



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council

2025

APRIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT



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PHOTO ALBUMN APRIL 2025

WEAR RED DAY



Autism Awareness Day



Wexford Civil Defence Team



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Cúinne Caint was launched in County Hall, creating a space to allow people to use and/or learn Irish.

A range of events were on in Wexford to promote the Irish Language.

Mayor Catherine Walsh gave an inspiring bilingual speech at the Official National Launch.

Events for children were on in each of the libraries across the county and the Wexford Arts Centre, with support from the Wexford County Council “So Say So” was as Gaeilge for Seachtain na Gaeilge. “Frása an lae” was an initiative which saw short useful phrases as Gaeilge sent out to Council staff every second day throughout SnaG. The Seachtain na Gaeilge Online Staff Quiz was also a great success with three hundred respondents.

International Women’s Day

In addition to supporting various events around the county to mark International Women’s Day on the 8th of March the female elected members of the Council took part in a workshop to facilitate the development of a new action plan and key messages for the Women’s Coalition.



This workshop was a positive team building experience and the Women’s Coalition looks forward to implementing initiatives supporting women and on behalf of women in the community who wish to get involved in local politics.



Walkabout & Workshop for Courtown/Riverchapel Town Centre First Public Consultation.

HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must build a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery, which includes new built and leasing, is contained in the diagram below. (1181 below includes leasing also)

Housing For All 2022-2026									
1181 Target	- (851 Units Delivered	+	612 Units Projected	=	1463 Delivery Pipeline)	=	282 Shortfall /Over

It is the Councils intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists and Department funding is available. The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report.

Turnkey Delivery - The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. The current Expression of Interest opened on the 26th March, 2025. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	7 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q2 2025	29
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	12 x 2-bed apt 12 x 3-bed apt	February 2025	40
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q4 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q3 2025	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2025	14
		Total Turnkey Units	97

Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 & 4	2 x 3-bed 2 x 2-bed 4 x 2-bed apt 4 x 3-bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q1 2026 4 x 2 bed & 4 x 3 bed 2 x 3 bed Delivered	12
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	2 x 2-bed	Q2 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q3 2025	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	1 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed	Phased basis from Q1 2025	4
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q2 2025	2
Pearsons Brook	2 x 3 bed	Delivered March 2025	2
Upton Meadows, Kilmuckridge	2 x 3 bed 1 x 2 bed	Q2 2025	3
		Total Part V	33

Project Address (AHB)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 x 1-bed apt	Q2 2025	6
The Close, Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey	2 x 1 bed apt 4 x 2 bed apt 17 x 3 bed	17 Delivered Q4 2024 6 Apts. Q1 2025	6
		Total ABH	98
			228

Rosslare Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Carrig-on-Bannow (TURNKEY)	5 x 1 bed 5 x 2 bed	Q3 2025 Q1 2026	10
Carrig-on-Bannow (PART V)	2 x 3 bed	Q2 2025	2
			12

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 2-bed	Q2 2025	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	Phased from Q3 2025	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	7 x 3 bed	Phased basis from Q1 2025	12
		Total Turnkey	31
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	4 x 2-bed	4 due by end Q2 2025	6
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 3-bed	Q2 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	4 X 2 bed 1 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	2 X 2 bed 2 X 3 bed	Q2 2025	4
		Total Part V	20
Milehouse, Phase 1, Enniscorthy (AHB)	3 x 2 bed apt 7 x 2 bed hse 27 x 3 bed	20 to deliver Q2 2025	20
		Total AHB	20
			71

New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (TURNKEY)	8 x 2 bed 8 x 3 bed 12 x 2 bed apt 4 x 1 bed apt	18 units delivered Q1 2025 – Remaining 14 units to deliver Q2 2025 10 Units delivered March 2025	32
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) (AHB)	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q1 2026	48
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (PART V)	4 x 2 bed 4 x 1 bed apt	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q1 2025 6 Delivered March 2025	8
			88

Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd (PART V)	2 x 3-bed	Q2 2025	2
Ard Uisce, Wexford (PART V)	10 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q4 2025 2 delivered Q4 2024	10
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge (PART V)	1 x 3 bed	Q2 2025	1
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q1 2026	50
Whiterock Hill, Wexford (AHB)	6 x 2 bed 34 x 3 bed	Delivering on a phased basis from Q2 2025 in 3 phases.	40
			103

Support has been offered to AHB’s for other proposals amounting to **445** units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	63
Gorey	187
Wexford	70

District	No of Units
New Ross	70
Rosslare	55
Total	445

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2025 is the fifth year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets & no of properties delivered and funded to date under this programme.

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	No. of Properties	Delivered
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118*
Total	289	301

Status Update March 2025	
Units completed to date	71**
Works in progress	10
Contract awarded February	13
In tender process	11
Tender process to commence April	15
Total	120 No.
2025 Allocation	120 No.

- Notes**
- * 26 units completed and claimed in 2024 – not funded – to be paid from 2025 allocation
 - ** includes 51 units completed in Q4 2024

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

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

The figures below represent the total number of calls to the HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.

There were 374 calls to the HSSU up to 31st March 2025, the following is the breakdown of same:-

358 (95%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
7 (2%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
7 (2%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
2 (1%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Radharc na Beannoige Affordable Housing Scheme – application portal

Applications for the pilot Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme at ‘Radharc na Beannoige’, Ramsfort, Gorey closed 05th March 2025.

Following evaluation of the applications received, members of the Affordable Housing Team hosted workshops with the identified nominees to outline the next step in the purchasing process. This initial scheme is now fully subscribed and is fully expected be completed by end 2025.



CHOICE BASED LETTING

39 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2025 to 26/03/25. As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 70 properties were available for allocation.

Municipal District	Properties Available for Allocation	No. of Properties Advertised
Enniscorthy	7	7
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	22	6
New Ross	22	12
Rosslare	5	5
Wexford	14	9
TOTAL	70	39

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

From the 1st January to 28th March, 2025 Wexford County Council allocated 96 properties. There were also a further 25 Approved Housing Body tenancies

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	5	1	21	3	0	30
New Ross	6	0	14	0	0	20
Enniscorthy	9	0	6	0	1	16
Wexford	12	1	15	6	0	34
Rosslare	5	0	0	16	0	21
TOTAL	37	2	56	25	1	121

Anti-Social Behaviour Cases

Estate Management 01/03/2025 - 31/03/2025			
Area	Complaint	Open	Total
Enniscorthy	Abandonment	1	1
	Breach of Tenancy	2	2
	Estate Management	1	1
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	1	1
	Enniscorthy Total :	5	5
Gorey Kilmuckridge	Breach of Tenancy	2	2
	Estate Management	1	1
	Gorey Kilmuckridge Total :	3	3
New Ross	Breach of Tenancy	5	5
	Estate Management	2	2
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	2	2
	New Ross Total :	9	9
Rosslare	Estate Management	2	2
	Rosslare Total :	2	2
Wexford	Breach of Tenancy	5	5
	Damage to property	1	1
	Estate Management	2	2
	Wexford Total :	8	8
Total		27	27

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC

In March the economic section focused on international relationships with delegations to Savannah and Atlanta followed by the Wexford events with le Cotentin in France.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

Local Enterprise Week, a national initiative took place from 3rd to 8th March 2025 with the objective of creating awareness of the broad range of supports available to aspiring entrepreneurs and established businesses through the LEO offices. LEO Wexford ran a series of flagship events aligned to national enterprise policy objectives in assisting businesses to embrace digitalisation, embed efficiencies, embrace sustainability and to scale and export. The first event of the week was held in the Hatch Lab in Gorey with a digitalisation workshop led by digital expert Micheal O'Neill who provided LEO Clients with practical ways to increase efficiencies by introducing digital tools many of which are supported by the €5,000 LEO Grow Digital Financial support.



The Talbot hotel was the venue on Tuesday for the Scale Up: A Blueprint for Business Growth Event. Economist and Entrepreneur, Susan Hayes Culleton, with expert contributions from panellists Ruth Larkin of Larkin Consultancy, Rosemary Ward from Propelor Bic, Ger McCabe from Biostor and Annette Rowsome from the LEO outlined the key building blocks for a successful business expansion including financial planning strategies and funding opportunities.



The event also recognised the achievements of many of the successful Wexford based businesses with the announcement of the shortlisted and winning companies in the Wexford County Final of the National Enterprise Awards. The joint Runners up were James Cousins of Wave Dynamics Ltd and Darragh O’Ciarba of Groopeze while the winner and Wexford’s representative at the National Enterprise awards Final in May is Felix Oster of Well Preserved Ltd trading as Mor Taste.



The focus on Wednesday was on Sustainability with an online Seminar delivered by expert Pat Kane who presented compelling reasons why businesses needed to embrace a “green agenda” by highlighting the benefits of same and by providing excellent examples of best practice employed by businesses locally and globally particularly in the retail and foodservice sectors. LEO Consultant, Phil Walker outlined how the Green for Business support can help businesses identify actions that reduce carbon footprint, and he provided examples of how business have benefited from the €10,000 LEO Energy Efficiency Grant.

The role of the LEO in fostering an enterprise culture was in evidence as the finalist from 21 schools across the county put on a display of their Student Enterprise Programme Projects in The Street in Wexford County Council on Thursday 6th March. This year marked a record number of participants in the programme in Wexford with 1,726 students participating in the programme across 3 categories junior, intermediate and senior. Beat Fm’s Shonagh Lyons led 2 panel discussions, the first featuring a teacher and 3 students who spoke about their positive experience on the Student Enterprise Programme. This was followed by an engaging discussion with successful entrepreneurs Jessie Bennett of Monthlies, Joe O Connor of Clovelly and Grace Brennan of Higgie Digital who shared details of their entrepreneurial journey to date.



The Winners in each category going forward to represent Wexford at the national final in Mullingar on May 8th are Amy Duffin, Katie Foley and Alison Duffin from Ramsgrange Community School who won the Senior Category with their project “AKA Woodcraft”, Intermediate category winners were Arsen Hereta and Eoghan Rochford from CBS Wexford with their project “Cubikluo” while Kayla Peter from Loreto Secondary School with her Project “Crochet Crafts” will represent the county in the Junior category.

In a new addition to the programme this year, another standout project “Jack it Up” from Ramsgrange Community School was selected as Wexford’s nominee to go forward to a national competition for one of five places in a three-day innovation bootcamp designed to help students further develop their business ideas. The achievements of this group will feature on RTE’s Nationwide in the coming months as the Group collaborated with local company, Kent Stainless to develop a prototype ramp to help team member Jack Wickham to easily access buildings in his wheelchair.

Closing out Local Enterprise Week was the LEO International Women’s Day event in collaboration with County Wexford Chamber. The theme of the event was Accelerate Action and joining Key Note Speaker Bevin Mahon, CEO Dentaltech, were speakers Captain Leanne Nolan from the Defence forces, Emma Connors, Chief Curiosity Officer Shuttle Knit and Joanne Somers, CEO Celtic Linen. Paula Roche of Wexford Chamber and Jill Kelleher of LEO Jointly MC’s the event.



