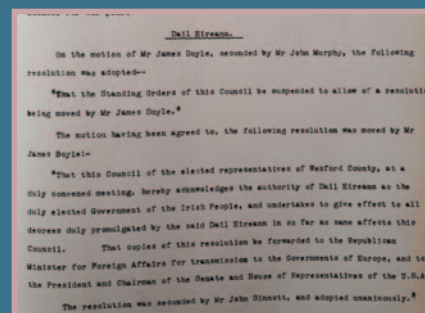
Historical Strand

Digitisation of Archive Material

Wexford Library Service continued to digitise its local newspapers for the period. Access to these newspapers (Enniscorthy Guardian 1910-1930; New Ross Standard 1910-1930; Wexford People 1910-1930) were made available to researchers and library patrons through the branch library network in 2021.

Wexford County Archive identified items recently acquired or deposited that would enhance the range of revolutionary period material available and that were digitised and made available on:

Enniscorthy UDC minutes for the 1919-1923 periods;
1920 Local Elections in County Wexford – an online exhibition.



Community Strand

War of Independence Lecture Series / Short films

A lecture programme of talks, short films and webinars by prominent historians of the revolutionary period included:

- **The Burning of Wexford's 'Big Houses', 1919-1923** – with Wexford based historian Dan Walsh.
- **The Intriguing Tale of Capt Percival Lea Wilson of Gorey – A Marked Man!** – A short film from local Historian Des Kiely.
- **The Road to Independence – War of Independence in Wexford** - A film by Barry Lacey and Michael Fortune of various War of Independence sites of activity around County Wexford including old images and interviews.

Geo-Mapping Project of Wexford's War of Independence

A report was commissioned to survey and record the surviving physical evidence of the conflict: RIC barracks, house burnings, safe houses, ambush and attack sites. The survey was undertaken by Barry Lacey, Archaeologist / Social Historian. The final report will feed into the creation of a new layer on the Imaps system for a history / tourism trail with social media promotion campaign on diverse platforms.

A four-part series on the War of Independence in County Wexford

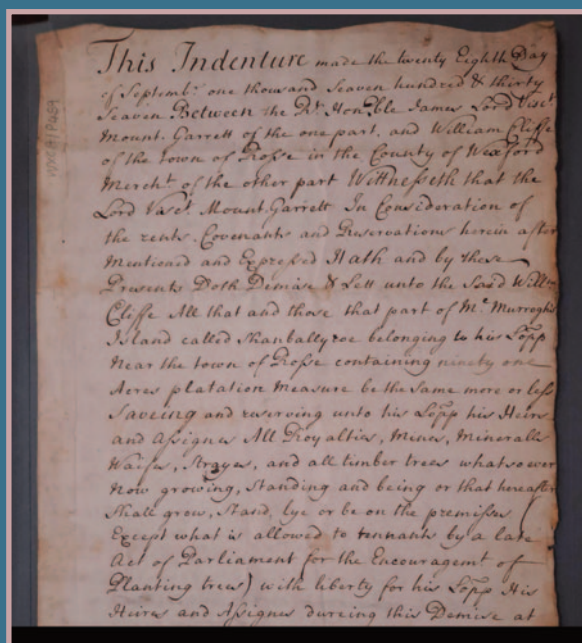
Presented by Jarlath Glynn, originally broadcast March 2020 on South East Radio.

Archives

Collections Management

Researchers could not attend Wexford County Archive from 12 March, 2020 until year end due to Covid-19 restrictions. To facilitate enquirers during this period, research was carried out for them where possible. Enquiries totalling 462 were handled during the year.

Cataloguing of archival holdings on significant figures of the 1919-1923 revolutionary period continued. A finding aid for the papers of Dr Peadar 'Pax' Sinnott was completed while work began on listing the extensive archive of TD Sinnott, Wexford County Council's first County Manager. The journals (1913-1919) of Volunteer Patrick Keegan were transcribed.



Acquisition

Although closed to the public, 13 collections of historical significance were deposited in the archive in 2020 including:

- Three large historic banners from the Dublin Wexford Men's Association commemorating the 1798 Rebellion.
- Large-framed photograph of Seamus O'Brien, Brigade Commandant of Wicklow East Brigade, killed outside his premises in Rathdrum, County Wicklow on 12 February, 1920 by a bullet from a RIC constable's gun.
- Archive of Liam Walsh, Clonleigh, New Ross, who had noted Republican activity in 1916-23 with a passion for amateur dramatics and theatre.
- New Ross Port and Harbour Commissioners collection, 1848-c1980.
- Handwritten journals of the events of 1913-1919 written by Pat Keegan, a prominent Enniscorthy Irish Volunteer active during the period.
- Collection of photograph albums, slides and negatives from the 1950s and 1960s on the New Ross area
- Cornick family archives whose descendant Isaac Cornick built Cromwell's Fort in Mulgannon, Wexford in 1783.
- Manuscript deed relating to part of McMurrough's Island (called Shanbally) near the town of New Ross, 8 September, 1737.
- Bill heads, ledgers, provisions books from Sinnott's Pub which closed in early 2020. Includes documentation from the 1919-1923 period in the area. An accompanying collection of handwritten family letters adds an important social element to the collection (c1860-80).