Food Academy Programme

The LEO are currently recruiting for companies to participate in the Food Academy programme which is being run in conjunction with Musgraves. The Programme offers food Producers the opportunity to develop a retail offering for Supervalu stores though an excellent business development programme which covers market research, production and quality processes, marketing and packaging strategies for impact and overall financial management.

TOURISM

International Sales and Marketing Plan

The LEO are currently recruiting for companies to participate in the Food Academy programme which is being run in conjunction with Musgraves. The Programme offers food Producers the opportunity to develop a retail offering for Supervalu stores though an excellent business development programme which covers market research, production and quality processes, marketing and packaging strategies for impact and overall financial management.



Le Cotentin Fête l'Irlande.

As part of the Le Cotentin Fête l'Irlande, a “Wexford Takeover Weekend” took place in Cherbourg on Saturday 22nd March, which saw, a gaelic football challenge game and a Wexford hurling final take place in the city. The New Ross Pipe band perform at various locations around Cherbourg including the Cherbourg Market, which attracts large numbers of people.

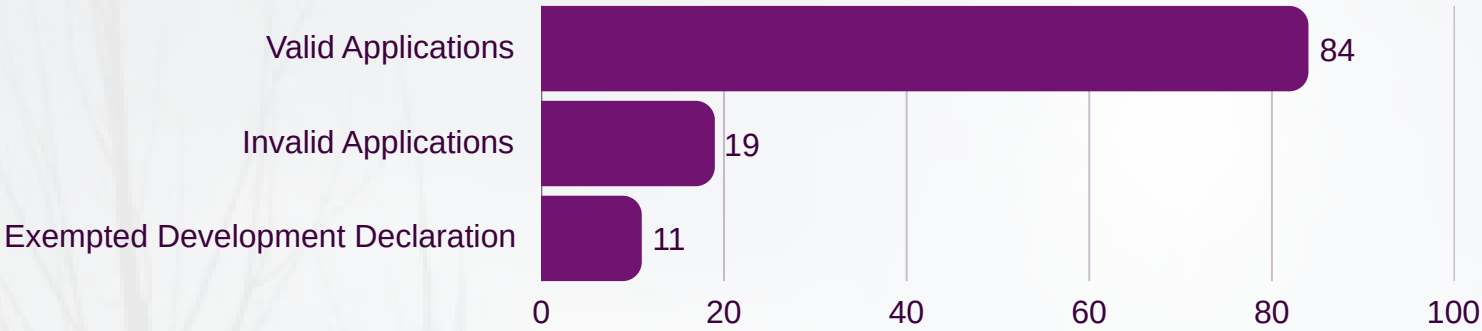


Year of the Normans 2027

2027 European Year of the Normans (working title) led by the Regional Council of Normandy, have invited stakeholders from Normandy, France, United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, Ireland, Southern Italy, Norway and Denmark to start an innovative and sustainable European cooperation project which will cement the regional historical ties and create legacies for future cooperation and partnerships.

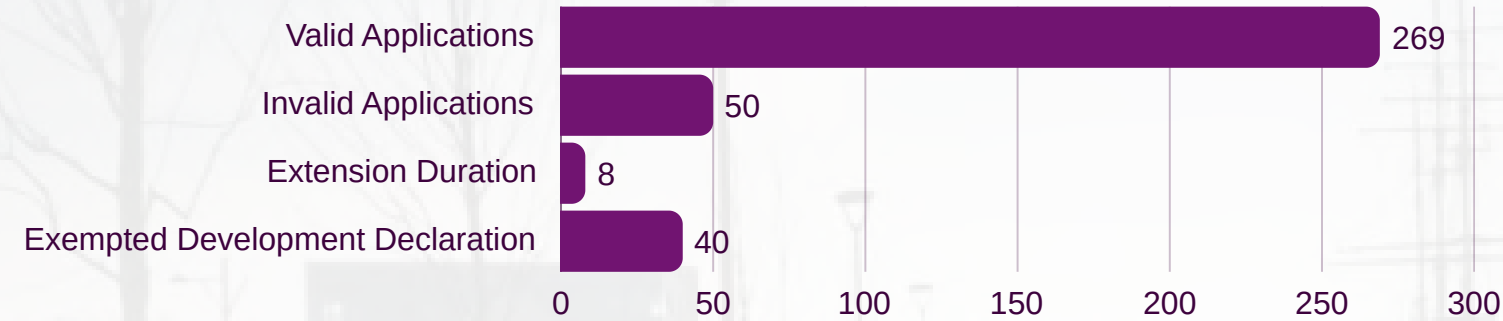
It is proposed that in 2027 there will be year-long events taking place in the regions of the various stakeholders. The County Wexford 2027 Year of the Norman's Steering Group has been established with the inaugural meeting taking place on the 29th April 2025. Ms. Candice Rousseau, Project Officer for cooperation with the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Channel Islands for the Year of the Normans Project, and her colleague Jean-Gabriel Guyant, General Delegate for the 2027 project will give an overview of the project and will highlight funding opportunities that may be available.

Planning applications received from 24th February 2025 to 23rd March 2025



Total number of applications: **103**

Planning Applications received year to date - 1st January to 23rd March 2025



Total number of applications: **319**

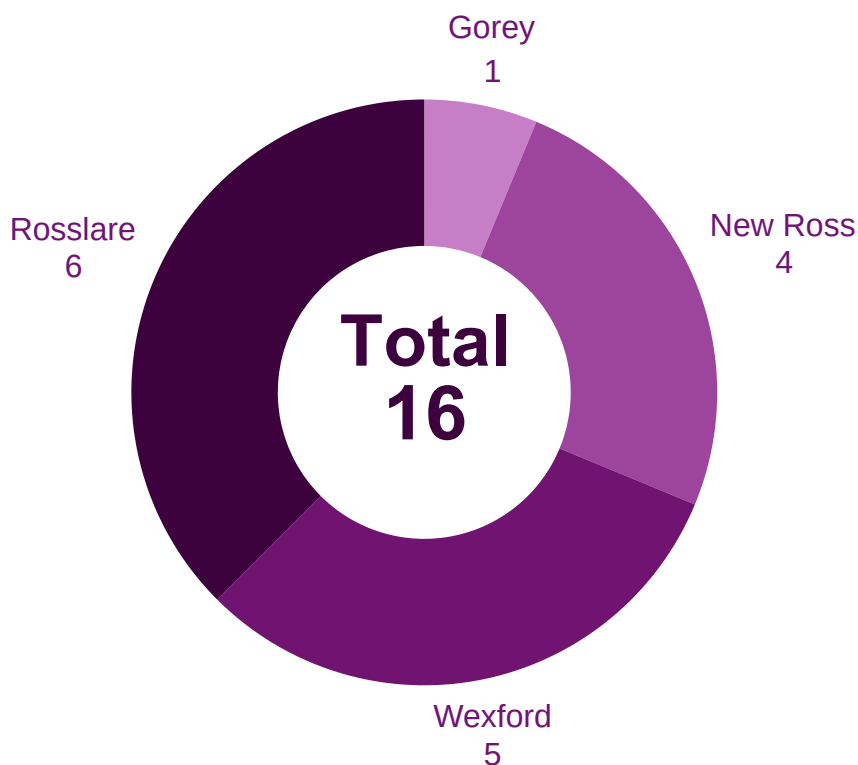
Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 23rd March 2025

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	15	8	9
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	26	20	18
New Ross MD	16	8	14
Rosslare MD	24	17	2
Wexford BD	25	18	15
Total	106	71	58

Average days to pre-planning meeting is **54**

Major Pre-Planning

Year to date up to the 23rd March 2025 number of meetings held by district:



Commercial
Development
(approx. sqm)

3,481

Total No. of
Housing Units

411

Planning CSO Returns

2025 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as of 28th February 2025

Housing
Developments
(total no. units)

86

Apartments incl. self
contained dwelling units
(total no. units)

12

One off
Houses

34

Total no. permissions
granted for new dwellings

132

Building Control - From 1st January 2025 to the 23rd March 2025

Validated
Commencement Notices

63

Building Control Inspections

89

Validated Cert. of Compliance
on Completion

30

Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 23rd March 2025

Live Cases

437

Cases Opened (YTD)

80

Cases Closed (YTD)

58

Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage

In March the Heritage Section was successful in securing **€68,000** in grant funding to carry out essential conservation repairs to the medieval town wall at **John's Gate Street, Wexford**. Two Wexford projects have been awarded a combined **€230,000** as part of this year's Historic Structures Fund. A total of **€100,620** has been allocated for much needed repairs to **Rathaspeck Church** to enable its eventual reuse as a centre for community and cultural use. Meanwhile, funding of **€130,000** has been allocated for urgent repairs to the **Ballast Office building** on Crescent Quay in Wexford town. The Historic Structures Fund is managed by Wexford County Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Dangerous Structures and Places

Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964

Section 3.1 Notice

3

Section 3.2 Notice

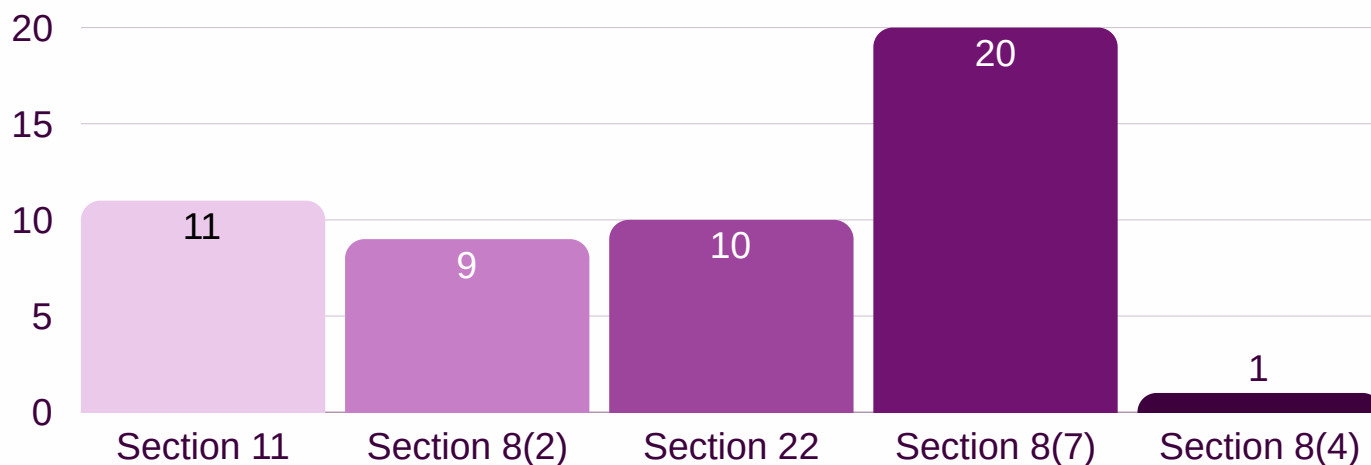
1

New Files Opened

3

Derelict Sites

Derelict Site Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.
Year to date up to 23rd March 2025:



Total number of Notices issued: **51**

141

sites on the Derelict
Site Register

24

new files opened

99

site inspection/visits
carried out

12

files closed

*Year to date figures

URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund

**174 sites approved on the acquisition programme as of the
24th March 2025**



- 32 Awaiting initial engagement with property owner
- 32 Engagement with Property Owner Commenced
- 6 Process to Purchase Commenced by CPO
- 1 Property Acquired by LA
- 12 Advertised for sale - property owned by LA
- 52 Brought back into use by Original Owner (closed case)
- 32 Property no longer vacant/derelict following review (closed case)
- 7 Being Dealt with Under Different Programme

One additional site has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for inclusion into the URDF Call 3 Programme.