Three documents were acquired at auction in 2020:

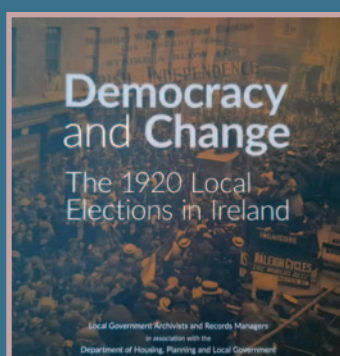
- Handwritten letter dated 13 March, 1793 from J Rochford to Mr Corbet, thanking the Corbets for his recent visit to Corbet's Hill, New Ross (Corbet Hill was the site of the insurgent army gathering before New Ross town was attacked in 1798).
- An 'Order under Martial Law' for the internment of James O'Brien, Enniscorthy in Spike Island internment camp, Cork, 6 July, 1921.
- Handwritten hunting journal detailing the fox hunting season in County Wexford in 1870-1872.

Digitisation

The minutes of Gorey Workhouse during 1840-1881 were digitised and made available online in 2020. The six earliest minute books (1848-1910) of New Ross Port and Harbour Commissioners were digitised to assist remote academic research on the forthcoming atlas series featuring New Ross.

Outreach

To commemorate the Centenary of Local Government in Ireland in 2020, a booklet, entitled Democracy and Change – the 1920 local elections in Ireland, was published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, with text and images provided by local government archivists and records managers.



CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Library Services

Covid 19 Pandemic

2020 was the most challenging year in the Library Services' almost 100-year history. Most facilities closed in March 2020 and remained so for almost four months. Later in 2020 libraries re-opened with varying degrees of restrictions and a phased re-introduction of services. During the year, library members could access online services and events. To assist all to access services, temporary membership for non-members was facilitated.

Use of digital resources grew exponentially during 2020 with an 85 per cent rise in eBook usage in County Wexford, reaching 100 per cent in use of e-audio books. While physical issues declined by 55 per cent due to closures, 22,626 library users remained active during 2020.

The book Call Delivery service for older vulnerable or cocooning library members began in April 2020 during the first lockdown and continued during the year. Enabling people to continue reading while homebound, it also helped them cope with loneliness and isolation. Up to 1,193 people used the service in 2020, receiving some 10,700 books.

Library services developed an enhanced online and social media presence to respond to user queries and support the health and wellbeing response to the pandemic. In early 2020, Wexford Libraries' 3D printing equipment was used to facilitate production of PPE equipment for hospitals and care facilities.

Library services began delivering content and events online to support literacy, well-being and information. Staff were involved in the Community Call and upskilled in other areas because of online training opportunities.

Wexford Public Libraries Activity – 2020

Activity	Total
Home deliveries when libraries were closed	1,095
Contact and collect appointments	3,115
Visitors recorded by any queuing system software	130,288
Online events	94
Online events hits	7,130
Videos posted online (all platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo and others).	733
Video views (all platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo and others).	100,904



Library Services for Children

Right to Read

Wexford Libraries along with a wider network of agencies delivered Right to Read literacy initiatives to children and families, often online, in 2020.

Spring into Storytime

In April and May, 30,313 people viewed 64 Spring into Storytime events.

Summer Stars Reading Adventure

Libraries were open in July and August and 793 children took part in Summer Stars. In 2020 many children chose to pick up a mystery bag of books at the local library finding new authors and extending their reading range. Up to 16,905 books were issued to children and young people in summer.

Children's Book Festival

For the October 2020 festival, 5,065 children, school and family groups took part in 42 online events facilitated by authors including Máire Zepf, Shane Hegarty and Mary Murphy, with Gerry Daly giving art workshops agus seisiúin as Gaeilge le Bríanóg Brady Dawson freisin.

Family Time at your Library

This took place in December 2020 when 2,431 children and family groups viewed 20 reader events.

School Visits

There were 100 visits by schools or pod groups to libraries and 40 visits by librarians to schools or pods. In September an awareness campaign to all schools highlighted the many library services offered to the county's primary and secondary schools including school classroom novel collection, block loans, project boxes, picture book class sets and online services such as Britannica Junior, BorrowBox and RBDigital.

Sensory Books and Literacy Support

A collection of sensory books and literacy support resources, toys, for children with autism, hearing and sight challenges and other needs, was developed and began lending in all libraries.

Fighting Words Wexford

Fighting Words Wexford is a creative writing and story making programme for children, enabling them to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. In 2020 Fighting Words Wexford reached 14 class groups with workshops delivered by Wexford library. From September the programme was adapted and delivered by library staff directly into the classroom using school technology. Class teachers moderated the sessions.

Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities

The Dormant Account Funds co-funds Wexford County Council library supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities. The following projects were delivered in 2020:

- **Direct Provision**

Initiatives for Traveller, Roma and Refugee communities and with the Direct Provision Centres also began in 2020.

- **Nation Creation**

Workshops for fourth and sixth class DEIS school pupils were delivered in 20 county schools. These developed literacy skills, creativity, promoted empathy and celebrated difference and acceptance. Themes such as migration and refugees were explored sensitively with the children.



CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Hello Heroes

These online workshops were run with the assistance of in-person activity packs in partnership with Gorey Youth Needs. Children learned to see themselves and others as superheroes. The sessions aimed to boost self-esteem, empower the children and provide an appreciation of and celebration of difference.

Comic Art Workshops

These were open to DEIS schools and delivered online by Author and Illustrator Alan Nolan. They gave children aged eight to 12 a chance to write, draw and publish their own comic strip under the theme: good news stories. This comic workshop was geared to reluctant readers and proved a good tool for teaching visual literacy. The programme was also delivered to Our Lady of Fatima School for children and young people with additional needs, and with Wexford Local Development to Drumgoold Centre for children and young people from the Traveller community.