Access - Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

29 valid DAC applications for the year to date up to 24th March 2025

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	8	5	1	2	0
Gorey	3	0	2	1	0
New Ross	3	0	1	2	0
Wexford	13	0	4	9	0
Rosslare	2	0	0	0	2
2025 Totals	29	5	8	14	2

Disability proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals:

25

LAC/PLAC and
General Planning Applications

3

Major
Pre-Planning

Forward Planning

Eastern Economic Corridor – FutureECOS

FutureECOS - Future-proofing living spaces in Growth Corridor Regions is a visionary initiative aimed at transforming growth corridor regions across Europe into sustainable, attractive, and technologically advanced living spaces. It is coordinated by the Regional Council of Häme, Finland, and brings together partners from six territories to drive innovation in housing and regional development. In Ireland, the Southern Regional Assembly is the Partner Agency and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is the focus of the project. As a key stakeholder in the Eastern Economic Corridor, Wexford County Council hosted the second stakeholder's meeting of the group in our offices on 24th March 2025.

Eastern Economic Corridor – FutureECOS cont'd

The meeting was attended by personnel from the Southern Regional Assembly, Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, South-East Regional Enterprise Office, Western Development Commission, the Dublin-Belfast Corridor (and their consultants KPMG), County Wexford Chamber of Commerce, Council officials from Wexford County Council, Wicklow County Council and Waterford City and County Council.

Project update was given by project officer, Dr. Rhiannon Carey Bates, SRA, followed by presentations by Diarmuid Houston and Cllr. Pip Breen on Wexford County Council's perspective of the EEC. Presentations were given by Elaine McAlinden, Partnership Officer from the Dublin-Belfast Corridor and by Prof. William Hynes, KPMG, consultant to the DBEC. An inspiring presentation was given by Prof. Vincent Goodstadt, public policy professional, on experience of other Economic Growth Corridors and on the potential of the EEC. A 2-day event is planned for the Interregional Group in Cork on 6–7 May 2025.



Wexford Town Local Area Plan

The public consultation on the preparation of the Town Centre First Strategy concluded on Friday, 14th March 2025 with the submissions received during the consultation period. These submissions, together with the feedback gathered during the walkabout and workshop on Saturday, 15th February 2025, are being reviewed and will inform the drafting of the strategy by the Town Team and Loci Consultants.

The Local Area Plan team continue their work on drafting the spatial planning framework for the plan area with work currently focused on reviewing the detailed urban design framework for the plan area, prepared by Loci Consultants, alongside the land use zoning and rainwater management proposals for the area.

County Development Plan Monitoring

Work is ongoing on the Chief Executive's Report on the achievement of the objectives of the Plan. The Plan contains over 1,200 objectives covering the Council's key programmes, activities and projects, and monitoring ensures that these objectives are being met as set out. Work has commenced on the monitoring of the environmental indicators contained in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the plan.

REGENERATION UNIT

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Town Centre First Teams are active in 7 Towns in County Wexford with each Town at different stages of the Town Centre First journey and funded through the 2024 TCF Suite of Supports.

Measure 1 - Under this measure town teams have been established in Taghmon, Bunclody and Castlebridge and completed health checks for all towns.

We have had further capacity building events during March with members from both Castlebridge and Taghmon town centre first teams visiting Clonakilty in Co.Cork on a capacity building exercise. We were met by a sizable delegation from Clonakilty who gave us a tour of the town and introduced us to many of the businesspeople and civic leaders within the Town. They explained how they have achieved the vibrancy that Clonakilty is famous for and spoke of how the public realm improvements contributed to its success.



Also as part of this capacity building programme we had a very successful community engagement day in Castlebridge where the town team invited the community to a community evening to talk about town centre first and to generate awareness of community groups operating within Castlebridge and also to talk about town centre first and what it means for the area.



There was over 100 in attendance and it was a very successful evening with high audience participation.

REGENERATION UNIT

Measure 2 - We are working closely with the Courtown/Riverchapel TCF Team to develop at TCF Plan for Courtown/Riverchapel.

We had 2 consultations during March one was aimed at post primary students and one aimed at the general public. The walk and talk consultation was very well attended with very rich feedback gained from the day long participatory event. This along with the feedback from the online portal consultation will help inform the town centre Plan for Courtown/Riverchapel.



Measure 3. Work in ongoing with the Projects development measures for these 2 €50k projects.

1. St Michaels Theatre, New Ross. Architect has been appointed to design improvements works and bring to detailed design stage. We have met with the architect on site and he has started the design works.
2. Kilmore Scope/ Bridgetown hub for cycling, cycling and walking tourism. Community Consultants have been appointed to bring it through stage 1. Consultation with stakeholders and the local community has taken place and we are looking to move to stage 2 in the coming weeks.

VACANT HOMES

Work is continuing on vacant homes with the administration of the Croi Conaithe Grant taking up the vast majority of our time with over €220,000 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 04-04-25	
Applications Received	440
Inspections Required (First)	0
Inspections Required (Final)	0
Applications Info Requested	124
Applications Approved	305
Awaiting Approval	0
Applications Rejected	3
Application on Hold	0
Withdrawn By Applicant	8
Funding Issued	66
Total Funding Paid to Date	€3,820,037.00



WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	Kilanerin GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions. Awaiting announcement from Department on approved projects under the MARWP 2024-2026.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CaimTank – Works complete. Road Reinstatement to take place in Spring 2025. Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept. Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q1 2025.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication to etenders Friday 15th November 2024. Tender assessment and report completed. Contractors have been notified of Tender Assessment Tender assessment report sent to Department for review. The Department have stated that The Bing CWWC is not considered to be value for money, and will not provide any funding for its construction. WCC are requesting a review of this decision
MARWP 2024-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April Submissions made across a range of measures totaling €3.26 million. All submitted projects have progressed to Phase 2 assessment Awaiting announcement from the Department
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 21 new well grant applications were registered to date in March 2025. 24 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totaling €61,013.37 59 inspections to date carried out to date in March 2025.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme. Detailed programme for the delivery of project was submitted to Dept. on 10th May 24. Meeting held with Dept. 28th June to discuss next steps for advancing project. Project now with Uisce Eireann to progress to next stage. Workshop -5 held with UE on 3rd October.

WATER SERVICES cont'd

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 applications received to date on revised grant, 6 paid, 3 approved.

DPI Resolution Project					
	Name	Towland	Expecting Costings	75% Funding Provided	Project Completion/ Programme
DPI Resolution Programme 2019-2021	Cois Cuan	Arthurstown	€152,475	€114,356	Q4 2025
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q4 2025
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q4 2025
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2026
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q4 2025
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q4 2025
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2026

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The Project is in Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation. Project design is advancing, with additional tasks addressing Service Area requirements and Active Travel provisions.

Consultations with Iarnród Éireann regarding the railway protection structure at the River Slaney Bridge crossing are ongoing. Consultation with directly affected landowners is ongoing. Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project is currently in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement. Main Contract Tender documents package is being prepared. The technical and safety approval process with Irish Rail for the Ballygerry Railway Overbridge is ongoing.

Individual Notice to Treat letters has been prepared and will be issued to affected landowners in April. Archaeological Services (Stage i – iv) tender documents are finalised and will be published in coming weeks.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2025 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballygillane to Ashfield Cross Roundabout Phase 2 Pavement Scheme - The drainage works were completed in March. Kerb works/road edge delineation in Killinick will commence in March. Pavement repairs and macadam inlay will be completed by mid-May.

Safety Schemes

N25 Tagoat - The detailed design of the traffic calming scheme is ongoing.

N30 Leeches Bend – West of Clonroche - The preliminary design is ongoing.

N25 Larkins Cross - The Feasibility and Options report is approved. The preliminary design is being developed in conjunction with the submission for Part 8 consent approval, expected to be presented in Q3 2025.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's allocation through the Regional and Local Road Grant 2025 is €23,310,350.

Restoration Improvement Programme - Wexford's allocation is €12,068,000.

92 projects have been added to our countywide programme. Macadam and strengthening works are ongoing in each District.



Surface Dressing Programme - Wexford's allocation is €2,841,500.

71 projects have been added to our programme and will commence in mid-May. Preparation is underway on road surfaces and surface dressing designs.

Severe Weather Repairs - Aughnaglaur Bridge, Adamstown has been completed with some minor riverbed works to be complete during the summer. The R735 is fully reopened.

Little Cullenstown Bridge is well progressed with abutments complete. The bridge deck is due to be completed in late April to allow a full road reopening.



Works at Grange Beach, Cliff Stabilisation Project will be complete by May.



Winter Maintenance - A total of 184 treatments have been completed to the end of March across the five winter service routes.

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Newtown Road – Phase 1 – project complete. Further localised drainage to be installed shortly to address surface water egress on the path.

Newtown Road Phases Two and Three (Part of the Pathfinder Project) - Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3 designs are ongoing, including the preparation of tender documents for construction.

Hospital Junction, Newtown Road - Hospital Junction will proceed to Part 8 in Q2 2025.

Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project) - to progress to Part 8 in Q2 2025.

Roxborough Cycle Scheme (Part of the Pathfinder Project) - This Scheme design is being finalised to proceed to Part 8 in Q2 2025.

Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme (New Ross) - to progress to Part 8 in Q3 2025.

Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) - Completion of this study is expected in April/ May 2025 after which a draft assessment plan will be issued.

Enniscorthy Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) - The options development report (Part 2b of 6 steps) is in draft. Further assessments and consultations will proceed throughout 2025.

Safe Routes to School 2025

Ramsgrange Safe Routes to School and village improvement works are substantially complete, with some line marking outstanding. The following SRTS locations are approved for works in 2025:

1. Ballaghkeene NS. Preliminary design completed and reviewed by NTA.
2. Killealy NS – Survey complete and preliminary design commenced.
3. Enniscorthy Vocational College – Preliminary design commenced

All designs are being undertaken and complete in full consultation with relevant schools.

Public e-bike and e-Scooter Sharing Scheme

An open invitation for Expressions of Interest for the supply and operation of an E-Bike and E-scooter Sharing Scheme in Wexford Town has concluded. Interested parties have been invited to participate in the next procurement phase during April.

Castlebridge to Wexford Active Travel Route

The preliminary design will commence following the recently completed survey of the R741. This scheme is currently un-funded this year.

Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme

8 new preconstructed drop in, bus shelters were installed in March 2025 in Carrig on Bannow, Fethard on Sea, Murrintown, Beechlawn in Wexford, Taghmon, Clonard Rd in Wexford, Bellefield Rd in Enniscorthy and Marshalstown Village.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Plans are in place to have public lighting fully upgraded to LED by the end of 2025

Public Lighting Development Fund

The following are schemes are being progressed at present:

- Churchtown Road, Kilrane, RE
- Old Garden City, GY
- Ballycogley Village, NR
- Coolgreaney Village, GY
- Saltmills Village, NR
- Glentire Heights to Ballagh Village, GY
- Ballycullane Village, NR
- Sean O Byrne Park, GY
- Maudlins to Milhouse Care Centre, NR
- Marys Lane, WX



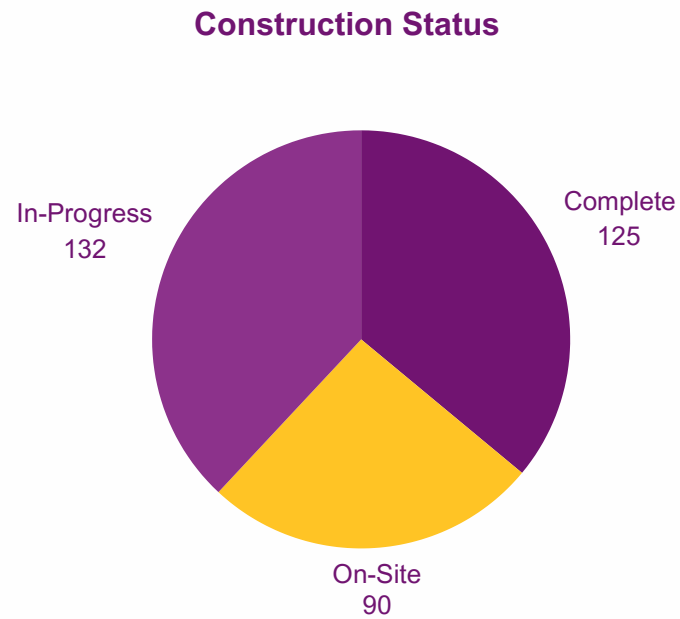
Photo of Public Lighting before LED Retrofitting



Photo of Public Lighting after LED Retrofitting

HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY	
Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings Complete 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete 2025	90
Dwellings to Complete 2026	132
Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline	439



Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2025 - Total 90

Creagh, Gorey	22 Units
Wexford Street, Gorey	30 Units
Tagoat, Rosslare	18 Units
Ramsfort Park, Gorey	20 Houses



Funded Projects for delivery 2025 – 2026			
Monomolin, Gorey	5	Ballygillane, Rosslare	5
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Grogans Road, Wexford	4
Rosbercon, New Ross	50	Killeens, Wexford	60
Adamstown, New Ross	3	Francis Street, Wexford	2
Total 132			

HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS CONT'D....

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Clonard, Wexford	55	Creagh, Gorey	24
Group TAP Housing	5	Castlemoyle, New Ross	82
Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	The Lyre, Enniscorthy	50
Bride Street, Wexford	3	St Walerans, Gorey	100
Lacken TAP	1	Park, Wexford	12
Kilmore Quay, Rosslare	12	Belvedere, Wexford	8
		Bunclody, Enniscorthy	65
Total 439			

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Projects at Planning Stages

Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project - Project Archaeologists have now been appointed and a tender competition to appoint a Conservation Engineer is underway. The EMD members will receive a presentation at the April meeting on the latest conceptual design proposals for Templeshannon.

Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building

The activity centre building is currently on hold. It is planned to commence construction of the boathouse and associated works in Q2 2025 subject to confirmation of funding.

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

New Ross Tourism Project - Both teams are working towards the completion of a familiarisation and preliminary design plan in advance of an application for Part VIII development consent in Q2 2025.

Esmonde Street, Gorey

A tender competition for a works contractor was published to etenders in December 2024.

The Tender Assessment is ongoing. It is anticipated that construction will commence on-site in September 2025.



Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway - The compilation of the Options Selection Report commenced in October 2024 and is currently ongoing. It is expected to confirm a preferred route in Q2/3 2025, with Public Consultation of the preferred option taking place in Q3 2025.

Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme - A public consultation event was held in the Tara Vie hotel on the 23rd of January '25 and was attended by 300 locals. Feedback from the event was very positive for the scheme. An application for category 2 RRDF funding was submitted in March'25.

Enniscorthy Sports Hub - Kevin Thorpe Ltd has been appointed to undertake the works contract. It is expected that works will commence onsite in the coming month.

Adoration Convent Wexford - Tender assessment is now complete, and it is intended to appoint a works contractor to commence works onsite in Spring 2025.

Gorey Market House - It was announced Gorey Market House was successful in grant application under EU THRIVE scheme receiving the maximum allocation of €7m grant aid. A tender for the procurement of an architect led design team for detailed design, procurement and construction supervision services was published in December 2024. Tender assessment is now complete, and award of contract is now imminent.

Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 2 - The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for Stage (i) to (v) design services. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. It is anticipated the tender for construction works will be published in Q2 2025.

Enniscorthy Technology Park – IDA Advance Factory Building - The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for an architect-led design team to prepare a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. It is anticipated the planning application will be lodged in Q2 2025.

Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience Upgrade and Extension - A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake Stage (i) to (v) design services for the upgrade and extension of the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience was published under an existing framework in Q1 2025. It is anticipated this tender will be awarded in Q2 2025.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Trinity Wharf - A Site Investigation contractor has been appointed and they are due to start on site expected to commence in April 2025, following which Irish Rail will build a level crossing for site access ahead of the main construction contracts in Q4 2025.

The next construction works contract is expected to commence in Q4 2025 and will comprise the new sea wall, bulk filling, essential site services and select surface works.

Curraclloe Water Sports Activity Facility - The main works contract has been awarded to Kilcaven Property Developments. Works commenced on site in mid-October 2024, with completion expected for the summer season 2025.

FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEMES

Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme - The baseline data for this phase has been updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are complete. Public consultation will take place in Q2 2025. The planning application is to be submitted in Q2 2026.

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme - A threshold survey is to be carried out in March 25 on 1,700 premises in low lying parts of the town and areas known to be subject to flood risk. A media campaign informing residents and owners about this survey is ongoing. Coastal and fluvial modelling is continuing.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) - The new DRCD (Department of Rural & Community Development) unit within Special Projects has taken over the administration of the ORIS scheme from the Environment Section. Environment Section will continue to provide support on the delivery of existing projects.

DRCD CAPITAL DELIVERY TEAM

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) - Following Expressions of Interest from local community/voluntary groups, the following Funding Applications have been submitted to the Department for Rural & Community Development (DRCD) under the various ORIS Measures. Notification of successful applications is expected in Q3 2025.

ORIS Measure	Proposed Project:	District
M1	Rehabilitate Cliff Top Walk, Rosslare Harbour	RMD
M1	Vinegar Hill Links	EMD
M1	Morriscastle Beach Access	GKMD
M1	Taghmon-Carrigfoyle Cycle Route	RMD
M1	Sweetwalk Trail, Ramsfort	GKMD
M1	Crory Lane Link to Edenvale	WBD
M2	Kellyswood Trail Link	NRMD
M2	Coolgreany to Ballyfad Walking Trail	GKMD
M2	Wellintonbridge to Little Seas Walking Trail	RMD
M3	Our Lady's Island Trail (Ph 3)	RMD
M4	Feasibility Study of Wexford's Outdoor Recreation Potential along the Waterford Estuary	NRMD
M4	Blackstairs Recreation Trail Feasibility Study	RMD/EMD

Note: M1: Small Scale Repair/Development/Promotion & Marketing (Grant: up to €40,000)

M2: Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development (Grant: up to €200,000)

M3: Strategic Large-Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategic Trail/Amenity Development (Grant: up to €500,000)

M4: Project Development Measure: Development Costs for Strategic Large-Scale Projects (Grant: up to €50,000)

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

In response to the issuing of the Fourth Call for RRDF Category 2 Funding the following applications were submitted to DRCD for consideration.(detailed development and enabling initiatives required to enable a project to reach Cat 1 readiness – Grant of up to €1m)

Notification of successful applications is expected in Q2 2025

RMD	<p>Europe’s Gateway to Ireland - Rosslare’s Sustainable Tourism Experience</p> <p>This project will revitalise, develop and support the inter-connection of two highly strategic coastal villages in County Wexford (Rosslare Harbour and Rosslare Strand). A greenway is proposed to connect these two villages and this RRDF application is for the strategic design of large-scale and transformative infrastructure and public realm projects in both settlements.</p>
GKMD	<p>Coastal Destination Courtown Project (Beach Nourishment, Marina & Public Realm Development)</p> <p>Phase 1 Restore a c.500m stretch of the North Beach to Blue Flag status by importing 225,000m3 of beach nourishment material (sand) and constructing sediment containment structures to protect against future losses.</p> <p>Phase 2 Deliver a new c.198 berth marina complex, outdoor tidal swimming pool and adjacent 1.2 Ha public realm area, all within the perimeter of an outer protective rock berm and concrete training wall.</p>

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Minister Dara Calleary TD launched the Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025 on 19th March 2025

From 26th March, Wexford County Council invites Expressions of Interest from towns/villages who may have a suitable project for consideration under the Main Scheme and Project Development Measure. All EOI’s received will be assessed and selected proposals will be developed into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department for Rural and Community Development. Closing date for EOI’s is 30th April 2025.

Closing date for receipt of Applications under the Building Acquisition measure is 2nd May 2025
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/news/call-for-expression-of-interest-for-town-and-village-renewal-scheme-2025>

FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN 2025

Fleadh Cheoil Volunteer Recruitment was launched on St. Patrick’s Day, where the Community Team held a recruitment event. Further recruitment events are being held in the WWETB’s Colleges of Further Education and Training, and SETU over the coming weeks



THE WEXFORD GARDA YOUTH AWARDS 2025

The Wexford Garda Youth Awards 2025 were launched in County Hall on 6th March. The Garda Youth Awards celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age and recognises the good work being done by young people throughout the communities. The awards acknowledge the young people who by their presence make their communities and society in general, a better place in which to live. They also acknowledge the endeavours of young people who have faced and overcome challenges in their life.



An Garda Síochána administer the Garda Youth Awards in County Wexford in association with Wexford County Council. Nominations closed on Friday 28th March.

PRIDE OF PLACE

The Pride of Place 2025 online application was opened to the public on Monday 12th March. Pride of Place is an annual all-island competition run in conjunction with local authorities and aims to recognise improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area and it celebrates the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Ireland, to make their community the best place to live.

Online submission closed on Friday 4th April.



The Rocks Community Area winners in the Urban Neighbourhoods Category in 2024 & Fethard on Sea CDA runner up in the Population 1000-2000 category in 2024

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date (76%)	€1,154,426.83(<i>incl. WCC Admin</i>)
Works complete (21 projects)	78%
Works in progress (2 projects)	7%
To be started (4 projects DRCD granted extensions to June 2025)	15%
Total fund claimed to Q3 2024 from Dept.	67%

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,703,377 (<i>incl. WCC Admin</i>)
Total fund expenditure to date	€240,857.27 (<i>incl. WCC Admin</i>)
Works in progress (4no. of 23no. projects)	17%
Shortlisted Window 1 – March 2024	€798,291.00
Shortlisted Window 2 – September 2024	€241,996.00
Shortlisted Window 3 – January 2025	€574,026.74

The following milestones have been achieved this period:

- Final shortlist of 9 projects by WCC to DRCD presented end of February 2025. Awaiting DRCD decision and final approval.
- Shortlist of projects embargoed until formal approval and announcement by DRCD.
- **Rosslare Harbour Development Board CLG** opened new Community Resource Centre at old Bank of Ireland building, with new extension supported by the CRF23.



Rosslare Harbour Development Board CLG



UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

Accommodation

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

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	283	872
Irish Red Cross	34	110

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 25/03/25 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

The Offer A Home scheme ran until 31st March 2025. The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ms Norma Foley, has announced her intention to seek Oireachtas approval to extend the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) scheme for a further year to the end of March next year. This is to align with the timeframe for the Temporary Protection Directive which runs until March 2026.

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Five properties are open and operational. One further property is open and awaiting the arrival of residents.

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	64	68
Unity Court, Wexford	33	57
Michael Street, Wexford	14	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	8	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	2	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	0	21

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)

On March 21st, Wexford County Council proudly celebrated **Wear Red Day**, a powerful initiative that promotes inclusion and stands against racism. Staff across the county joined in by wearing red, creating a visible show of solidarity and support.

To mark the occasion, the team also published a book of refugee stories, highlighting the journeys, skills, and talents that migrants bring to our communities. This collection of personal experiences serves as a reminder of the rich diversity that strengthens Wexford.



In celebration of **International Women’s Day**, the LAIT accompanied a group of migrant women to the **LEO Women in Business Breakfast Event**. This inspiring morning recognised the achievements of women in business, offering valuable networking opportunities and celebrating the strength and resilience of women in our community.

The LAIT was delighted to be part of the monitoring team for the **School of Sanctuary programme at St. Mary’s, New Ross**. We are thrilled to celebrate St. Mary’s as the first Champion School of Sanctuary in New Ross—a testament to the dedication of students and staff in fostering an inclusive and welcoming school environment.



Niall Basil Kennedy delivered a workshop at the Riverbank Hotel for residents of Wexford’s two IPAS Centres, providing valuable tools to support mental well-being.

Sports Active continued its **wellness programme for women** in Wexford’s IPAS Centre, encouraging physical activity and social connection. Four workshops took place this month.

The **FDYS & LAIT "My Kitchen to Your Kitchen"** initiative continued with four workshops. Women from the IPAS Centre in Wexford shared and developed culinary skills, preparing delicious dishes that celebrate their heritage.

This month, two new families were accommodated in Wexford under the **Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)**, bringing the total number of families supported to seven. The LAIT and IRPP remain committed to empowering individuals, building community capacity, and fostering meaningful integration, ensuring that Wexford continues to be a welcoming place for all.

WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team met on 12th March and had updates from the members, working groups (as below) and a presentation from Mick McCormack on Town Centre First & Vacant Homes. There was also a discussion on 'Inclusion & Role of Agencies' in response to recent anti social behaviour and the members have agreed on a number of actions going forward to address this.

Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team has a number of working groups who met on 5th March to discuss the delivery of specific with progress being reported on all:

- Sports, Creative & Activities Team (new group)
- Communication
- Care and Maintenance (of estates & surrounding areas)

SHCP Local Development Officer Ann Marie Laffan attended a meeting of **Enniscorthy East Community Development Association (EECDA)** on March 6th. EECDA was formed in April 2023 and since then the committee have worked tirelessly with many notable successes. Over the past 12 months they have focused on developing a Strategic Plan for the Enniscorthy East and Templeshannon area which they presented at this meeting. There followed a useful discussion between representatives from EECDA, Wexford County Council, an Garda Síochána and other local agencies.

The 2024 **Taghmon Community Car** Annual report was recently published which shows the success of the project. Some highlights:

- **Service Utilisation:** The car was in operation five days a week, Monday to Friday, with 460 trips taken in total in 2024. At the start of the year the average number of trips was 5 a week and by year end this had grown to 20 trips per week. Journeys included medical appointments (local GP, hospitals in Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny), shopping, local events such as sports events, bingo, church services, training courses and more.
- **Volunteer Participation:** A dedicated team of 7 volunteers are the backbone of the service. Their commitment has ensured the reliability and consistency of the service, with volunteers contributing over 1,800 hours collectively. TFI Local Link Wexford are delighted to be in a position to continue with funding for the Community Car for 2025. The funding will remain the same as in 2024, €5,000 for the year.

Some testimonials:

“As Coordinator of Taghmon Day Centre, I would have heard the service users talk about not being able to make hospital appointments, hairdresser appointments and meet friends due to having no access to transport. Since the Community car’s arrival all of this has changed, I now hear positive comments from smiling people. (Anne Kilduff, Coordinator of Taghmon Day Centre)”

“It’s an absolutely marvellous service I don’t worry about hospital appointments anymore I just phone Bernie and she organises the car!”

“Getting my hair done is so easy now and it makes me feel better about myself, the drivers of the community car are so helpful and friendly.”

“I wouldn’t have been able to attend my friend’s funeral only for the community car dropping me to the church and picking me up after.”

“What a difference the community car has made to my life I can attend Bingo and meet up with my friends.”



The final meeting of the **Southend Retrofitting Steering Group** took place on 11th March. This group oversaw a community retrofitting pilot project which through funding provided by the Sláintecare Healthy Communities project to Southend FRC for an 'Energy Champion' led to over 100 householders in the Maudlintown area of Wexford Town getting their homes upgraded from solid fuel heating to more energy efficient green heating sources with SEAI grants. This successful pilot project can easily be replicated with WCC's Climate Action Team now using this project template to roll this out in other areas.

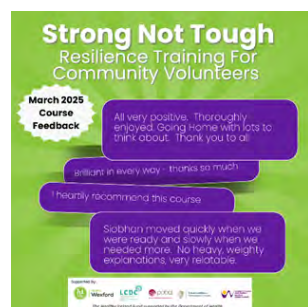
A meeting with **Cultural Companions** volunteers to finalise the Cultural Companions calendar of events for April to June took place on 18th March. The final list will be sent out to members shortly and shared on social media.



HEALTHY WEXFORD



Two **Healthy Choices** programmes completed at Southend FRC with two womens groups and a further course has commenced with teenage girls at South West Wexford FRC. See some of the photos and creativity from the Southend Women [here](#)



Another **Strong Not Tough Resilience Training for Community Volunteers** took place in Enniscorthy on 21st March. Once again the feedback on the course was excellent. A further course is planned for May.

'Strong Not Tough' is the adult version of the international FRIENDS programme, developed in Australia. This training provides individuals with a toolbox of evidence-based approaches designed to enhance their emotional resilience and manage stress more effectively.

Another **Strong and Steady Falls Prevention Programme** has commenced. This programme is running in Enniscorthy and the programme is rolled out through Sports Active Wexford, with support of the Healthy Ireland Fund. Sports Active also continue to roll out Healthy Ireland supported initiatives in the **New Ross Activity Hub**, focusing on disadvantaged families and communities.



Planning for two further **Healthy Home Environments** programmes is underway, with programmes scheduled to roll out in Rosslare and Tomhaggard in May.

Planning is underway for the planned **Playful Spaces Games Area** at Maudlintown, while work continues on completion of the Gorey Town Park Play Tables Playful Spaces.



Continuing to highlight both our own activity and signpost to other supports and opportunities Healthy Wexford had an information desk at the recent Arthritis Ireland Event in Wexford while also having a presence at the Age Well Expo in New Ross.



Members of the Healthy County Committee and working groups visited Wexford College of Further Education in Whitemill, Wexford to see their Sensory Room and Pod which is available to both learners and staff. They also go a chance to hear about some of the Learner Supports in place and to have a look around the college.

Our Healthy County Coordinator attended and presented at a Period Dignity Stakeholder and Networking event at Department of Health in March, held in collaboration with Healthy Ireland.

The event allowed for sharing of activity from different partners across the country and the opportunity to meet with with Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy.



Healthy Wexford are also supporting the preparation Fleadh Cheoil an hÉireann 2025, with our Healthy County Coordinator supporting Volunteer recruitment and through Healthy Wexford collaborating on 'Not Around Us' Supporting Event promotion and Sunscreen Dispenser Board provision.



SPORTS ACTIVE



AdventurHER	Women's 4-week outdoor adventure skills programme through enjoyable walking sessions. Conducted in Deerpark Mountain, Coolmelagh Forest Park, Fourth Mountain & White Mountain. 7 Women registered on this programme.
Active Adults for over 55's	Active Adults Initiative took place in Bunclody Library, 4 taster sessions of Chair Yoga. 24 women participated.
Age Well Expo New Ross	2 staff members and 1 student on placement attended and manned an information stand at the Age Well Expo in New Ross, promoting Sports Active Wexford Initiatives and programmes.
PG Leader Workshop	PG Leader Workshop was conducted in Our lady of Fatima school. 7 Boys & 4 Girls
Online Physical Literacy Workshop	A understanding Physical Literacy Online Workshop was conducted to celebrate Understanding Physical Literacy week.
Learn to Cycle	<p>A learn to cycle program took place in St. Joseph's Hall, Wexford. A total of 12 children took part. 8 girls, 4 boys</p> <p>A learn to cycle program took place in Kilanerin Hall, Gorey. A total of 6 children took part. 5 boys and 1 girls.</p> <p>An 8-week learn to cycle program was delivered in Poulfur National School Fethard (one of the largest ASD units in Ireland) for children with disabilities. 12 students took part. 7 females and 5 males.</p>

Healthy Woodlands	A 6-week Healthy Woodlands program occurred in Tintern Abbey with Cumas disability services. 9 participants took part. 6 males and 3 females.
Mental Health Walking Group	4-week walking group finished in Min-Ryan park, Wexford Town. This was a collaboration between Sports Active Wexford, HSE Occupational Therapists and Integrated Exercise Practitioner (IEP) from the Mental Health Association. 6 individuals took part. 5 males and 1 female.
Aqua programme for Chronic Pain and Arthritis	7-week aqua aerobics programme finished in Active Tribe, Courtown. This programme catered for those living in the community with chronic pain and or Arthritis. 16 individuals took part. 4 males and 14 females.
Living your best life with Arthritis	1 staff member attended the Living your best life with Arthritis information evening in the Riverbank house hotel engaging with 68 individuals living with arthritis. This event was organised by arthritis Ireland and Waterford University hospital Rheumatology dept.
Sport 4 Empowerment	The ESF officer conducted their third workshop; ideation and prototyping with the LGBTQIA+ teenage group in Gorey Youth Needs, 9 teenagers took part. The ideation workshop (14 females) and prototyping (9 females) workshop took place in the Moran's Women's IPAS centre.
Safeguarding	1 x Safeguarding 1 Course took place in March with 8 participants, 6 female and 2 male.