Mystery Box Project

This was delivered to a group of six learners supported by Youth Train Wexford. This programme was created for Youth Train Wexford by Artist and Storyteller Wayne O'Connor.

Online Support for Literacy

Wexford Library Service with funding from the Dormant Account Funds invested in 500 online literacy licences and made them available to schools and parents to give children and young people access to literacy skill supports.

- Touch Type Read and Spell teaches typing, reading and spelling. It is particularly effective for children with additional needs such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, autism and ADHD to develop their literacy skills.
- Nessy Read and Spell is for use without a specialist teacher so parents can help their children at home. The licences greatly assisted families to access additional supports from home during Covid-19 restrictions and beyond.
- Reading Eggs is for use without a specialist teacher so parents can help their children at home.
- Dyslexia Awareness courses were delivered to 20 parents with modules covering the identification of dyslexia, intervention strategies, accommodation and use of technology.

Online Talks

From April to November 2020, 2,169 people viewed this online series of eight talks. They covered the following:

- ADHD: what parents need to know
- Sleep solutions: healthy sleep habits for babies and children
- Managing anxiety in children and adolescents
- Literacy for little learners
- Understanding dyspraxia
- TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat for parents
- Dyslexia awareness and support
- Academic procrastination: solutions and support for your teenager

WexSci Wexford Science Festival

WexSci took place as part of national Science Week during 8-15 November, 2020. The pandemic meant it happened in a predominantly digital format. WexSci offered 68 events to 2,710 participants. Nineteen pre-recorded and four live events were hosted on the WexSci website complementing 45 community-based events. Up to 8,940 people viewed these activities.

The festival was coordinated by Wexford County Council Library Service and the Community Development department, in partnership with Science Foundation Ireland, EPA, Creative Ireland, Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board, Youth Train Wexford, IT Carlow and Local Link Wexford and also involved the business sector, community groups, national, regional and local agencies.

Digital Radon Monitor

This library loans scheme was launched in New Ross during WexSci. There are now 38 monitors available for loan to householders across County Wexford from Bunclody and New Ross libraries.

Wexford Libraries' Online Book Club

This is a text-based Facebook club set up in 2020 in response to Covid-19 restrictions on indoor gatherings and events. It is hosted by a different library staff member each month. A book is chosen from either the print collection (when fully open to the public) or from the eBook and audio book app, BorrowBox. This allows all book club members to access the book. Over 250 members can participate in the 'live' monthly discussions or add comments and observations at a time of their choosing. The group offers reading recommendations and highlights Wexford Libraries' literary events calendar.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

This service offers health information and support to communities and individuals through book stock, events and online resources. Event hosting was out due to Covid-19 restrictions. But the health and wellbeing collection has over 100 titles on the three Healthy Ireland themes – Eat Well, Think Well, Be Well.

Work Matters

This initiative offers support to, and resources for, businesses, entrepreneurs and job seekers through the public library network in four areas: infrastructure, resources, expertise, events and programmes.

Usage of online business resources in 2020 resulted in over 12,342 report documents and business records being accessed through Business.ie, Vision-net and MINTEL.

Libraries facilitated access to the Covid-19 PUP (pandemic unemployment application) forms for those without the internet.

AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Miscellaneous Services

ICT

Infrastructure and Support

The infrastructure and support team helped install networks, phones and IT equipment during the relocation of Wexford Borough Council's offices and those of Enniscorthy Municipal District. A computer replacement programme was implemented to keep council IT equipment up to date and manage the upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10. The council went to tender for a managed print solution that led to the replacement of all office printers with significant cost savings.

A new elearning system, Metacompliance, was successfully implemented to train all staff in security awareness along with a new password policy and supporting software to enforce it.



CREATIVE IRELAND, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES

Business Process Efficiencies

Achieving efficiencies was a continuing priority with some staff completing the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training. Several successful process improvement projects were completed including development of an online property register, online family friendly application system and policy management automation.

Another project aimed to introduce an online system for housing tenants to view their balances, submit maintenance requests and make payments. An online taken-in-charge system, water quality inspections and an improved process for new starters were also in development.

The CRM team have implemented new processes during the year to improve services to public and staff. A housing estate management system was implemented for the Housing team. A change of circumstances process and a housing application validation process was implemented in the Customer Service Unit (CSU). An online road traffic office appeals system has been introduced to the public and an online system for staff queries has been implemented in H.R.

Mobile Data Capture

The benefits of capture of quality data in the field have been proven since Geopal's arrival in 2016. Development to support the capture of mobile data continued in 2019 with new processes developed for the capture of data for litter pollution, water quality, housing stock, ring buoys and fire services machinery.

GIS

An online preplanning enquiry system introduced in 2019 has proven successful with the public completing over 1,000 enquiries. New orthophotography was also captured in 2019.

Business Systems

IT staff supported the Rates Revaluation Project and the Rates Section. Staff also supported the upgrade to the Financial Management System. The new CORE training system was put in place as work continued on the implementation of CORE pension.

Strategic Technology Plan

Work began to develop the Strategic Technology Plan 2020-22. The council's infrastructure, backups, disaster recovery and office technologies are included in the review. Consultation took place with council staff and management / executive teams. The plan should be completed in Q1 2020 pending adoption of the recommendations.



HUMAN RESOURCES 2019

The human resource section's role and activities include recruitment, training, learning and development of staff. It administers employee assistance programmes and is responsible for superannuation and management of industrial relations for the council.

Ninety-four appointments were made in 2019. E-recruitment began in April 2019 making most of the job paperless. A competency based interview system was introduced for competitions for clerical, administrative and technical posts.