Some of the participants of our Aqua programme for Chronic Pain and Arthritis in Active Tribe, Courtown

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

Fethard Harbour New Slipway and Beach Access - The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is in process of finalising a decision on this project.

Beaches - Grange Beach Cliff Stabilisation works started in Oct 2024. The beach access is temporarily closed until the works are completed in Q1 2025.

Green Coast Beaches: we applied to An Taisce for 10 green coast beaches for 2025. Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton’s Gap, Rosslare Harbour, St Helen’s, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, Booley Bay. An Taisce will announce the awards in May 2025 with the event being hosted by Wexford County Council in Curracloe.

Coast - Seaview Coastal Protection and Beach Access, Kilmore. Contractor started works on site at the end of January 2025 and is currently scheduled for completion in Q3 2025.

Operations – Eddie Downes commenced work on 4th Feb as Pilot / AMO. The feasibility of carrying out dredging surveys is ongoing. A Marine User Licence Application for surveys has been submitted to MARA. The business development plan for the Port is ongoing.

Public Conveniences

- Cahore PC: Carpark surfacing, white lining and bollards completed by Contractor.
- Carne PC: Contractor completed the upgrade of toilet facilities.

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2025	January 2025 - 1 application received	2 Grants paid/sent for payment	7 outstanding for review/documents due from 2024
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Court cases

- 3 Currently in the court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices
- 9 cases closed prior to court hearing as works were already carried out.
- 11 cases over 4 years old closed. 54 other cases closed. 122 new inspections carried out.

No of Verification Inspections

2024 - Verification Inspection = 58	2025 - Verification Inspections = 6
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Low Smoke Fuel Areas - The 4 stations in New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey have now had their monitors updated to measure air quality and noise levels. There are also 14 low-cost sensors installed in Enniscorthy monitoring PM10 & PM2.5 only. UoG & UCC have started a programme called TownAir to monitor gases NOx, SO2, CO continuously, particle numbers 10 nm to 10 microns, as well as black carbon and organic aerosol, ions ammonium, chloride, sulfate and nitrate, all in real-time, as well as collecting 24hr filter samples of PM2.5. The filter samples will be analysed for metals and toxicity. These will be compared with 2016 levels taking during the SAFFIRE project. They will be monitoring the weather also.

Agriculture - Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices.

Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon farms where major non compliance are observed and cross reported to DAFM.

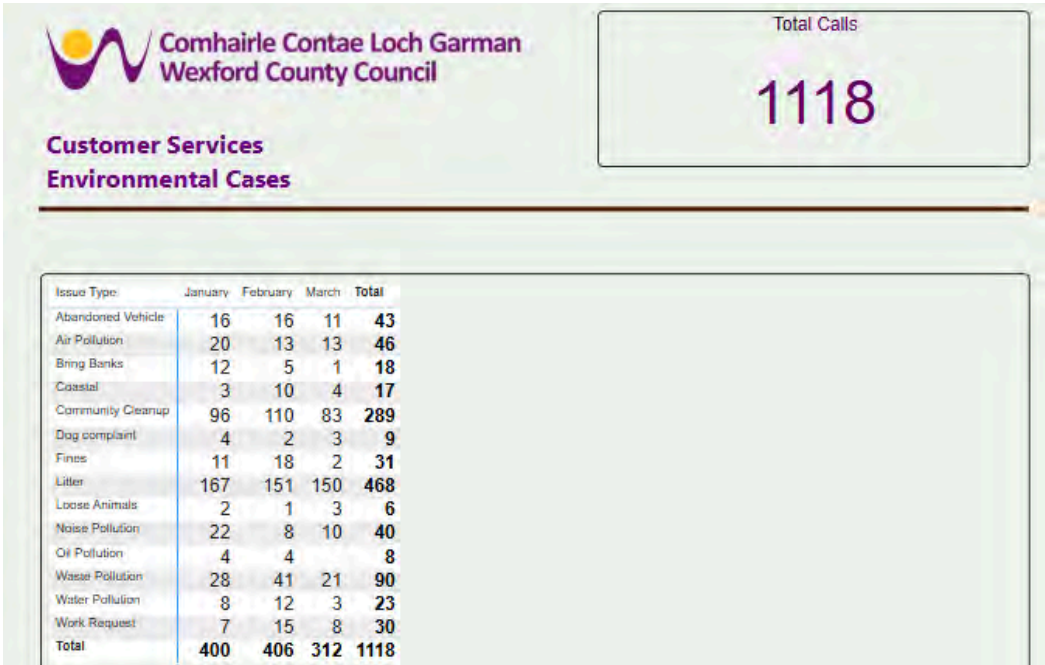
Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council carried out a total of 170 farm inspections in 2024 and will rise to 270 inspections in 2025 concentrating in areas where water quality was most at risk of not meeting its objectives under the WFD. A team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role lead by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section. A total of 69 inspections have taken place in 2025 to date under GAP regulations, Sludge use in Agriculture and complaints made by the public.

A total of 29 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been received in 2025 highlighting the continued investment in Wexford Agriculture and maintaining compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Waste Management

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan – Dec 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
Incidents	4997	5136	3896	4235	4195	1275
Closed	4996	5133	3709	3941	3760	973
Closure Rate	99%	99%	95%	93%	89%	76%



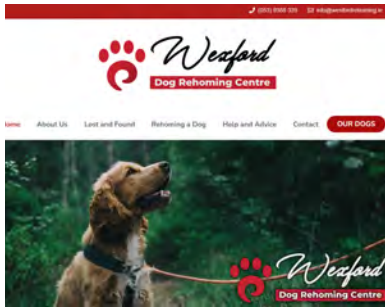
Total Calls logged
January- March 2025

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

Control of dogs	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dogs collected	546	575	564	115
Dogs reclaimed	117	128	147	27
Dogs re-homed/transferred	370	404	442	122
Dogs put to sleep	51	38	31	2
Dog Fines	21	14	11	0

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

Wexford County Council is delighted to be working with Pets First who launched their new re-homing website. For more details please visit: <https://wexfordrehoming.ie/>



RECYCLING SERVICES:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites February 2025	Recycling out (End February) 2024 (t)	Recycling out (End February) 2025 (t)
Glass bottles	108	623.41	798.37
Aluminium Cans		17.19	6.28
Total		640.6	804.65

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Feb 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Feb2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- Feb 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Feb 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Feb 2025 (t)
	Total Recycling out							
Total Domestic Waste in	109	118	63	65	148	152	89	83
Daily Average Customers Jan-Feb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	148	152	N/A	N/A
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2023	2024
	69	72	129	132	125	137	86	85

Rapid Response Crew - Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with a four-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey MD's and a second six-man crew servicing Wexford and New Ross and Rosslare MD's.

Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	To end February 2024	February 2025	To end February 2025	% +/_
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	431	145	368	-14.6%
<i>Gorey *</i>		25		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		35		
<i>Wexford *</i>		39		
<i>New Ross*</i>		21		
<i>Rosslare</i>		25		
Total Bring Site Inspections	1484	817	1670	+12.5%

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

National Tree Week: An Cathaoirleach Councillor Pip Breen presented a tree to Court National School to mark National Tree Week which took place from Sunday 9th March to Sunday 16th March. The theme was 'Planting Trees, Growing Together'. To celebrate National Tree Week, Wexford County Council in conjunction with the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte distributed 1000 native saplings to primary schools across County Wexford.

Green Schools: All renewal assessments are now complete. 29 schools have renewed their green flag.

National Spring Clean: Registrations with An Taisce have opened for National Spring Clean which takes place during the month of April.

Snap Into Action: Details of the Snap into action competition has been circulated to schools and community groups.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for community clean ups continue.



Date	No. of Community Clean UPs
01/03/25 - 31/03/2025	137
01/01/25 – 31/03/2025	343

CLIMATE ACTION

The Climate Action Team prepared the first progress report of the Wexford County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from February 2024 to December 2024.

Data and information contained within the report offers an accurate and transparent picture of progress in the first year of the plan. This aligns to the Government’s National Climate Objective, to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

The following outlines the Climate Action reporting completed by the Climate Action Team for 2024:

- Monitoring and Reporting (M&R)
- Energy Elephant
- ISO 50001
- National Climate Action Plan
- Sectoral Performance



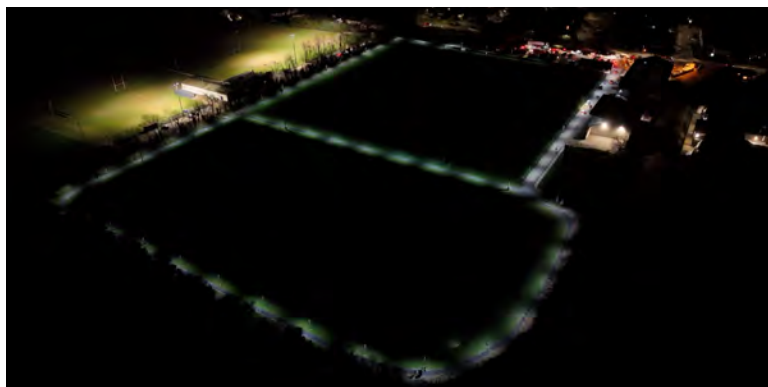
Progress of Actions

A suite of sample actions across the 5 Action Areas were selected including relevant case studies and outlined in the report.

The Wexford County Council CAP has identified and mapped actions to the SDGs. Throughout the Implementation Report, contributions to delivering on the UN SDGs through the delivery of actions, are reflected from an environmental perspective

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

The 16 successful projects have commenced works, with eight groups having completed significant elements of their projects. The second round of the Programme is expected in summer 2025.



Walking track solar lighting in Naomh Eanna GAA Club



Wetland at Enniscorthy Community Allotments

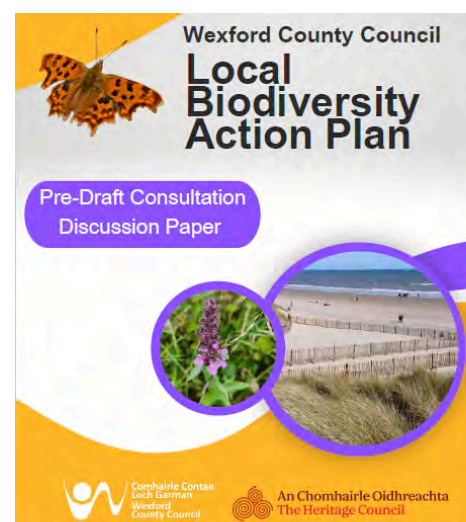
Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)

Enniscorthy SEC, on behalf of the SECs in County Wexford, applied for funding to the Climate Actions Work Programme for an “Energy Champions Training Programme”. The application was successful, with €12,500 allocated to the project. A training programme is currently being formulated which will be rolled out across communities with the aim of providing volunteers with the basic knowledge of SEAI home energy upgrade grants. These “energy champions” will in turn assist people in their locality with making applications to the SEAI.

Wexford County Council’s Biodiversity officer is preparing a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan, supported by the Heritage Council. This is a requirement of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, launched in 2024. It requires each Local Authority to have a Biodiversity Action Plan in place by the end of 2026. The aim of this plan is to provide a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at county level.

A Pre Draft Discussion Paper and Survey has been developed providing a background to the development of the plan. It is intended to help start discussion on biodiversity issues and priorities

The first phase of public consultation (Pre Draft) commenced on the 7th of April 2025 in person in the County’s libraries and in an online survey. Further information is available on the County Council website.



LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Libraries throughout County Wexford celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge with a number of events including mindfulness bilingual sessions for local primary school classes. The Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge from New Ross Library relaunched earlier this year and is open to everyone regardless of their language proficiency, highlighting the opportunity to learn the language, help others, and share ideas on strengthening the Irish Language Group. Interest in the conversation group has increased with 22 people attending a recent session.



World Book Day

Wexford Libraries celebrated World Book Day on March 6th with a series of events including a Gruffalo themed Bedtime stories event, a Roald Dahl Quiz and plenty of lego and crafts.

Astronomy Week

John Hackett from South East Astronomy delivered a talk on the Ocean Moons of our Solar System in Bunclody Library to celebrate Astronomy Week.

“Celestial Wonders” Astrophotography talk with Louise Skelly in Wexford Town Library.

International Women's Day

Wexford Town Library hosted a coffee morning discussion for Book Club Members and avid readers with authors Caroline Busher and Cat Hogan to celebrate International Women’s Day.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Ukraine English Classes for Wexford Town Friends of Ukraine have weekly group meetings in Wexford Town Library, the language class is facilitated by volunteer tutors.



In conjunction with WLD, there was an exhibition launch for International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Wexford Town Library with Ukrainian photographer Sasha Bratkova. She exhibited portraits of 20 different women, originally from different countries all over the World.

In collaboration with Wexford Local Development New Ross Library held a traditional Ukrainian Pancake Tuesday, with singing and sharing of folklore around the festival.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

IT LITERACY

Digital Skills Group

Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly classes for the over-55s facilitated by WWETB continue in New Ross Library. Age Action Age Equality 1 to 1 Digital Skills sessions continue in Wexford Town Library.

Wexford Town Library hold Touch, Type, Read, Spell classes for adults with mild to moderate intellectual disability from Windmill Therapeutic Training Unit weekly.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Enniscorthy Air Quality Talk - Members of the public were invited to come along to Enniscorthy Library to learn more about air pollution, how air quality is monitored and what actions could be taken to ensure clean air for Enniscorthy. Enniscorthy has been selected for the first phase of the TownAir Project by UCC and UoG, who have 12 air quality sensors monitoring the air around the town. One of their stations is located in the car park to the rear of the library.

GIY LEAF week - The Literacy & Food Education (LEAF) Programme is about empowering communities to grow their own food as a vital climate action. It's about sowing seeds of empathy and nurturing a culture of sustainable living, all while turning libraries into bustling hubs of food growing.

Wexford Libraries had a range of events to celebrate LEAF week including a foraging talk, a kids gardening event, a talk about organic food production, building a bee hotel, soil science, how to grow your own vegetables and herbs, a seed sowing workshop and read along story sessions for Junior and Senior Infants.

Wexford Town Library had an Energy Advice Clinic with the Community Energy Hub. There was six 15 minute slots where you could have a one-on-one chat with an energy expert. All 6 slots booked.

Spring Wreath Workshop - Participants in Enniscorthy Library were led through a spring wreath making workshop using items from nature, twigs, moss, wood, paper and scraps of fabric to create sustainable and seasonal decoration to welcome spring.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

A number of branch libraries featured events focused on health and wellbeing in March. The Irish Heart Foundation Workshop, "Tips on Lowering Cholesterol", was hosted in Enniscorthy Library. Bunclody Library hosted the start of a six week award winning course "Living Well with Arthritis", as well as four Chair Yoga taster sessions run by Sports Active Wexford.

READING AND LITERACY: RIGHT TO READ AT YOUR LIBRARY

Book Buddies inclusive Book Club met in Gorey Library and celebrated Springtime by looking at some books about nature and birds, and made some bird feeders from recycled yogurt pots.

Gorey Library welcomed acclaimed Wexford author, playwright and artist Billy Roche for a writing workshop on The Tools Of The Trade. This workshop explored inspiration, writing, rewriting and editing. They also held a Creative Writing Workshop with Anne McLoughlin which guided attendees through the first steps of bringing their ideas for a book or short story to life.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Author Niamh Donnellan brought her six magical folklore creatures to life in Wexford Libraries Branches during the month. The children listened to their stories and got the opportunity to draw their very own magical creatures.

Schools - Visits from school groups to all Libraries in the County continue this month including two groups to Gorey Library for Engineers Week workshops on building rockets using reused materials and using fragile materials to build structurally sound houses that could withstand the powerful blow of a hairdryer.

Wexford Libraries branches continued their visits this month to local primary schools and early learning centres.

HERITAGE

North Wexford Historical Society hosted a talk in Gorey Library "The Forgotten Voices of the Workhouse Women" with Treasa Wemyss.

In March, the staff in Local Studies began the cataloguing of the Séamus MacMathúna collection. These music scores and tune books will be available in our Reference Section in Wexford Library branch during Fleadh 2025.

Wexford Library and Archive staff attended training with DRI in relation to the upload of digitised material from our local collection and archive to DRI website.

Wexford Library had 21 local studies enquiries and 14 genealogy enquiries in March.

ARCHIVES

Collections management - In addition to 37 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of six researchers visited the Archive during March.

Topics included research on the forced landing of a German air force Heinkel plane in Tacumshane in early March 1941, including surviving parts of the plane's landing gear and pneumatic tyre; family history research for burials in Ferns cemetery (1909-50); family history research on rentals and estate maps from the Bruen estate (1792-1850); research through sports holdings for a forthcoming commemoration on camogie in North Wexford; conferral of the freedom of the Borough of Wexford on Éamonn de Valera on 4 October 1971 .

Acquisition - An autograph book belonging to William Cullimore and populated by his comrades during their internment in Ballykinlar internment camp in Co. Down during the period July-November 1921, was deposited during the month.

William, formerly from Talbot Street, Wexford town was Captain of the 4th Battalion of the South Wexford Brigade, IRA and one of the leading figures of the Republican movement in Wexford during the 1919-23 period. Signatories of the book hail from counties Cork, Kerry, Monaghan, Belfast, Kilkenny, Derry, Galway, Donegal, Meath, Clare, Waterford, Leitrim and Tipperary. Included in the little volume are salutations from seven of his fellow Wexford comrades including TD Sinnott, Wexford County Council's first County Manager.

ARTS

Artist in the Community Programme 2025

An Open Call took place in January 2025 and this scheme is open to all community groups that are members of Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) and/ or as well as community groups of place and interest, that are interested in working on an arts project with an artist from our Artist In the Community Artists Panel. This artist's panel comprises 32 artists based in Co. Wexford who work in a wide variety of art forms and have experience of engaging with communities. The maximum award is €3,000. A total of 15 projects were funded in March.

Artist Workspace Scheme 2025 - The Artist Workspace scheme offers funding to support professional artists to access suitable and flexible workspaces to develop their arts practices. The workspaces must accommodate at least two professional artists or artist collectives who are proposing to share resources for the benefit of their arts practices. Applications are welcome from artists working in all art forms. Grants will be available in the region of €3,000 per application and must accommodate at least two artists sharing a building or part of a building for their workspaces. Grants of up to €5,000 may be awarded to applications involving three or more artists taking a lease on a building. This was opened on 14th March and the deadline for applications is the 26th May 2025.

Theatre Forum Limerick Gathering - Wexford County Council Arts Office in partnership with Theatre Forum are offering two bursaries for theatre practitioners based in the Wexford area to attend the Theatre Forum annual Gathering in Limerick on 27/28 May 2025. An Open call took place in February. Applicants must be professional theatre practitioners living in the Wexford area. Applications opened in February and the deadline is Friday 28th March 2025.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Award - Two Wexford based artists will be selected for any art form, to spend one week at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a one-week period, studio and a stipend towards expenses. The selection panel met in late February and artists Joe Brennan and Eve McDonnell were announced as recipients.

Drama League of Ireland Scholarship 2025 - Open call is for two scholarships for the Drama League of Ireland Residential Summer School which takes place at the University of Limerick from July 19th – 26th 2025. This opportunity is for professional and amateur theatre companies and/or groups. Amy Redmond of Gorey Youth Theatre and Sinead Rafter of Bui Bolg Youth Arts were selected.

Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme - Wexford Arts Office is supporting two Wexford based artists to take part in the Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring programme. The selected artists will receive professional mentoring from an acclaimed Irish writer of their choosing. The open call took place in February and the deadline was the 2nd March 2025. Successful applicants to be announced mid-April.

Living Arts Project Exhibition - The launch of the Living Arts Project exhibition took place at the Wexford Arts Centre on 29th March. Living Arts Project was established as an artist-in-residency scheme in primary schools, supporting the existing partnership between the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre. The aim of this project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. The Living Arts Project exhibition represents a selection of work produced by the participating primary schools and offers pupils a chance to see their work presented in a professional gallery. Nine Artists were on the programme with 5 primary schools.

The Living Arts Project exhibition will run in the galleries of Wexford Arts Centre until Tuesday 29th April 2025. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10am-5pm, and Saturday from 10am-4pm.

Cultural Companions - is a network of adults of all ages interested in arts and culture who attend events around Wexford, together as a group. The network is facilitated by Wexford County Council who work with a volunteer to draw up a calendar of events to choose from every three months.

Wex Walks Tour - 15 members of the network met up in Wexford town for the Wex Walks tour.

Volunteer Meet Up - 10 members of the network met up to decide on the next three months of events that Cultural Companions will attend.

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE) - CPE is a 3-year Arts Council funded initiative in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford arts Office and Enniscorthy Municipal district seeking to embed creativity into Enniscorthy.

Feedback and Evaluation Workshop - CPE incited members of the public and creatives to attend a feedback and evaluation workshop in the Presentation Arts Centre in Enniscorthy on the 27th March. This was an open discussion for the community to share their experiences and help shape the future of creativity in Enniscorthy.

Storytelling Workshop - Creative Places Enniscorthy hosted a storytelling workshop as part of the AONTAS Adult Learners Festival 2025 in partnership with WWETB. Led by Amy Redmond from Act the Maggot, the session brought together WWETB part-time learners from Enniscorthy FET Centre for a fun and engaging experience.

St Patrick's Day Workshop

CPE with Artist Lynn Haughton from the Upcycle Movement hosted a free workshop on March 16th at the Athenaeum in Enniscorthy for people to design and create their own costume for the St Patrick's Day Parade all using Upcycled Materials.



Samhlaíocht agus An Náisiún - Imagination and the Nation at Áras an Uachtaráin

CPE were represented by Deryn O'Callaghan at the Úachtarain on St Patrick's Day to celebrate the role community arts play in inclusion and creativity across Ireland.