The council continued to deliver training and development courses on a broad range of subjects. In total, 3,347 training days were delivered, averaging 4.38 days of training per employee.

Work on CORE, the new human resource management and payroll system, continued throughout 2019 with work commencing on superannuation and training modules. The CORE time module was successfully implemented and a new IT system was developed to streamline the queries process. A total of 1,246 Coretime queries were addressed in 2019.

A sub-committee was established to devise an implementation plan for the reintroduction of performance management and development across the council.

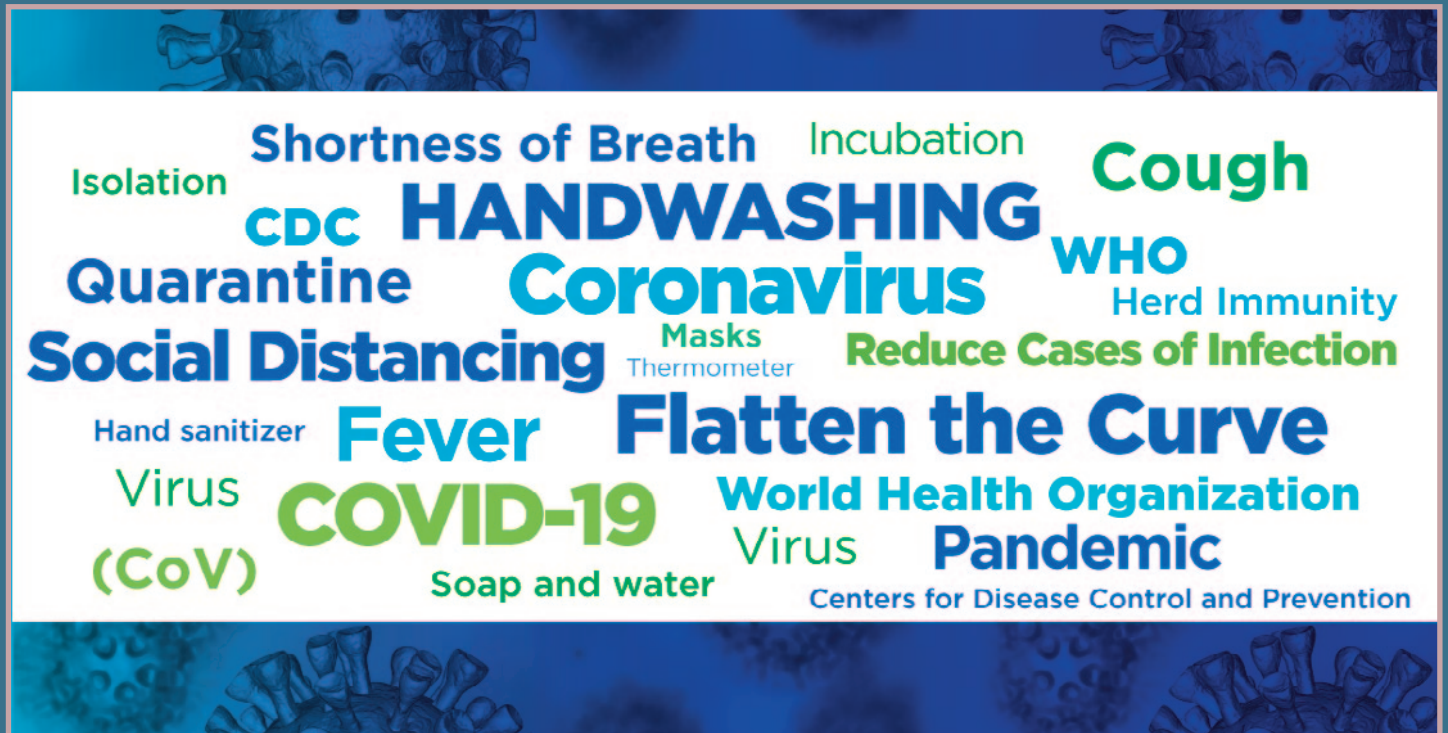
Human resources continued to provide support to line managers and to individual staff members. It met regularly with trade union representatives.

Policies and procedures were reviewed and updated in line with operational and organisational requirements and best practice.



HUMAN RESOURCES 2020

2020 brought its own unprecedented challenges in the form of COVID-19 and its associated restrictions. A variety of arrangements were put in place to ensure compliance with National Guidelines and Restrictions. These included working from home arrangements, redeployment, facilitation of changes to previously approved family friendly arrangements. In conjunction with the Health and Safety and Facilities Sections, a number of measures were implemented within the workplace, including the installation of Perspex screens, fitting of mirrors in stairwells, one way system, provision of hand sanitiser.



Whilst only essential training could be carried out on a face to face basis, a number of training courses were facilitated remotely. In total 1548 training days were delivered including 172.5 online training days. PMDS training was provided to the Management and Executive Teams and work commenced on the preparation of the Team Plans.

Over the course of the year a total of 61 new appointments were made and 28 staff retired. Interviews, in the main, were held remotely and it is proposed to continue where possible, with this process going forward.

275 employees availed of an on-site Health Check facilitated by the Council in February, 2020.

The HR Section continues to provide support to line managers as well as to individual employees.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION 2019 / 2020

The FOI office is responsible for: freedom of information; GDPR implementation; data protection including CCTV; customer complaints; Ombudsman complaints; Irish language complaints; access to information on the environment; secretary to the Records Management group.

Freedom of Information Requests

Type	No. of Requests 2020	No. of Requests 2019
FOI	127	141
Customer complaint	35	32
Ombudsman complaint	19	18
AIE	8	13
Data access request	13	20
Total	202	224

Issues Advanced in 2020

A staff member from the FOI unit continued to be on the National Records Retention working group and reported back to the records management group on the ongoing review of the National Retention Policy.

Proposals for 2021

In 2021 it has been proposed that all staff should undertake Section 40 Representations (Data Protection).

Training regarding the use of drones from a data protection side CCTV request system.

Wexford County Council is responsible for compiling an annual register of citizens entitled to vote.

The main function of the franchise section is to maintain and update the register of electors.

The following resources were used during 2019-20: distribution of RFA forms; advertising campaign; liaising with other local authorities; Defence Forces; nursing homes; secondary school visits.

2019-2020 Total Electors

2019		2020	
Local Electoral Areas	Local Gov. Electors	Local Electoral Areas	Local Gov. Electors
Enniscorthy	21,628	Enniscorthy	21,699
Gorey	19,524	Gorey	19,880
Kilmuckridge	13,517	Kilmuckridge	13,617
New Ross	21,915	New Ross	21,956
Rosslare	17,010	Rosslare	17,091
Wexford	21,726	Wexford	21,799
Total:	115,320	Total:	116,042

Voters are urged to check the Register of Electors at www.checktheregister.ie to ensure they are registered and their details are correct.

Protected Disclosures

Report Prepared and Published by Wexford County Council in accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014	Disclosure Year	
	2019	2020
The number of Protected Disclosures made to Wexford County Council	0	0
The Action (if any) taken in response to those Protected Disclosures	N/A	N/A

CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT 2019 2020

Customer Service Unit Statistics for 2019

2019 Area	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Agri-Burns	17	18	17	10	21	17	15	15	38	7	-	1	176
Env. Complaints	645	463	476	433	396	307	397	376	309	320	364	241	4,727
Change of Circs.	24	64	78	73	87	62	41	32	47	54	58	46	666
General Queries	25	16	21	16	6	5	7	10	6	4	1	-	117
Housing Validation	-	63	109	103	146	108	164	115	122	145	127	42	1,244
Quick Calls	2,557	1,977	2,425	2,094	2,436	1,541	2,568	2,871	3,071	2,828	2,579	1,859	28,806
Email received (External)	415	514	494	619	625	538	709	778	739	699	753	596	7,479
Email received (Internal)	391	346	384	452	553	443	558	545	498	593	558	348	5,669
Email sent (Internal/External)	825	897	860	926	1,071	896	1,221	1,514	1,351	1,532	1,466	1,001	13,560
Total Emails	1,631	1,757	1,738	4,726	2,249	1,877	2,488	2,837	2,588	2,824	2,777	1,945	29,437
Calls Handled	3,104	2,811	3,193	3,096	3,444	2,674	3,734	4,034	4,085	4,133	4,216	2,949	41,473

Top 3 call drivers on average for the year:

1. **Housing – 9,238**
 - a. Maintenance 3,032
 - b. Rents/Allocations 1,522
2. **Finance – 3,856**
 - a. NPPR 629
 - b. Motor Tax 599
3. **Environment – 3,026**

The Customer Service Unit had a dedicated team of 10 staff members, consisting of a Staff Officer, Assistant Staff Officer and 8 Clerical Officers handling the majority of customer queries and requests at first point of contact. Handling an average of 800 calls and 250 emails per week. CSU staff also validate Housing Applications, Housing & Rents Change of Circumstances forms, log Illegal Dumping reports, Road Issues, Housing Maintenance requests, Streetlight faults and Agricultural Burn Applications.

Customer Service Unit Statistics for 2020

2020 Area	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Agri-Burns	9	32	18	-	25	12	6	6	51	17	17	4	197
Env. Complaints	504	399	451	507	455	461	434	371	379	323	408	300	4,992
Change of Circs.	101	67	88	144	62	34	70	45	80	72	63	44	870
General Queries	2	-	4	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	12
Housing Validation	105	113	82	50	34	23	107	101	116	121	98	68	1,018
Quick Calls	3,038	2,812	2,561	2,142	2,145	3,846	2,891	2,349	2,550	2,089	2,942	2,199	31,564
Email received (External)	1,444	923	920	904	929	1,091	1,350	1,162	1,072	944	921	701	12,361
Email received (Internal)	642	627	574	908	848	819	879	746	798	684	652	479	8,656
Email sent (Internal/External)	1,846	1,703	1,642	1,997	1,984	2,195	2,752	2,230	2,079	1,751	1,694	1,169	23,042
Total Emails	3,932	3,253	3,136	3,809	3,761	4,105	4,981	4,138	3,949	3,379	3,267	2,349	44,059
Calls Handled	5,179	4,335	4,293	4,595	5,068	6,797	6,375	4,759	5,332	4,652	4,439	2,966	58,790

Top 3 call drivers on average for the year:

1. **Housing – 12,948**
 - a. Maintenance 4,606
 - b. Rents 2,193
2. **Finance – 3,837**
 - a. Motor Tax 1,183
 - b. Loans 571
3. **Environment – 3,237**

The Customer Service Unit had a dedicated team of 10 staff members, consisting of a Staff Officer, Assistant Staff Officer and 8 Clerical Officers handling the majority of customer queries and requests at first point of contact. Handling an average of 1,100 calls and 400 emails per week. CSU staff also validate Housing Applications, Housing & Rents Change of Circumstances forms, log Illegal Dumping reports, Road Issues, Housing Maintenance requests, Streetlight faults and Agricultural Burn Applications.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1
Performance Indicators 2019/2020

Appendix 2
Financial Statements 2019/2020

Appendix 3
Annual Service Delivery Plan 2019/2020

APPENDIX 1

Performance Indicator Returns 2019 / 2020

Performance Indicator Comparison 2019 / 2020

Housing: H1, H2 and H4

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Housing: H1, H2 and H4	A. No of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2019	4,474	4,545
	B. No of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)	120	58
	C. No of LA owned dwellings sold in 2019	20	17
	D. No of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2019	0	0
	E. No of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2019	4,574	4,586
	F. No of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0	0
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2019	1.97 %	1.35 %
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2019	90	62
	A. Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, divided by the No of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2019, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€1,160.42	€782.01
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€5,307,748.78	€3,586,292.17

Housing: H3 and H5

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Housing: H3 and H5	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2019 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2019	26.04 wk	35.14 wk
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2019, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2019	€9,204.83	€6,316.24
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2019 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	140	143
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	3,646 wk	5,025.02 wk
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€1,288,676.86	€903,222.83
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2019	8,356	8,571
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2019	1,034	330
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2019 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	94.49 %	99.14 %
	C1. Number of non-compliant households on 1st Inspection in 2019	977	
	C2. Total number of 1st Inspections carried out in 2019 (Compliant PLUS Non-compliant)	1,025	
	C3. The percentage of dwellings in 2019 which were found to be not compliant with Standards Regulations	95.32%	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2019	174	
	The number of dwellings inspected in 2019 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	977	

Housing: H6

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Housing: H6	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2019	53.49 %	38.89 %
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2019 as recorded on the PASS system	43	36
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2019, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	23	14

Roads: R1 and R2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Roads: R1 and R2	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2019	99.72 %	87.10 %
	The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2019	88.98 %	92.10 %
	The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2019	88.05 %	92.40 %
	The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2019	91.46 %	88.80 %

Roads: R1 and R2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Roads: R1 and R2	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019	11.51 %	4.30 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019	17.26 %	17.90 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019	31.00 %	51.80 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019	40.06 %	25.80 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019	37.01 %	31.30 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019	15.40 %	15.20 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019	32.72 %	31.50 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019	15.54 %	21.60 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019	49.37 %	44.70 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019	14.79 %	14.10 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019	25.37 %	26.70 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019	9.34 %	13.80 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019	45.33 %	39.50 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019	13.79 %	11.70 %

Roads: R1 and R2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Roads: R1 and R2	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019	24.30 %	26.90 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019	8.28 %	11.40 %
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2019	13.5 km	15.9 km
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2019	€2,847,263.00	€2,879,216.00
	A3. The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€28.04	€26.43
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2019	40.6 km	29.9 km
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2019	€1,177,772.00	€931,095.00
	B3. The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.50	€4.48
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2019	55.9 km	83.8 km
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2019	€5,847,721.00	€8,182,264.00
	C3. The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€20.09	€19.37
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2019	63.3 km	76.6 km
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2019	€1,348,097.00	€1,708,514.00
	D3. The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.16	€4.32

Motor Tax: R3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Motor Tax: R3	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2019	74.70 %	83.47 %

Water: W1 and W2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Water: W1 and W2	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2019	94.50 %	1.00 %
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	98.22 %	
	The number of registered schemes monitored in 2019	166	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2019	169	171

Waste: E1

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Waste: E1	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2019	14,235	17,740
	B. The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents	26.36 %	89.50 %

Environmental Pollution: E2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Environmental Pollution: E2	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2019	3,923	3,613
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019	3,799	2,958
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2019	803	1,458
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2018	679	803

Litter Pollution: E3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Litter Pollution: E3	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was unpolluted or litter free	10 %	9 %
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was slightly polluted	68 %	69 %
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was moderately polluted	19 %	19 %
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was significantly polluted	3 %	3 %
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was grossly polluted	0 %	0 %

Green Flag Status: E4

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Green Flag Status: E4	A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2019	53.60 %	51.20 %
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2019	1	2
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2019	26	35
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2018 and therefore do not require renewal until 2020	40	27

Energy Efficiency: E5

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Energy Efficiency: E5	A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2019 relative to baseline year (2009)	28.66	1.00 %

Planning: P1

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Planning: P1	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	42.11 %	100 %
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 by a builder or developer on the local authority	786	37
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2019 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2019 undertaken by the local authority	331	37

Planning: P2 and P3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Planning: P2 and P3	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2019	55	37
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	63.64 %	62.16 %
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	35	23
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 that were investigated	162	241
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2019	188	173
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	29.79 %	31.21 %
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	8.51 %	2.89 %
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	61.70 %	65.90 %
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2019	226	292
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under Section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	56	54
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	16	5
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	116	114

Planning: P4 and P5

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Planning: P4 and P5	A. The 2019 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€28.36	€30.42
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2019	€4,246,557	€4,554,586
	A. The percentage of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	52.38 %	62.03 %
	B. The percentage of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	46.43 %	27.85 %
	The total number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	84	79
	The number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	44	49
	The number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	39	22

Fire Service: F1

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Fire Service: F1	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2019 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the Fire Authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€36.71	€37.48
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2019	€5,538,002	€5,653,505

Fire Service: F2 and F3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Fire Service: F2 and F3	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	0 min	0 min
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	6.08 min	6.35 min
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	0 min	0 min

Fire Service: F2 and F3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Fire Service F2 and F3	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	0.63 min	7.17 min
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	35.48 %	29.58 %
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	44.87 %	49.24 %
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	19.65 %	21.18 %
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	23.77 %	12.97 %
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	52.02 %	60.54 %
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	24.22 %	26.49 %
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019	575	595

Fire Service: F2 and F3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Fire Service: F2 and F3	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	204	176
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	258	293
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	113	126
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019	223	185
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	53	24
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	116	112
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	54	49

Library Service: L1

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Library Service: L1	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	3.68	0.88
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year	581,141	482,119
	C. Library Registered members per head of population	0.15	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019	551,168	131,542
	Number of registered library members at 31 December 2019	23,056	33,538

Library Service: L2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Library Service: L2	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2019 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€34.89	€37.23
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2019 to 31/12/2019	€2.09	€2.10
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2019	€5,223,204	€5,574,598
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€313,492	€315,071

Youth and Community: Y1 and Y2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Youth and Community: Y1 and Y2	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	95.45 %	77.27 %
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2019	22	22
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2019	21	17
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	18.66	17.21
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2019	359	401
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2019	57	49
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	67	69

Corporate: C1, C2, C4 and C5

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 and C5	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2019	794.67	794.11
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2019	3.42 %	2.73 %
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2019	0.41 %	0.22 %
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2019	7,209.08 day	5,154.15 day
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2019	739.19 day	403.02 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2019	0 day	0 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2019	1,032.5 day	239 day
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019, divided by the WTE no.	€2,629.49	€3,006.42
	Total ICT expenditure in 2019	€2,089,577	€2,387,427
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 before transfers to or from reserves	€113,359,010	€161,027,757
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.84	1.48

Corporate: C3

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Corporate: C3	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2019	2,200,452	2,649,789
	B. Total number of followers at end 2019 of the LA's social media accounts	37,034	26,024
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	16	18

Finance: M1 and M2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Finance: M1 and M2	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-9,160,549	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-5,303,779	€-5,303,779
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-4,773,729	€-4,773,729
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-3,770,163	€-3,770,163

Finance: M1 and M2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Finance: M1 and M2	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2,127,851	€-2,127,851
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2019 as a percentage of Total Income in 2019 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-1.72 %	-0.49 %
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2019	€814.77	€1,075.52
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2019 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	€812.46	€1,075.52
	The 2019 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€123,630,911	€177,466,336
	The 2019 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€121,988,599	€161,028,757
	The 2019 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€121,643,230	€161,028,757
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	75.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	79.1 %	79.1 %
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	82.4 %	82.4 %
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	88.0 %	88.0 %

Finance: M1 and M2

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Finance: M1 and M2	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	89.9 %	89.9 %
	Collection level of Rent and Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	92.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent and Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	89.9 %	89.9 %
	Collection level of Rent and Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	91.7 %	91.7 %
	Collection level of Rent and Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	92.0 %	92.0 %
	Collection level of Rent and Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	90.7 %	90.7 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	80.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	85.7 %	85.7 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	92.1 %	92.1 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	98.0 %	98.0 %
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	102.7 %	102.7 %

Economic Development: J1 to J4

Topic	Indicator	01/01/2019 31/12/2019	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Economic Development: J1 to J4	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019	106.0	23.0
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2019	33	476
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2019	11	210
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019	163	212

APPENDIX 2

Financial Statements 2019

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority Budget.

Expenditure by Division	Note	Gross Expenditure 2019 €	Income 2019 €	Net Expenditure 2019 €	Net Expenditure 2018 €
Housing and building		24,033,058	28,765,587	(4,732,529)	(4,304,106)
Road transport and safety		31,200,922	20,587,770	10,613,152	11,188,636
Water services		10,082,356	9,762,183	320,173	134,932
Development management		11,302,454	3,197,161	8,105,293	7,246,851
Environmental services		13,286,445	2,386,570	10,899,875	10,919,455
Recreation & amenity		9,386,068	875,500	8,510,568	7,815,327
Agric, educ, health & welfare		1,990,952	864,986	1,125,966	1,173,310
Miscellaneous services		12,076,755	5,983,190	6,093,565	6,646,883
Total Expenditure/Income	15-16	113,359,010	72,422,947		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from County Rates and Local Property Tax				40,936,063	40,821,288
Local Property Tax				14,770,451	14,766,033
Commercial rates				36,437,513	36,118,431
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers				10,271,901	10,063,176
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(8,629,589)	(9,059,614)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				1,642,312	1,003,562
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January				(3,770,163)	(4,773,726)
General Reserve at 31st December				(2,127,851)	(3,770,163)

Financial Statements 2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		909,491,408	882,433,041
Infrastructural		1,780,542,780	1,777,906,542
Community		52,066,314	51,761,966
Non-Operational		18,355,087	18,479,889
		2,760,455,588	2,730,581,438
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	104,067,910	95,219,762
Long Term Debtors	3	80,571,680	72,474,104
Current Assets			
Stock	4	346,881	321,705
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	5	25,542,419	25,504,040
Bank Investments		19,338,510	15,076,667
Cash at Bank		-	1,404,434
Cash in Transit		950	2,750
		45,228,760	42,309,596
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft		5,124,833	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	31,890,044	33,724,294
Finance Leases		-	-
		37,014,877	33,724,294
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		8,213,883	8,585,302
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	132,856,205	128,454,991
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable Deposits	8	5,658,049	4,895,082
Other		13,910,046	8,218,548
		152,424,299	141,568,621
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		2,800,884,764	2,765,291,984
Represented By			
Capitalisation Account	9	2,760,455,588	2,730,581,438
Income WIP	2	105,093,024	94,505,835
General Revenue Reserve		(2,127,852)	(3,770,163)
Other Balances	10	(62,535,995)	(56,025,127)
Total Reserves		2,800,884,764	2,765,291,984

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2019
	Note	€
REVENUE ACTIVITIES		
Net Inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	17	(255,494)
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES		
Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance		
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		29,874,150
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		10,587,189
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	<u>(41,041)</u>
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance		40,420,299
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment		
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(29,874,150)
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(8,848,148)
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	<u>(2,609,830)</u>
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment		(41,332,128)
Financing		
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan & Lease Financing	20	1,995,137
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	<u>(3,859,998)</u>
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities		(1,864,861)
Third Party Holdings		
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits		762,967
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22	<u><u>(2,269,217)</u></u>

Financial Statements 2020

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure By Division	Note	Gross Expenditure 2020 €	Income 2020 €	Net Expenditure 2020 €	Net Expenditure 2019 €
Housing and Building		24,296,301	29,089,505	(4,793,204)	(4,732,528)
Roads, Transportation & Safety		34,004,106	22,078,768	11,925,338	10,613,152
Water Services		10,345,455	9,630,118	715,336	320,173
Development Management		35,327,040	26,832,802	8,494,238	8,105,293
Environmental Services		16,715,001	2,862,838	13,852,163	10,899,875
Recreation & Amenity		9,479,004	1,077,344	8,401,660	8,510,568
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		2,787,425	1,580,313	1,207,113	1,125,967
Miscellaneous Services		28,074,424	27,909,421	165,003	6,093,565
Total Expenditure/Income	15	161,028,757	121,061,109		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax				39,967,648	40,936,064
Rates				41,632,045	36,437,513
Local Property Tax				14,773,182	14,770,451
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer				16,437,580	10,271,900
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(15,182,881)	(8,629,589)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	16			1,254,699	1,642,311
General Reserve at 1st January				(2,127,852)	(3,770,163)
General Reserve at 31st December				(873,153)	(2,127,852)

Financial Statements 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		922,569,108	909,491,408
Infrastructural		1,782,005,803	1,780,542,780
Community		58,348,592	52,066,314
Non-Operational		17,529,293	18,355,087
		<u>2,780,452,796</u>	<u>2,760,455,589</u>
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	112,605,650	104,067,910
Long Term Debtors	3	88,246,350	80,571,680
Current Assets			
Stock	4	373,198	346,881
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	31,815,472	25,542,420
Bank Investments		32,901,965	19,338,510
Cash at Bank		-	-
Cash in Transit		800	950
		<u>65,091,436</u>	<u>45,228,762</u>
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft		1,784,993	5,124,833
Creditors & Accruals	6	46,323,294	31,890,043
Finance Leases		-	-
		<u>48,108,287</u>	<u>37,014,876</u>
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		16,983,149	8,213,886
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	137,547,655	132,856,205
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable Deposits	8	5,722,670	5,658,049
Other		22,423,293	13,910,046
		<u>165,693,618</u>	<u>152,424,299</u>
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		2,832,594,328	2,800,884,765
Represented By			
Capitalisation	9	2,780,452,796	2,760,455,589
Income WIP	2	112,834,889	105,093,023
General Revenue Reserve		(873,153)	(2,127,852)
Other Specific Reserves		-	-
Other Balances	10	(59,820,204)	(62,535,995)
Total Reserves		<u>2,832,594,328</u>	<u>2,800,884,765</u>

Financial Statements 2020

STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

		2020	2020
	Note	€	€
REVENUE ACTIVITIES			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from Operating Activities	17		9,388,580
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			
Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		19,997,207	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		7,741,866	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	(6,836,161)	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			20,902,912
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(19,997,207)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(8,537,740)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	16,555,321	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			(11,979,626)
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan & Lease Financing	20	5,530,027	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	(7,003,368)	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities			(1,473,341)
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			64,621
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22		16,903,147

APPENDIX 3

Annual Service Delivery Plan

Every year Wexford County Council must prepare a Plan identifying the services which it intends to provide to the public. The Plan must take account of the Council's Annual Budget, and of best practice in service delivery. The Plan must include

- (a) a statement of the principal services to be provided by the local authority during the year
- (b) the objectives and priorities for the delivery of each of these services and the strategies for achieving those objectives and priorities
- (c) the performance standards to be met in the delivery of services
- (d) the manner in which the local authority will assess its performance in respect of the delivery of services

The Plan is developed following the preparation of the Annual Budget and must be approved by the Elected Members.

In 2019 and 2020, Wexford County Council prepared Annual Service Delivery Plans in accordance with the above. The Plans identified areas of service delivery as listed below, and for each of those service areas, a broad range of objectives to be achieved within the lifetime of the Plans.

- Strategic Capital Projects
- Human Resources
- Corporate Affairs
- Communications
- Facilities
- Economic Development
- Planning
- Finance
- Information & Communication Technology
- Libraries & Archives
- Arts
- Housing
- Environment
- Community
- Sports Active Wexford
- Fire Service
- Civil Defence
- Roads & Transportation
- Water Services
- Health & Safety

The Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2019 was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 11 February 2019 and the Plan for 2020 was adopted by the Council on 14 February 2020.

Significant progress was achieved in both years in the delivery of each of the objectives and was reported on a quarterly basis to the Elected Members. An Annual Progress Report was published after the end of each year on the Council's website.