Music Generation - Ongoing partnership between Wexford County council, WWETB and Music Generation supporting performance music education countywide for young people in 25 schools and a variety of youth work contexts.

Yellow Bellógs Launch - Music Generation launched the new youth singing group Yellow Bellógs. This is a trainee youth singing group for Yellow Bellows for young people aged from 10-18 years. These weekly sessions will be held every Friday in The Presentation Arts Centre Enniscorthy from 4-5pm and will be led by Musician Educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford.

The group will explore singing and performing dynamic songs, styles including rock and pop, develop new performance skills and meet, socialise, and have fun with other young people.

Screen Wexford - An Arts Office, Economic Department initiative to support the development of the film / screen industry in Wexford.

Crew Networking Event for International Women's Day - The networking event was open to anyone interested in and/or currently working in video, gaming, social media, film and TV or any screen-related industries. This included writers, directors, producers, creators and crew from all departments. This event was an opportunity for local filmmakers and talent in the Southeast to meet and network while hearing from Screen Wexford on upcoming training, opportunities, and initiatives.



Shadowing Fund 2025 - The Shadowing Fund initiative is to support a Wexford film crew participant on a film or television set to shadow and learn from an experienced and professional filmmaker. These can be in the areas of Director, Producer, DOP, Art Dept, Gaffer, Editor, Scriptwriter, Script Editor etc.

Ethan Ryan had the incredible opportunity to shadow, script supervisor Anna Hession, on the set of Baz Ashmawy's hit series Faithless in March from the last round in 2024. Deadline for this round was the 28th March 2025.

Film Professional Development Fund 2025 - This can be used to help complete an already filmed piece.

The fund can be used for research, script writing, training course, filming, postproduction, sound design & mix and festival entry. Deadline for the applications was the 28th of March 2025.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Neurodiversity - Access and Welcome at Gorey's Festivals

Cathy Coughlan has been awarded funding from Creative Ireland to develop a better understanding of access and welcome for neurodivergent audiences, artists, volunteers and organisers at Gorey's festivals. Cathy will consider pre-visit materials, sensory landscapes, adaption toolkits and staff training. The voices of neurodivergent communities will be central to the process and will shape the overall direction of the project. Learnings will be shared county wide.

This is one of Wexford County Council's Culture Team projects for 2025. A collaboration between the Access Team and Gorey Municipal District, it encourages cross-departmental working through community focussed projects.

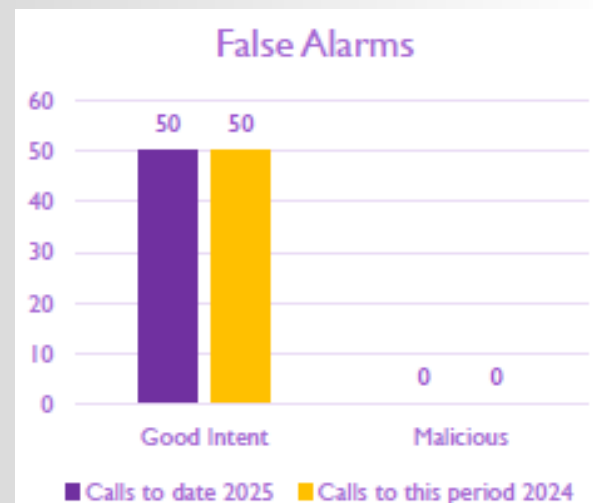
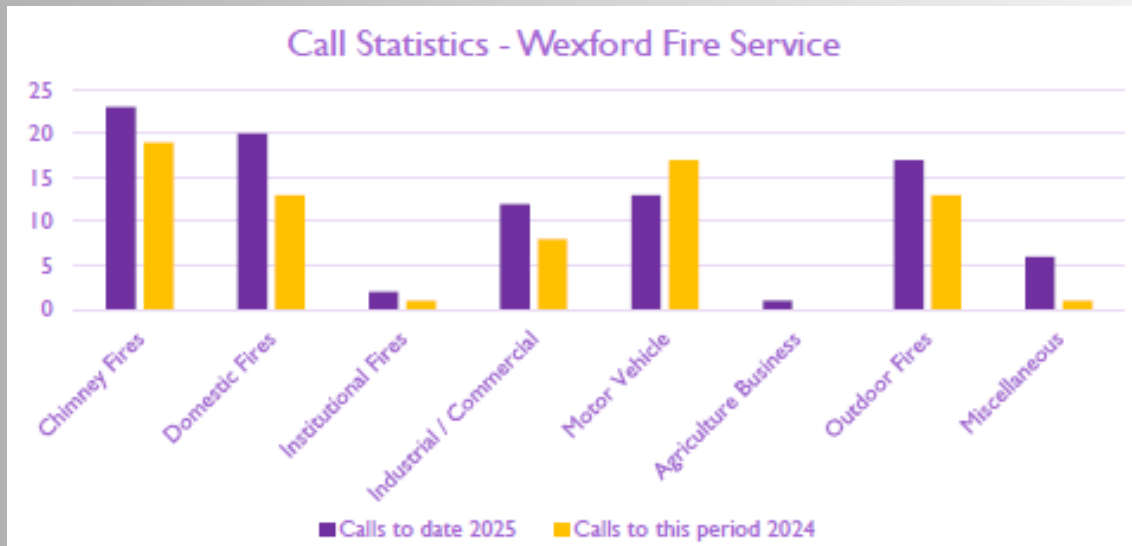
So Say So - took place at Wexford Arts Centre. So Say So is an exciting series of poetry and music events celebrating artistic expression. These editions are one of Creative Ireland Wexford's six Irish Language projects for 2025, meeting our strategic priority to 'promote the love and use of the Irish language in our community'. Another Irish language edition will be held on Culture Night in September.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 - Cruinniú na nÓg (a day of creativity for children and young people) will be held on the 7th June this year. Proposals for workshops to be held at Wexford's five libraries and FRCs were sought in March, and a programme for the day is being finalised. This is in addition to workshops that will be held with seven targeted 'seldom heard' groups (as identified by Creative Ireland) across County Wexford. Four workshops will be held with each group in May, culminating in a showcase on the 7th June.

The Wexford/Belfast Shared Island for Cruinniú project has also begun. Using 360-degree video making, theatre and spoken word, this project will build critical thinking around the mis-information presented through social media relating to the intersection between Climate Change and Health. Groups of young people from Wexford and Belfast have been engaged, and they will have in-person visits during April and May, culminating in a showcase on 7th June.

Funding from the Night Time Economy for Cruinniú has been awarded to support The Night Belongs to Youth in Enniscorthy. Workshops and creative activity will take place on Vinegar Hill on the evening of the 7th June, celebrating summer and youth.

WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES MARCH 2025



Vacancies



Station	Vacancies	Status
Enniscorthy	0	Panel in place
Gorey	1	1 candidate awaiting training
New Ross	4	1 candidate awaiting training 3 Vacancies available (No panel in place)
Wexford	1	1 candidate awaiting training
Bunclody	1	1 candidate awaiting training

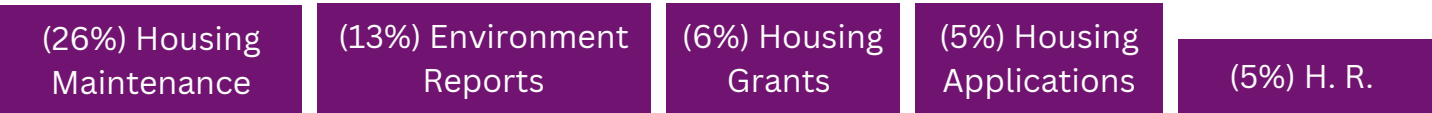
**Total: 7 Vacancies at FF Grade
0 Vacancies at Station Officers**

CORPORATE SERVICES

Customer Service Unit Statistics – March 2025

Task	March 2025
Phone Calls	3,342
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,786

Top 5 CSU Phone Queries



FOI OFFICE REQUESTS March2025

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	5
Customer Complaint	14
Ombudsman Complaint	2
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	0
Total	21

FINANCE

Annual Financial Statement 2024

The 2024 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts (AFS) is now complete and an overview report of the accounts is included as a separate item on the agenda for the April meeting for review and consideration by members. The statutory deadline, 31st March, for the completion of the 2024 Accounts has been achieved and the accounts will be subject to Audit by the Local Government Audit Service.

Local Authority Home Loan Allocation

The Council has received the 2025 Local Authority Home Loan allocation of €9,710,000, which is included as a separate item on the April agenda for Members approval.

Audit Committee

The last meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 19th March, 2025 and the next meeting is scheduled for the 18th June, 2025.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €15m for the period to the 31st December, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS

Continuing our campaign on **Illegal Dumping**, we are engaging with our communities in an effort to stop this blight in our towns and countryside.

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns
18h · 🌐

💛💛 **Wexford County Council** have played a blinder here! Well done to their dedicated crews for clearing this mess the very next day

🔍 would be great to see the culprits caught - fingers 🍷

✅ Wexford County Council has a dedicated illegal dumping report service. See details here <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/waste.../report-illegal-dumping>

#thankyou #LocalAuthority #Wexford



Enniscorthy Tidy Towns, Slaney News and 15 others · 2 comments · 6 shares

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relevant ▾

Sustainable Enniscorthy · Follow
Very prompt thorough response **Wexford County Council**. Hopefully the evidence you found will prove useful in preventing future illegal dumping 🍷

12h · Like · Reply · Hide

👤 Reply to Sustainable Enniscorthy

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns
Thank you so much for this **Wexford County Council** - it is really appreciated

18h · Like · Reply · Hide

Call out for Fleadh Volunteers for 2025 is underway

Wexford County Council
Published by Eimear Kennedy
· 24 March at 14:31 · 🌐

lead Volunteers needed for Fleadh Cheoil 2025



wexfordcoco LDC at Wexford County Council Calling all Volunteers for Fleadh Cheoil 2025

The Fleadh Cheoil Volunteer Team was out in force at the Bulli for the St Patrick's Day parade, recruiting new volunteers 🍷

If you'd like to take part in this years Fleadh, head over to <https://fleadhcheoil.ie/volunteering> to find out more!

#Fleadh2025 #FleadhForAll @volunteerwexford @officialvegas

1 · View Insights · Boost

👍👍👍 Liked by eimeardoh and 30 others
7 days ago

We Are Hiring

Summer 2025

BEACH WARDEN

CURRACLOE AREA

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms for this post is:
5.00 pm on Thursday 17th April, 2025

We Are Hiring

Summer 2025

BEACH WARDEN/SUPERVISOR

- DUNCANNON
- MORRISCATTLE
- ROSSLARE/CARNE AREA

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms for this post is:
5.00 pm on Thursday 17th April, 2025

Join our Team at
Wexford County Council

Integration Support Worker (Grade VI)

Selection for the post will be by means of interview and candidates may be shortlisted based on applications submitted. Panels may be formed from which future vacancies may be filled.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms for this post is:
5.00 pm on Thursday 17th April, 2025

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- Meaningful work impacting local communities
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Wexford County Council lights
up to support World Autism Day

Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive