



2026



APRIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council



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PHOTO ALBUM APRIL 2026



WEAR RED DAY 2026



RUBBISH FILM FESTIVAL



RUBBISH FILM FESTIVAL 2026



ENNISCORTHY DIGITAL RETAIL VILLAGE



REUSABLE PARTY PACKS



WEXFORD CIVIL DEFENCE



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WEXFORD CIVIL DEFENCE - ST. PATRICKS DAY



 St. Patrick's Day 2026 - Wexford, New Ross & Gorey

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 – Highlights

For Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026, we participated in a significant and impactful way, with two standout events: the launch of the Binse Comhrá in Wexford town and a Pop-Up Gaeltacht in New Ross.



The Binse Comhrá (Conversation Bench / Happy to Chat as Gaeilge) was officially launched on Friday, 6 March, in cooperation with Wexford Borough District Office and Healthy Wexford. The initiative was warmly received and met with strong community support.

Notably, the launch event directly led to the formation of a new local Irish-language community group in Wexford town, highlighting the appetite for further opportunities to use and promote Gaeilge locally.



In New Ross, a Pop-Up Gaeltacht took place on 12 March, bringing local Irish speakers together in an informal and welcoming setting. The event attracted 23 attendees and was very positively received. Its success has resulted in requests for additional events of this nature, reflecting growing local interest in Irish-language social opportunities. The next Pop-Up Gaeltacht in New Ross is scheduled for 9 April, continuing to build on this momentum.

Other events that took place in County Wexford During Seachtain na Gaeilge include;

- A Special Seachtain na Gaeilge Ciorcal Comhrá in New Ross Library on the 3rd March
- Special Seachtain na Gaeilge Ciorcal Comhrá in Wexford Library on Friday the 6th March
- Pop up Gaeltacht organised in association with Conradh na Gaeilge in Wexford Town on 10th March
- Beginner Irish classes run by Irish speaking staff in both Wexford and Gorey Libraries.
- The Wexford County Council Seachtain na Gaeilge Quiz took place over the course of SnaG.

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. (1,190 below includes leasing)

Housing For All 2022-2026						
1,190 Target	- (1,167 Units Delivered	+	312 Units Projected	=	1,479 Delivery Pipeline
)				=	289 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 closed on 26th February. **A new Expression of Interest will open on 15th April and run until the 28th May, 2026.** 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
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2027	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2026	14
		Total Turnkey Units	28

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 & 4	2 x 2-bed	Q2 2026	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	6 x 3 bed 1 x 3-bed apt 1 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2026	8
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q1 2026	2
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	1

Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Millquarter, Knockmullen	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Q1 2026	12
Fermoyle Manor, Kilanerin	1 X 3 bed hse	Q1 2026	1
Ramsbrook, Ramstown Lower	10 X 3 bed hse	Delivering on a phased basis from Q3 2026	10
Dun Greine, Coolgreany	1 X 3 bed	Q2 2026	1
		Total Part V	45
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey (AHB)	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
Overall Total			159

Rosslare Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Carrig-on-Bannow (TURNKEY)	5 x 1 bed 5 x 2 bed	5 Delivered Dec 2025 5 due in Q1 2026	10
Murrintown Upper (PART V)	3 x 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	3
Overall Total			13

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	4 Delivered December 2025. 10 due in 2026	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	7 x 3 bed	4 delivered Q4 2025. 2 delivered March 2026	7
		Total Turnkey	21
Holly-Close, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy (Part V)	2 X 2 bed hse 1 X 3 bed hse	Delivered Q1 2026	3
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy (Part V)	16 x 3 bed hse 2 x 2 bed hse 16 x 1 bed apt	9 Delivered December 2025. 5 delivered Q1 2026	34
		Total Part V	37
Milehouse, Phase 2, Enniscorthy (AHB)	7 x 1 bed hse 26 x 2 bed hse	19 delivered. 14 delivered Q1 2026	33
		Total AHB	33
Overall Total			91

New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) (AHB)	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q2 2026	48
Overall Total			48

Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard Uisce, Wexford	8 x 2-bed	2 Delivered Q2 2 Delivered Q3 2 Delivered Q4	8
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge	2 x 3 bed	Q2 2026	2
Turners Way, Coolcotts	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q2 2026	4
Clos na Pairce, Park	3 x 2 bed 3 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	6
The Paddocks, Coolcots	7 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	7
Manor Grove, Roxborough	1 x 2 bed	Q2 2026	1
Roxborough, Wexford	23 x 2 bed apt	Q4 2026	23
Total Part V			51
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed, 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed, 1 x 4-bed	Q2 2026	50
Overall Total			101

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to **150** units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No. of Units	District	No. of Units
Enniscorthy	30	Rosslare	35
Gorey	31	Wexford	45
New Ross	9	Total	150



Home & Energy Expo – Wexford

Members of Wexford County Councils Housing and Finance teams attended the first-ever 'Southeast Radio Home & Energy Expo', held at St. Peter's College, Wexford. The event, which was opened by Minister for Housing, James Browne TD, saw almost 4,000 attendees engage with over 30 exhibitors.

All programme details are available on the council website, alternatively please email affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme 2026 is the sixth 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 and number of properties delivered and funded to date, under this programme.

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	No of Properties Allocated	No Delivered & Funding Received
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118
2025	120	120
Total	409	421
Status Update March 2026		
Units completed to date		35*
Works in progress		33
Contract Awarded		13
In tender process		19
Survey/Tender Doc Prep		50
	Total	150 No.
	2026 allocation	130 No.

Notes: * 17 units completed in 2025

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



'Rams Brooke' Gorey, Co Wexford - Application Portal to open 15th April 2026

Applications for the new phase of affordable homes at Rams Brooke, Gorey are scheduled to open- April 15th, 2026, at 12.00pm.

Application details are available New Affordable Housing Scheme - Rams Brooke, Gorey, Co Wexford | Wexford County Council

For further information please email affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie

Choice Based Letting - 109 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2026 to 25/03/26. Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table below:-

Municipal District	No. of Properties Advertised	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4/5-bed
Enniscorthy	20	1	11	7	1
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	33	2	15	15	1
New Ross	46	9	20	17	0
Rosslare	2	0	2	0	0
Wexford	8	1	4	3	0
TOTAL	109	13	52	42	2

Housing Tenancies 2026 - From the 1st January to 30th March 2026 there were 93 new tenancies.

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	3	5	14	0	0	22
New Ross	9	0	0	0	0	9
Enniscorthy	5	1	10	16	0	32
Wexford	5	2	1	7	2	17
Rosslare	5	0	1	7	0	13
TOTAL	27	8	26	30	2	93

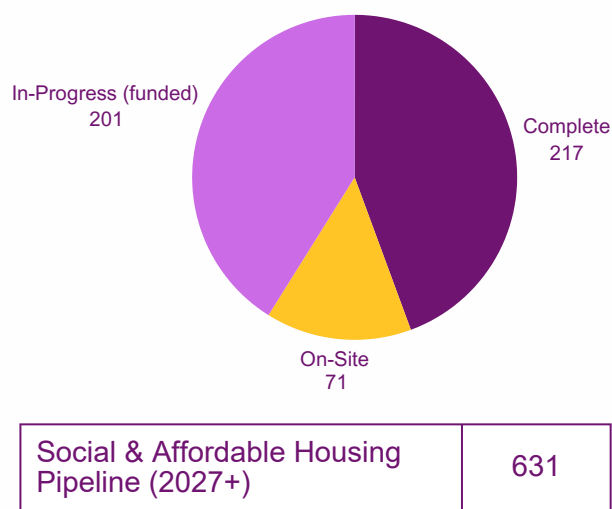
Estate Management Cases – Logged between 01/01/2026 and 31/03/2026

Complaint	Enniscorthy	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Rosslare	Wexford
Abandonment	0	0	3	0	0
Breach of Tenancy	0	6	5	3	8
Damage to Property	0	2	0	0	2
Estate Management	19	15	13	2	4
End of Tenancy	0	0	1	0	0
Unauthorised Occupants	1	3	1	1	1
Verbal Abuse/ Violence/ Harassment/Drugs	1	16	7	1	8
TOTAL	21	42	30	7	23

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION –CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

Construction Status

Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY	
Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings Complete 2024	54
Dwellings Complete 2025	92
Dwellings to Complete 2026	71
Funded Projects for delivery 2026 / 2027	201



Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2026

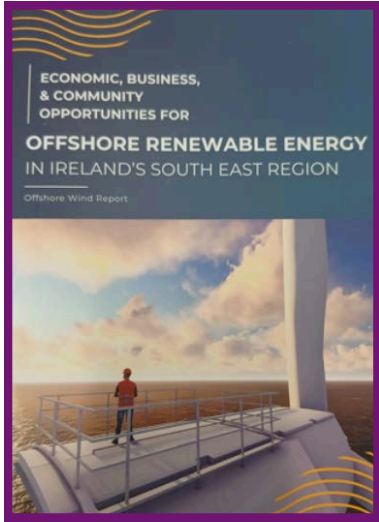
Lacken TAP	1	Monomolin, Gorey	5	Total 71
Killeens, Wexford	60	Ballygillane, Rosslare	5	

Funded Projects for delivery 2026 – 2027					
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Belvedere, Wexford	18	Rosbercon, New Ross	50
Clonard, Wexford	57	Adamstown, New Ross	4	St. Walerans, Gorey (social)	40
Bride Street, Wexford	3	Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	Grogan's Road, Wexford	4
Total 201					

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Group TAP Housing	5	Kilmore Quay (10 units & 4 serviced sites)	14
Creagh, Gorey	24	Castlemoyle, New Ross	82
The Lyre, Enniscorthy	92	Park, Wexford	12
Bunclody, Enniscorthy (PPP on hold)	65	St Walerans, Gorey (affordables)	35
Ballynagee, Wexford Masterplan (to be phased)	252	Turrett Rocks, Enniscorthy	50
Total 631			

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

South East Positioned for Major Economic Boost from Offshore Renewable Energy



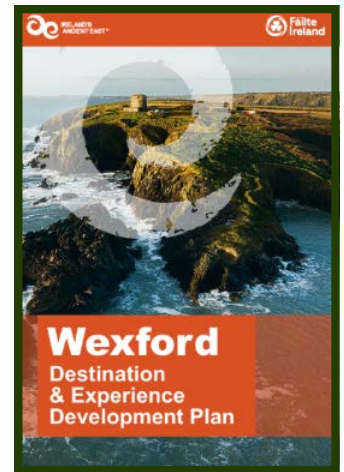
The South East of Ireland stands to secure a transformative economic uplift from offshore renewable energy development, according to a new report funded by Wexford County Council and the Local Authorities in the South East and prepared by the South East Energy Agency. The report examines the economic, business and community opportunities arising from the South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP). A key theme was the strategic alignment between Wexford, Waterford, Carlow and Kilkenny, who are working collectively to ensure the region is fully prepared to capture the supply chain, infrastructure and enterprise benefits associated with offshore wind. The report highlights that the development of 4.9GW of offshore wind capacity off the South Coast could generate between €1.7 billion and €2.2 billion in additional Gross Value Added (GVA) for the wider South Region.

Based on current regional output of approximately €19.5 billion, this represents a potential uplift of over 11% to the South East economy. A key focus will be the development of skill capacity in the sector with both SETU and WWETB as the key agencies in the region to respond to this need. In addition to the direct economic contribution, the report estimates that up to €500 million could flow into local communities through the Community Benefit Fund mechanism over the lifetime of the projects. These funds are intended to support social infrastructure, rural and coastal resilience, and long-term community development.

TOURISM

The Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

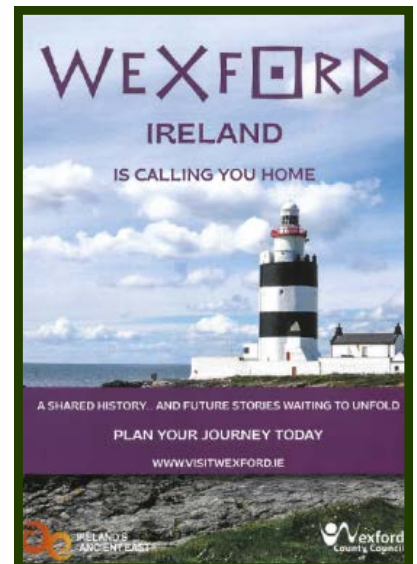
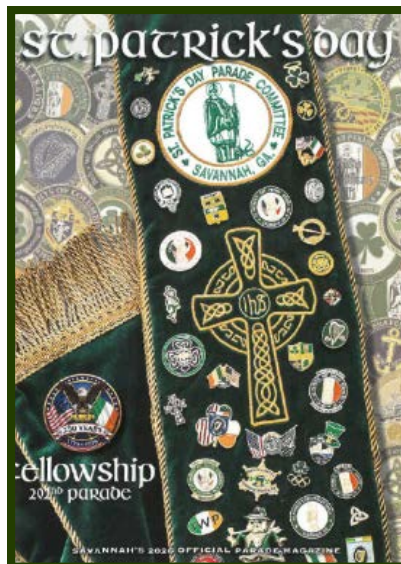
The Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) Implementation Group held their last meeting on Thursday 5th March. The DEDP action list was discussed and priority projects for 2026 were identified. Director of Service, Liz Hore gave an update on the progress on the active Wexford County Council projects identified in the DEDP.



St Patrick's Day in Savannah.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Joe Sullivan led a delegation to Savannah to progress economic, educational and cultural opportunities. A separate report on the delegation visit is attached.

As part of the campaign targeting international visitors, marketing materials were placed in the St. Patrick's Day Parade magazine in Savannah to encourage visitors from America to engage with the visitwexford.ie website exploring all that County Wexford has to offer.





Tourism Ireland hosts 'Floating Roadshow' in Germany

Tourism Ireland was joined by twenty-two tourism businesses from the island of Ireland on a sales mission on the River Rhine in Germany during St Patrick's week. County Wexford was strongly represented as part of an international market focus on a key market. The Roadshow brought Irish tourism businesses in front of 600 key German travel agents, tour operators and influential media in the cities of Cologne, Bonn, Koblenz, Mainz, Mannheim, Speyer, Karlsruhe, Wiesbaden and Bingen.

As part of the roadshow, an event also took place in Frankfurt Airport. The aim of the event was to inform and inspire the German travel professionals and media about all that Ireland has to offer, highlighting to the wealth of experiences on offer holidaying in Ireland and to win a greater share of the travel professionals' business for 2026 and beyond. Germany is the third-largest source of visitors to the island of Ireland and one of the largest outbound travel markets in the world.



Meitheal 2026

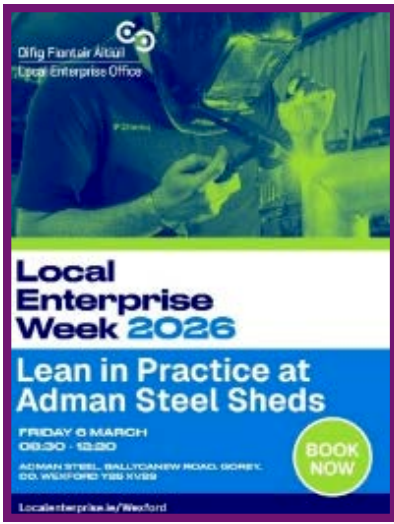
Meitheal 2026 was held in Killarney on March 24-25, 2026. This is Fáilte Ireland's flagship tourism trade event which showcases Irish tourism products to international buyers. The event connects over 400 Irish tourism businesses with approximately 267 international buyers from 17 countries. One of the key focuses of the event is to highlight new tourism experiences, including cultural, outdoor, and unique accommodation offerings. Meitheal 2026 was attended by the Tourism Development Officer and ten Wexford business representatives.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Enterprise Week 2026



Enterprise Week 2026, the annual National LEO network initiative to support small businesses and emerging entrepreneurs, took place from the 2nd to the 6th March. LEO Wexford delivered a strong programme of soldout events, attracting over 240 entrepreneurs to training sessions and networking opportunities. Throughout the week, themes such as strategy, digitalisation, lean processes, intellectual property, marketing, competitiveness, sustainability, and leadership were woven into workshops, talks, and interactive sessions.



The week opened with the Let's Talk Digital training in Gorey, where programme participants explored how software solutions can be integrated into their businesses. This was followed by the AI Works for Ireland event at Google HQ in Dublin, where participants learned from experts about the practical business applications of AI tools. Later in the week, LEO Wexford brought a group of business owners to Adman Steel Sheds in Gorey for a Lean in Practice site visit, highlighting the importance of operational efficiency.

Recognising the vital role LEOs play in fostering earlystage entrepreneurship, LEO Wexford also delivered onetoone business advisory clinics and a Start Your Own Business course during the week.



The entrepreneurial spirit among young people in county Wexford was strongly evident on Thursday, 5th March, when more than **170 students** showcased their Student Enterprise Programme minibusinesses at Wexford County Council. These finalists, representing **21 secondary schools**, were selected from **1,573 participating students** countywide. Students from **Ramsgrange Community School** were announced as overall winners in the Senior category, while **CBS Wexford** students won both the Junior and Intermediate competitions. All three teams will represent Wexford at the National Final in Mullingar in May.

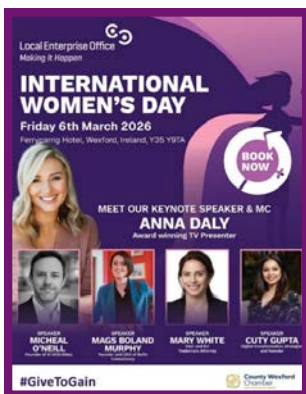


A panel discussion, facilitated by Shonagh Lyons of Beat FM, featured successful local entrepreneurs Conor and Lesley Bates (The Trough and The Grounds) and Alan Joyce (CEO of Coding Ireland). They shared insights into establishing and growing their businesses and addressed questions submitted in real time by students via the Menti app.



Throughout the week, LEO Wexford provided opportunities for local businesses to showcase their products. Nutorious Nutrition and Trudies Kitchen supplied locally produced refreshments at the digitalisation and student enterprise awards event.

In addition, ten local female craft makers—including Design Notions, Kosy, Fire and Stain, Julsuluv, Pebbles by Verna, Jackie Mitchell Art, Grainne Moore Pottery, Timea Jewellery, Wild Herb Elixirs, and PQ Glass Design—exhibited and sold their work at a dedicated craft showcase during the International Women’s Day event.



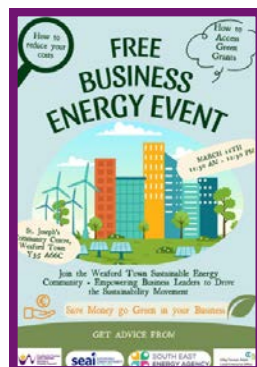
A highlight of the week was the International Women’s Day event held on Friday at the Ferrycarrig Hotel, which brought together 146 entrepreneurs, business owners, and stakeholders. Delivered in partnership with County Wexford Chamber, the event reflected the theme “Give to Gain,” emphasising the value of shared knowledge and community support in building a resilient local business environment.

Broadcaster and entrepreneur Anna Daly acted as MC and keynote speaker, sharing her experiences from both her media career and business endeavours. Her reflections on adaptability and creative thinking provided a strong foundation for the morning’s discussions.

Attendees also heard short insight-led presentations from LEO Wexford mentors on Strategy, Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, and Digitalisation

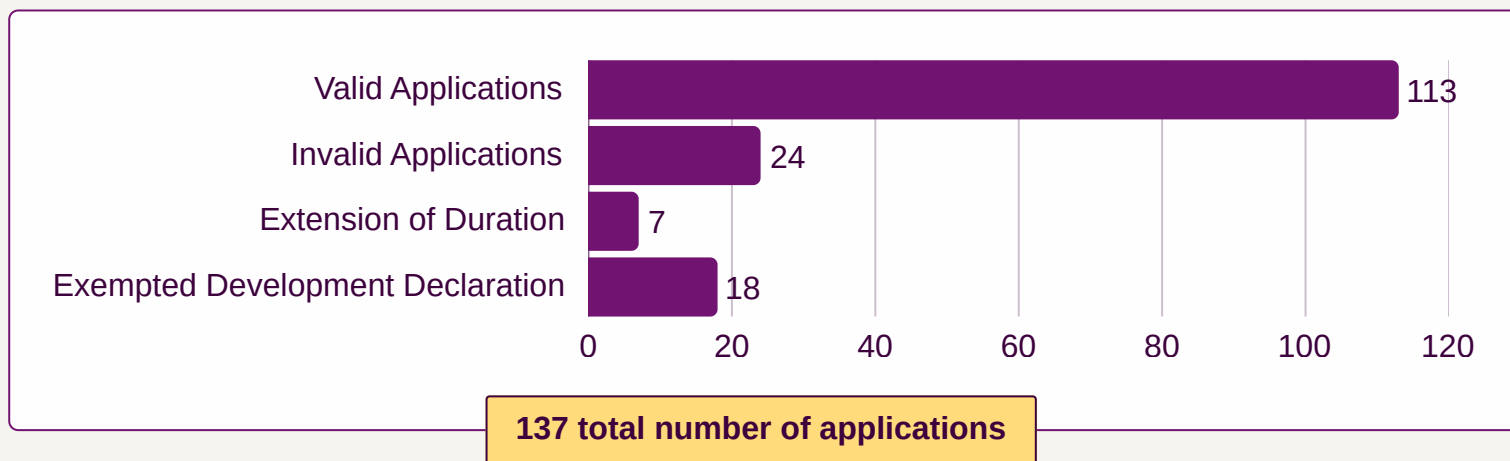


The theme of sustainability continued on 12 March, when LEO Wexford collaborated with the Wexford Sustainable Energy Community, South East Energy Agency, and Wexford County Council Climate Action Team to provide information on business supports aimed at reducing energy costs and improving sustainability across operations.

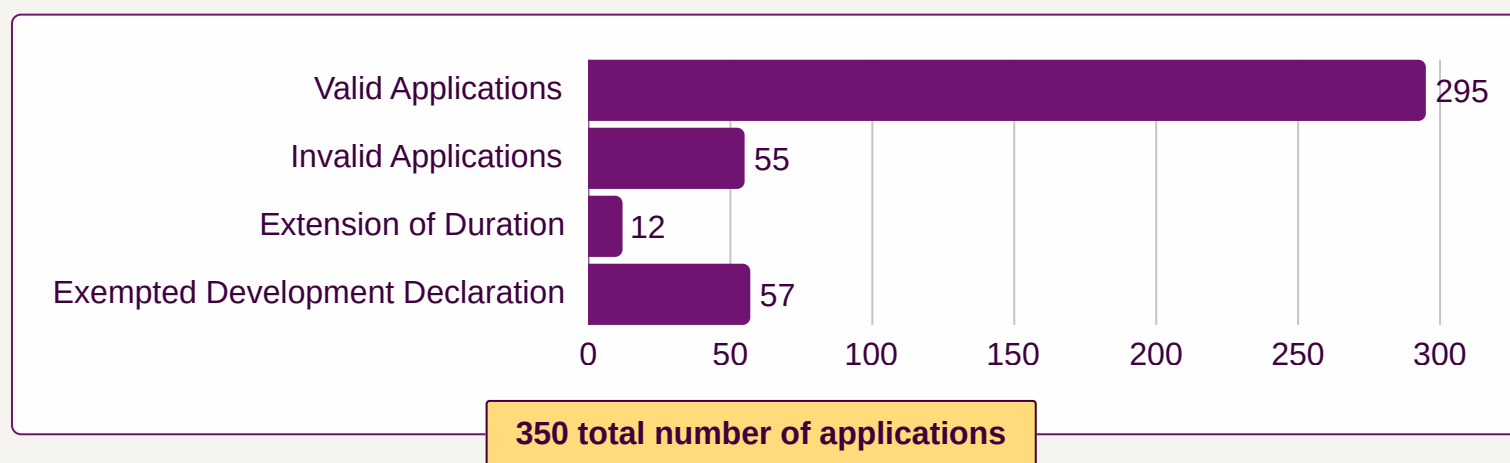


PLANNING

Planning applications received 23rd February 2026 to the 22nd March 2026



Planning applications received 1st January to 22nd March 2026



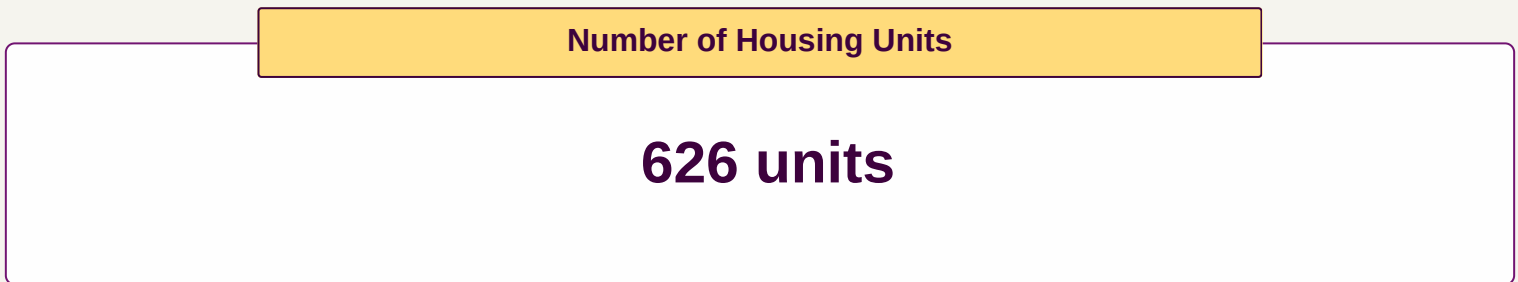
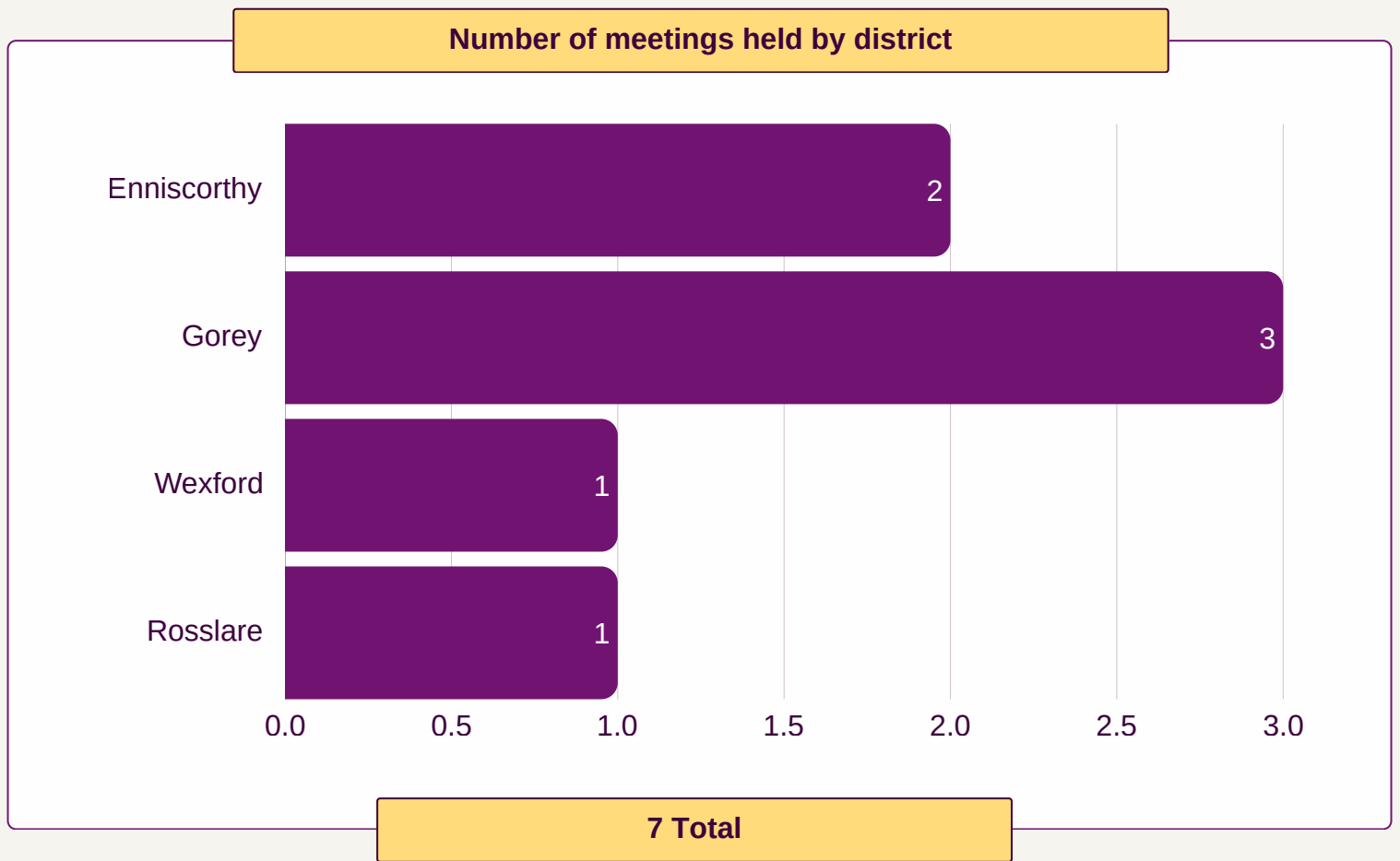
Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 22nd March 2026

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	22	13	8
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	35	36	22
New Ross MD	31	28	1
Rosslare MD	31	25	3
Wexford BD	20	20	4
Total	139	122	38

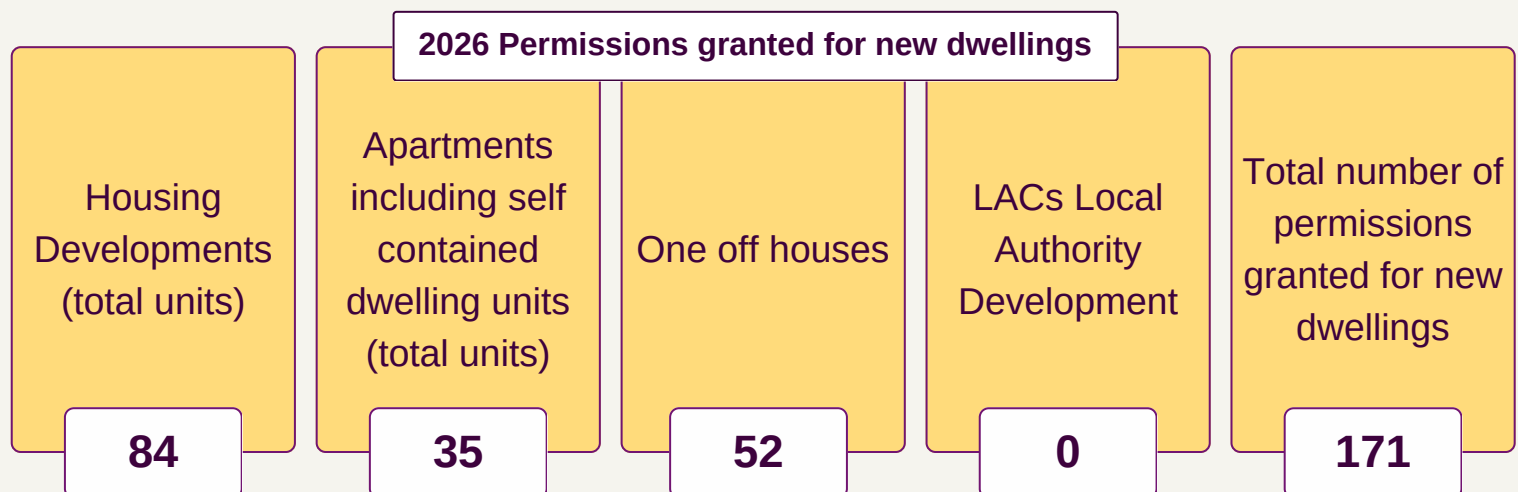
Average days to pre-planning meeting is **24**

PLANNING CONT.

Major Pre-Planning - Year to date to the 22nd March 2026



Planning CSO Returns - year to date to the 28th February 2026



PLANNING CONT.

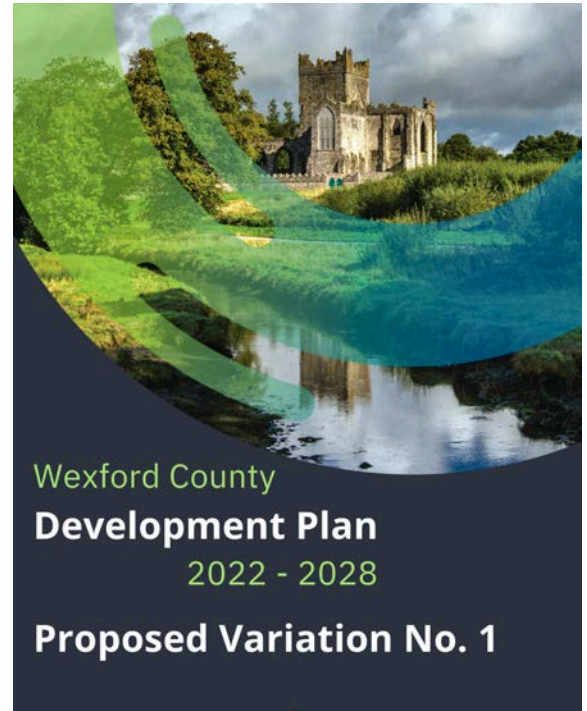
Forward Planning

Variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan

The Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022–2028 was placed on public display from 11 February 2026 to 12 March 2026, inclusive. A total of 64 submissions were received during this period. The Chief Executive is currently preparing a report on these submissions, which is expected to be presented to the Members in early April.

Workshops with the Members have been scheduled in the New Ross District on Tuesday, 14 April and in the Enniscorthy District on Thursday, 16 April. A Special Meeting of the Council will take place on Monday, 20 April, 2026. Should material alterations be formally proposed at this Special Meeting, the Draft Variation will be subject to a further period of public consultation and display.

Progress is continuing on Proposed Variation No. 2, relating to Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane, and Bunclody. Workshops for the Members of the Rosslare and Enniscorthy Districts will be arranged in the coming weeks to present and discuss Proposed Variation No. 2



Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 22nd March 2026

463

Live cases

58

Cases opened
year to date

65

Cases closed
year to date

Building Control - Year to date up to the 22nd March 2026

75

Validated
commencement
notices

101

Building control
inspections

46

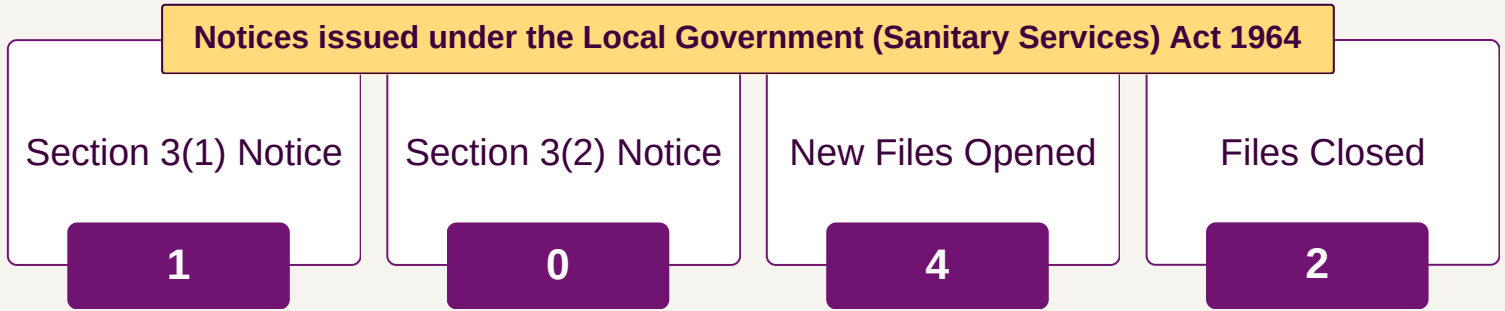
Validated cert. of
compliance on
completion

1

Taking in charge
reports sent to
districts

PLANNING CONT.

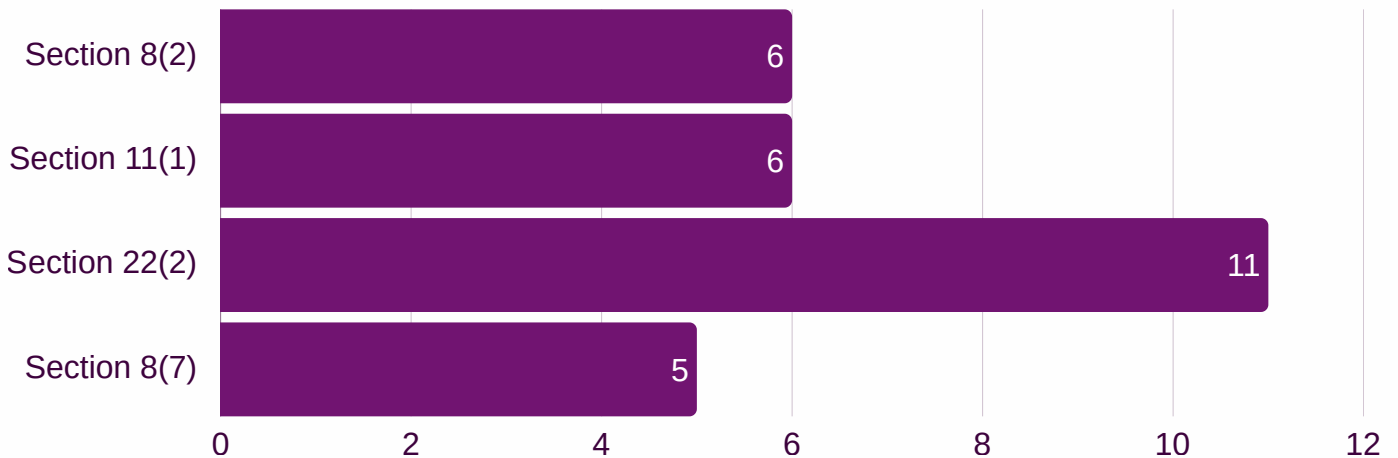
Dangerous Structures and Places - Year to date up to the 22nd March 2026



- **Section 3(1) Notice** instructs the owner to carry out works to make the site safe within a timeframe
- **Section 3(2) Notice** the Local Authority carries out the works to make the site safe. The owner is charged the cost of works.

Derelict Sites - year to date up to 22nd March 2026

Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990



28 total notices issued

153

Sites on the
Derelict Site
Register

6

New files
opened

48

Site
inspections/visits
carried out

3

Files closed

302

Live cases



- **Section 8(2):** Notice of intention of entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- **Section 11(1):** A list of works required to be carried out by the owner within a timeframe
- **Section 8(7):** Notice of entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- **Section 22(2):** Notice of site valuation prior to the issue of Derelict site levies
- **Section 8(4):** Removal from the Register

PLANNING CONT.

URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund

193 sites approved on the programme as of the 22nd March 2026

- **37** Engagement with Property Owner Commenced
- **4** Process to Purchase Commenced by CPO
- **1** Awaiting initial engagement with property owner
- **4** Property Acquired by LA
- **5** Advertised for sale - property owned by LA
- **84** Brought back into use by Original Owner (closed case)
- **42** Property no longer vacant/derelict following review (closed case)
- **7** Being Dealt with Under Different Programme
- **9** Sold by local authority



Disability Access Certificates (DACs) Year to date up to the 22nd March 2026

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	5	0	1	4	0
Gorey	5	1	0	4	0
New Ross	10	0	5	4	1
Wexford	6	0	5	1	0
Rosslare	4	1	1	1	1
Totals	30	2	12	14	2

30 total number of valid DAC applications (including carry over from 2025)

Disability proofing - year to date up to the 22nd March 2026

52

LAC/PLAC/LRD and
General Planning Applications

1

Major pre-planning event days

REGENERATION UNIT

Town Centre First

A National review is ongoing on the Town Centre first programme with a programme to be tailored following this review. There is a national funding stream secured for TCF and the rollout of this fund will be informed by the review and recommendations on moving forward.

Town Centre First Teams are being considered as part of the Local Democracy Taskforce Report which is due to be published in the coming weeks, and we await the outcome of this report which again will inform how we progress with the 7 Town Centre First Teams in County Wexford.

Town Centre First Teams Review.

Wexford- The Town Team met in March to progress the TCF Strategy which will be incorporated into the LAP. Meeting again in April to approve draft Plan.

Enniscorthy - Meeting Bimonthly, currently looking at the TCF Plan and funding stream applications. Plans to look at nighttime economy and review of Digital Town blueprint in 2026.

New Ross – Due to meet in April. Developing a 2026 programme for Town Team.

Courtown/Riverchapel - Meeting Bimonthly with a focus currently on funding streams for Project Interventions on TCF Plan. Also focusing on review of Digital Town Blueprint with particular attention to Digital Tourism.

Castlebridge – Meeting regularly with specific attention around TVRS Grant of €500k for Castlebridge House gardens and potential funding for Castlebridge Grain store.

Bunclody – Meeting Bimonthly. Putting programme together for the year with current focus on Parking issues within the Town

Taghmon – Meeting Bimonthly. Current focus on local traffic and development issues outlined in TCF Health check and there is a review of Town Team membership.

Vacant Homes

From the 1st April there is an expansion of the Croi Conaithe scheme with the addition of 3 new initiatives. Initial interest seems strong in Wexford and we will be promoting this widely to encourage over the shop living and getting vacant potential accommodation space back into active use, which will address vacancy and dereliction and provide much needed housing. The 3 new initiatives are outlined below:

- **The Vacant Above the Shop Grant**, which will provide funding of up to €135,000 to support bringing above the shop vacant spaces into residential use, where the commercial element is remaining.
- **Targeted Top-Up of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**, aligning it with the new grant for conversion of above the shop vacant spaces, with additional funding of up to €40,000 where entire former commercial buildings are being converted into two or more residential units.
- **The Expert Advice Grant**, funding of up to €5,000 towards professional advice on conversion of above the shop spaces and of entire former commercial properties to residential units.

To promote this new Grant and to raise awareness of the range of supports that are available for addressing dereliction and Vacancy, in conjunction with the Economic section of Wexford County Council we will be hosting a series of roadshows where staff will be available to go through all the supports and to help potential applicants with their queries.

REGENERATION UNIT

Each MD will have their own “**Vacant Property & Business Support Roadshow**” with dates and venues outlined below.

- Tues 21st April 2pm-7pm Gorey Library, Gorey Civic Offices
- Wed 22nd April 2pm-7pm Tholsel New Ross
- Thurs 23rd April 2pm-7pm County Library, Wexford
- Tues 28th April 2pm-7pm Market Square Council Offices, Enniscorthy.
- Thus 30th April 2pm-7pm The Bank Community and Enterprise hub, Rosslare Harbour.

There are now 4 applications forms on the WCC website under the Regeneration Unit outlining the supports available under Croi Conaithe.

- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant
- Vacant above the Shop Grant
- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Conversion of former Commercial/Public use Building
- Expert Advice Grant

Existing Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Work is continuing on vacant homes with €685,709 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks and €410,000 of initial approvals granted in this time period which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

There is strong interest in the recently announced “Vacant above the Shop Grant” and it is operational since 1st April 2026.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 24-03-26			
Applications Received	599	Awaiting Approval	0
Inspections Required (First)	9	Applications Rejected	9
Inspections Required (Final)	1	Applications Approved In Principle	5
Applications Info Requested	133	Withdrawn By Applicant	15
Applications Approved	440	Funding Issued	190
Total Funding Paid to Date		€10,499,403.40	
Total Funding Approved in Principle		€25,477,852.00	

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme

<p>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</p>	<p>Blackstairs GWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CaimTank – Works complete. • Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept. • Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q3 2026.
<p>MARWP 2024-2026</p>	<p>MARWP 2024-2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding approval – €1.2 million for the upgrade of 3.9km Watermain for Blackstairs GWS. • Topographical Survey carried out • Detail design ongoing • Site Investigations contract preparation underway • Notification from DHLGH received stating that Kilanerin funding for nitrate treatment not approved. • Notification from DHLGH received stating that Blackstairs funding for treatment tank and plant upgrade works not approved.
<p>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</p>	<p>Individual Well Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 18 new well grant applications were registered in March 2026 • 31 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €59,882.74 • 57 inspections to date carried out in March 2026.
<p>Group Water Scheme Subsidies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy A Reminder letters being sent to GWSs to apply for this year’s subsidy. Applications due in by 30th June 2026. One application submitted to date • Subsidy B (payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&M costs associated with “bona fide” DBO contracts for GWS’s – All payments for Q1 to Q4 2025 paid to schemes totalling €375,076.73 • Applications for Grant towards Capital Replacement Costs of the DBO GWSs have been reviewed and approved for Blackstairs, Borrmount and Mullawn GWSs.
<p>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</p>	<p>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsgrange – €8.1 Million funding approved to Wexford County Council • Wexford County Council responsible for the project management and delivery of the project. • Wexford County Council to procure the appointment of consultants.
<p>Lead Remediation Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 applications received to date on revised grant, 8 paid, 2 approved but have yet to submit claim for works complete.
<p>Compliance monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 168 private supplies on register for compliance monitoring. • Compliance testing ongoing for 2026 as per schedule

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	Q3 2026
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q3 2026
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q2 2027
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2027
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q3 2026
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q3 2026
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2027

- Cois Cuan, Farrin Carraig & Beach View – Planning process complete, tender package ready to be circulated to contractors. Uisce Eireann have forwarded the required connection offers which Wexford County Council intend to sign shortly.
- Stonebrook submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval.
- Kyle Close submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval.

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 progressing, with additional work ongoing to address Service Area requirements, Active Travel provisions, and Biodiversity considerations.
- Concept Design for the Online Service Area has been completed, and Workshop No. 2 is currently being scheduled to discuss the design.
- Preliminary design of the Active Travel facilities is ongoing, and the Biodiversity Accounting Strategy Technical Note has been finalised.
- Preliminary design of the River Slaney Bridge has continued. The Rail Protection Structure (RP1) – Structures Options Report has been prepared and is currently under review.
- Preparation of the Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) and Maritime Area Consent (MAC) applications is ongoing. A second Pre-Application Consultation with MARA regarding the MAC application was held on 26th March 2026.
- Updates to the traffic modelling are nearing completion, and environmental surveys remain ongoing.
- Consultation with affected landowners is continuing.
- A Real Estate Valuation of the currently proposed alignment is underway.
- Work on the Environmental, Planning, Design, and other supporting reports is also progressing.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road - The project is currently in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement.

- Negotiations between real estate valuers and landowners regarding Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) compensation are ongoing.
- The procurement process for the appointment of Technical Advisors for Phases 6 and 7 is ongoing, with tender evaluation and the tender recommendation process currently in progress.
- Procurement documents for the appointment of the Main Construction Contractor have been completed, and a request to publish the tender has been submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for formal approval. TII approval is currently pending.
- Archaeological Services (Stage II) works are underway.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

SAFETY SCHEMES

National Road	Progress update
N25 Tagoat	Detailed design drawings are being finalised.
N30 Leeches Bend West of Clonroche	Works are substantially complete
N25 Larkins Cross	Safety audit is complete, the Appropriate Assessment screening and Environmental Impact Assessment has been received. Design report is being finalised.

High Level Collison Analysis National Primary and Secondary - 10 Locations Identified 2026.

N11WX_118.0 Tinnahask	Site under review no clear options identified.
N11WX_119.0 Whitefort	Line marking and Signage review underway by THRDO. Additional warning signage requested.
N11WX_122.0 Kyle	Major N11/N25 Scheme required
N25WX_165.0 Newtown N25WX_166.0 Coolcots N25WX_167.0 Clonard Great/Little	Safety scheme design solutions will be included as part of design for pavement scheme in this same location.
N30WX_019.0 Ballymackesy	Safety issues identified included in 2025 HD28 site: Scheme tendered but not approved for funding in 2026 by TII.
N30WX_023.0 Leeches Bend	Site included in 2025 safety scheme. Scheme is now complete.
N80WX_100.0 Bunclody	Restrict parking on the approaches to the existing zebra crossings. Design required.
N80WX_102.6 Clohamon	Draft Feasibility and options report sent to TII regional safety Team. Full site survey and feasibility design required to progress draft report.

2025 Road Safety Inspection

N25 Lot 2C RSIs P3A – N25 (Wexford)	Road safety inspection under review.
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2026 Pavement Schemes - Pavement Schemes for 2026 – completion in 2026

- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great – design works are ongoing
- N30 Rathturtin to Clonleigh Pavement – design works are ongoing

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2026

The following HD28 schemes will be designed in 2026. WCC will apply for funding once designs are complete and the schemes can be brought to tender stage. There is no guarantee an allocation will be provided for all works in 2026.

- N30 Ballymackesy 1.0km – Have applied for the allocation to award the tender
- N80 Ballycarney Cross North 1km – the project is in design phase
- N11 New Ross Roundabout – the project is in design phase and will include Safety Works
- N25 Duncannon Roundabout – the project is in design phase and will include Safety Works
- N25 Duncannon Roundabout to Drinagh Roundabout – 2 separate sections 3km in total – the project is in design phase
- Retexturing works
 - N80 – Clohamon 2.7km
 - N80 – Scarawalsh to Tomacurry 1.5km

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2025

The following schemes have been identified for surface course replacement for 2025

- N11 Oylegate to Scurlocksbush Roundabout. 1.7km – pavement works substantially complete, minor civil works and studs outstanding.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's allocation through the Regional and Local Road Grant 2026 is **€23,317,100**.

Restoration Improvement €12,837,500

91 projects are now added to the road strengthening programme for 2026. Works are progressing on this roads programme.



Strengthening works underway at Poulfur, Fethard, New Ross MD

Restoration Maintenance €2,917,000 - The restoration maintenance / surface dressing programme is scheduled to start in May 2026.

75 projects are now added to the restoration maintenance programme for 2026.

Bridge Rehabilitation €690,000 - 12 bridges are included in this year's programme.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works €700,000 - 19 projects are included in this year's programme.

Community Involvement Schemes €665,700 - 12 bridges are included in this year's programme.

Safety Improvement Works €559,000 - 15 projects are included in this year's programme.

Strategic Rehabilitation Roads €420,000 - One road is included in this year's programme – R772-12 Gorey (former N11).

Specific Improvement Grant

- Wexford, Edermine and Kildavin (Murntown) Bridge Remediation Project €270,000. Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are appointed to progress this scheme. The works involve bridge inspections, overseeing site investigations and undertaking necessary designs for remediation works. These works are progressing.
- Grange Beach Coastal Erosion €150,000. Cliff stabilisation works – extension to original scope of works to protect a section of road. We are progressing the appointment of the contractor to complete these works.
- R733 Safety Improvement Project €150,000. Safety improvement project including linemarking, studs, junction improvements. Works are underway to progress these.

Winter Maintenance - The Winter Service Plan came into effect on Monday 13th October 2025 and continues to Thursday 30th April 2026. Salting was carried out in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 41 days this season to date (out of 163 days).

The 3 new salt spreaders are due to be delivered mid-2026.

Road Safety – Just 1 Life

4 of our 5 Just 1 Life road safety educational events have now been held in the National Opera House, Wexford. So far this year we have welcomed over 1,700 Transition Year pupils from 19 Secondary Schools from across the County. The remaining Just 1 Life event takes place on Tuesday 21st April where we will host the final 7 Secondary schools with 515 students in attendance.



Bike Week 2026

Bike Week will run from 9th – 17th May, with a wide range of events planned around the County. A preliminary schedule of events is available on the Active Travel webpage.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

Public Lighting Development Fund - The following are schemes are being progressed at present:

Scheme	Current Position	Detail to Progress
Saltmills Village	ESB connection awaited	Civil work is completed, ESB connection awaited.
Ballycullane Village	ESB connection awaited	Civil work is completed, ESB connection awaited.
Auburn Avenue, New Ross	Awaiting ESB connection	Installation completed by contractor, awaiting ESB connection
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	ESB application submitted.	Contractor appointed, works to commence March.
Kilhile Arthurstown	Design returned, awaiting pricing	Further information sought from contractors on design.
Glentire Heights to the Ballagh Village	Works Ongoing	Works completed and operational.
Kiltealy Village	Works Ongoing	Works completed and operational.
Kilrane Manor, Kilrane	All lights replaced with LED lanterns.	Complete
Sean O Byrne Park, Gorey	Installation complete, awaiting ESB connection.	Complete
Clonattin Road, Gorey	Installation completed, ESB connected	Complete
South Quay, New Ross	Out for design and pricing	Assess tenders for replacement of old decorative lighting
Midletown, Riverchapel	ESB connection made in December.	Operational
Carnew Road, Gorey	Works completed, awaiting ESB connection.	Connected
Oylegate Community Centre	Works completed.	Completed
Kilrane Road Infill	Works completed.	Awaiting ESB connection.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Projects at Planning Stages

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Ballast Office- a)Essential repair Work	Tender Stage	Construction commenced February 2026. Mythen Construction have been appointed to undertake the work. Work is well underway. Asbestos has been removed from the building. Structural repairs are underway to the roof and lintels. Sample panels of paint removal from facade and stone pointing have been completed and approved. Completion is scheduled for the 11/06/26 (weather dependant).
b)Refurbishment	Planning Stage	Initial investigations are being carried out into the potential suitability of the building for use as the Borough District of Wexford Offices.
Ballynagee Link Road	Design Stage	Fencing to secure the site is practically completed with snagging works ongoing. Surveys and Ground investigation works are ongoing. The full scheme progressed through the “major pre-planning” process in Q1 2026 and it is anticipated to be submitted for development consent sought via Part 8 in June 2026.
Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building	Planning Stage	No update
Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme	Planning Stage	It has been agreed to include a LIDO (salt water pool) into the scheme. Submission to ACP will follow receipt of an MAC from MARA, expected towards the end of 2026.
Dunbrody Centre and Extension	Detail Design	Site investigations have been undertaken.The design proposal is being enhanced as this supporting information becomes available.
Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme		
Phase 1-New River Slaney Bridge Project	Design Phase	The preferred option for the new road bridge and the pedestrian bridge has been selected. A meeting is to be scheduled with Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to discuss the in river works for the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge.
Phase 2		A suitability competition for the Flood Relief Scheme was advertised on eTenders on the 27th Feb 2026. The closing date for the competition is the17th April 2026.
Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2 420827	Design stage	The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for Stage (i) to (v) design services. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. The tender for construction works was published March 2026. Appointment of main works contractor is anticipated June 2026.
Enniscorthy Technical Park IDA Tech Building 420847	Design stage	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. Planning application was submitted in December 2025. Final grant was issued in March 2026.

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Enniscorthy- (A) Town Centre & Tourism Project	Preliminary Design stage	<p>Planning stage design is also now complete and Part 8 application for the Castle Quarter project commenced on 11th February 2026.</p> <p>Consultants for detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Templeshannon scheme. Consultants will be procured using a two-stage process. Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify, will be advertised in April 2026.</p>
(B) Templeshannon Regeneration Project.		<p>Consultants for preliminary design, planning, detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Market Square scheme. A consultant framework agreement is to be established on foot of this contract award for use in future Public Realm projects. Consultants will be procured using a two-stage process. Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify, will be advertised in April 2026</p> <p>An application is being prepared to submit the project as part of the Category 1A Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund call.</p>
Esmonde Street, Gorey	Tender Stage	<p>Tender assessment is now complete. WCC & CIÉ Licence Agreement now in place. Uisce Éireann & CIÉ Licence Agreement is now in place. The Contract for construction of the Works has been awarded to Donnelly Civil Engineering Ltd. Construction works on-site are expected to commence in the coming weeks.</p>
Gorey Market House	Design Stage	<p>Surveys to inform the detailed design are largely complete. Stage 1 (prequalification) of main works tender has been completed with 5no. Contractors shortlisted</p> <p>The main works tender package was issued to the shortlisted contractors in March 2026. Appointment of main works contractor is anticipated May 2026.</p>
Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)	Design Stage	<p>Irish Rail approvals process requires an Irish Rail Pre-Project Assessment to be completed. The application for this was submitted in February 2026.</p> <p>The full scheme progressed through the "major pre-planning" process in Q1 2026 and will be submitted for development consent sought via Part 8 in April 2026.</p>
John Street Grain Store, New Ross	Planning	<p>The application for development consents for the new public realm to the rear of the property was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála on March 12th 2026.</p>
Riverchapel Community Centre	Design stage	No Update
Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenways	Route Options Stage	<p>Options Selection Report Peer review completed.</p> <p>Preferred Route Corridor agreed for Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour section.</p> <p>A Public Consultation in person event was held on 4th March, 2026 with the Consultation open until 1st April, 2026 for Rosslare Strand to Harbour.</p> <p>Additional flood modelling is currently ongoing prior to finalising the preferred route corridor for Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand.</p>

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Wexfordia		
Irish National Heritage Park	Preliminary Design	A design for a new Visitor Centre to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events- is now complete. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Q3 2026, subject to the receipt of a Marine Area Consent from MARA.
Hook Lighthouse	Preliminary Design	A Public Consultation event with display of the most up to date designs for the local community will be held in the existing visitor centre at Hook Lighthouse in Q2 2026.
New Ross Tourism Project:	Preliminary Design	The Stage 1 (prequalification) advert for the main works contract was published in Q4 2025 and assessment is now complete. The Stage 2 tender documents were circulated to these suppliers in Q4 2025. This process is now complete and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified.

Projects Under Construction

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Adoration Convent	Construction Stage	Works are progressing well onsite & completion is scheduled for January 2027.
Enniscorthy Sports Hub 420330	Construction Stage	Works are progressing & currently on programme for completion in Sept. 2026
Ferndale Gymnasium	Construction Stage	Works are currently expected to be complete in Q1 2026. The completion of the Project is contingent on the ESB and Uisce Eireann connections.
Mechanics Institute	Renovation stage	Work ongoing. To be completed at the end of May 2026.

Ferndale Gymnasium



Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
SouthEast Greenway		
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3, 4a	Complete	No Update
Rosbercon Trailhead	Preliminary Design	Rosbercon trailhead Part 8 process commenced in February 2026.
Lot 4	Detailed Design	It is targeted to commence works on Lot 4 in Q3 2026 with the tender for the main works contract due to be advertised in April 2026.
Lot 5a	Under construction	Lot 2 and 5a Works now substantially complete. We await completion and handover of an access ramp on the North Quays Project to enable us open this section of greenway. Our latest information is that this will happen in mid-April 2026.
Lot 5b ,Lot 6, 7, 8, 9	Detailed Design	No update

Trinity Wharf	Detailed Design Stage	Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing pending the licence agreement confirmation. The revised Stage 1 pre-qualification for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) closed on the 6th of February 2026. The submissions are currently being reviewed by the Consultant Quantity Surveyors. As per the licence agreements with Irish Rail a new temporary security fence was erected to allow Irish Rail to undertake their works on the Trinity Wharf site.
Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Design Stage	The Scheme is currently in optioneering. The consultant has presented the long list of options to the Steering Group which is under review.

Funding & Development Schemes

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025	n/a	The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD announced on Monday, 22 December 2025 funding of €26 million for 116 projects in rural communities across the country.
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	n/a	These projects have a 24mth timeframe for delivery and will be delivered in collaboration with the local community groups. The following are the successful projects in Wexford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct roadside trail Coolgreany village to Ballyfad Wood-€197,416 • Construct roadside path from Lobster Pot to Carne completing the link from Our Lady's Island to Carne- €500,000. • Construction of 1km trail between Wellingtonbridge village and Little Sea Viewing area-€200,000.
Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)	n/a	RRDF (Cat 2) funding approval for Europe's Gateway to Ireland - Rosslare's Sustainable Tourism Experience was announced by Dara Calleary, T.D., Minister for Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht on 10th Oct 2025. Coastal Destination Courtown Project was not successful in this round of funding
CLÁR Funding		Minister for Rural and Community Development & the Gaeltacht Dara Calleary TD, has launched the 2026 CLÁR Scheme. The Community Section will lead on the EOI process. 15 District Electoral Division's (DED's) within Co. Wexford are now designated CLÁR areas: Ballyhack Duncormick Kilsoran Ballyhoge Ferns Newbawn Clonleigh Kilmokea Rosslare Clonroche Kilmore St. Helen's Coolgreany Kilrush Taghmon

HEALTHY WEXFORD

March Events:

- [Healthy County Committee](#) met to advance projects.
- [‘Strong Not Tough’](#) Resilience Training for Community Volunteers
- [Healthy Wexford Programmes](#): Healthy Home Environments Programme; Healthy Choices Programmes, and the Playful Streets project.
- WWETB Open Day at Wexford College of Further Education & Training where Healthy Wexford activity was promoted.
- Attendance at the Autism Virtual Reality Experience at the invitation of Cottage Autism Network.

PRIDE OF PLACE 2026

- The 2026 Pride of Place online application for Wexford is now closed.
- Applications were invited from local community groups who wish to be nominated to the 2026 IPB Pride of Place Competition in association with Co-Operation Ireland.
- This 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. It celebrates the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Ireland, to make their community the best place to live.

LOCAL SPORTS AND ACTIVITY PLAN AND AND COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Public consultation events took place for the Local Sports and Activity Plan and the County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Community and Sports Active Staff in collaboration with our consultants Sector 3 Consulting held sessions for each municipal district to gain countywide views from residents and stakeholders.

The online survey remains open throughout April for anyone who could not attend the meetings.

[Wexford County Council - Outdoor Recreation Plan – Fill in form](#)

[Wexford County Council - Local Sports Plan – Fill in form](#)

[Wexford County Council - Sports & Physical Recreation Plan - Stakeholder Survey – Fill in form](#)

[Wexford Local Sports Plan / Outdoor Recreation Plan - Children and Young People Survey – Fill in form](#)

Stakeholder workshops will take place in April / May.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME FUND 2026 - LCDC Total Fund: €253,227.56

Key Dates: 27th February - Application closed *Evaluation of Applications*

8th April - Evaluation Meeting by the LCDC

22nd April - Date for Shortlist of Projects to go to the Department.

Work in Progress:

- 49no. LEP 2026 applications received through online/email/post systems.
- Total value requested: €1,172,423.59
- Evaluation of application against POBAL Index in progress & evaluation criteria agreed by the LCDC.

Sports Active Activities

AdventureHer	6 Women participated in the AdventurHER, Deerpark Mountain walking event, 7 women at the Coolmelagh Walk and 12 women at the Forth Mountain Walk.
Discover Diabetes	1 staff member delivered a presentation on physical activity for health at a discover diabetes follow up session for 17 individuals living with type 2 diabetes at the chronic disease hub in Enniscorthy.
Fit over 50's	18 participants took part in the Fit over 50's six-week programme in Kilanerin Community Centre, 17 women & 1 male.
Adapted Bikes SE Greenway	Two adapted bike taster sessions occurred on the southeast greenway. 6 participants attended, 5 males & 2 females.
Her Moves Self-Defence	Approx 20 teenage girls from 1st year to 6th year in Selskar College took part in the six-week Her Moves self defence programme.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



Wexford Local Community Safety Partnership closed its online Public Consultation on Community Safety which was open for 4 weeks. Over 300 people throughout the county participated. Work is ongoing on a more detailed analysis which will be presented to the next meeting of the Wex LCSP. Further consultations will be held county-wide, throughout April and May in workshops, focus groups and public meetings. This work will assist in the overall development of the 3-year Local Community Safety Plan.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

An extension of the Accommodation Response Payment until March 2027. The Team will review contracts over the coming weeks and advise on alternative options.

AGE FRIENDLY

Intergenerational Community Programme

- Students from Loreto transition year successfully organised and delivered a seven-week intergenerational Le Cheile programme in collaboration with older members of the local community.
- This initiative provided a value opportunity to foster connections across generations, promoting social inclusion, mutual learning, and community engagement.
- As part of the programme, the Age Friendly Programme supported a four-week chair yoga series. This element of the programme focused on promoting physical wellbeing, mobility, and relaxation amongst participants.
- Overall, the programme was well received, highlighting the positive benefits of intergenerational activities. It demonstrated the enthusiasm and commitment of the students as well as the value of collaborative partnerships in supporting age friendly initiatives.

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

Seaview Coastal Protection project is in its final stage with beach access has now commenced. Precast concrete segments for the beach access are now half complete. Project completion April 2026.

Fethard Harbour New Slipway and Beach Access - The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is in the process of finalizing a decision on this project The revised Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is being reviewed by the Foreshore license section.

Kilpatrick Has now been submitted for Part 8 planning.

Killmannock Drainage works: Hedge Wayleave application is being processed to access drainage works area. LCF marine installing sluice valves start April.

Ballyhack & Passage East Car Ferry Infrastructure: AYESA consultant has been appointed and kick off meeting took place on 10th December 2025, progressing.

Rosslare CRFRS: Emergency works required at Rosslare strand, site visits and inspections happening this week, to progress with OPW funding application. No date fixed for 2nd Public Participation Day yet, likely to be Q2 2026.

Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement: Second Public Consultation occurred Monday 30th March, Part 8 Planning application now being prepared for submission. OPW Funding secured for 190m, additional application has been submitted to OPW to extend works in its entirety (Ch 0 to Ch 500).

Duncannon Old Pier – Truir Construction Ltd now appointed, works ongoing.

Operations – Pre-planning meeting held with MARA for the reconciliation application for New Ross Marina and debris boom. Received info files from New Ross Municipal office. Copy of draft lease 2005 being sent to MWP to accompany application.

MARA has issued MUL 240003 for the Barrow pre-dredging surveys to be undertaken. The commencement date for the MUL was 23/03/2026 and holds a three-year term.

Explosive bye laws were sent for Minister approval on 05/02/2026. Awaiting return. Have had contact from Dept of Defence about first shipment once bye laws have been enforced.

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 2026	January – February 8 received	2026 – Total €74,754.21 sent to finance	0 on hold for documentation
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No of Verification Inspections

2025 - Verification Inspections = 91	2026 - Verification Inspections = 13
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Court cases

- 5 cases Currently in the court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices
- 0 new cases have been issued in this period
- 10 cases closed prior to court hearing as work was already carried out.

Ongoing Inspections

125 cases were open at the end of 2025. 13 cases closed in 2026. There are currently 117 open cases.

- All files for 2018 & 2020 are now closed.
- 12 new inspections have been carried out for 2026. 4 passed and 8 failed.
- There were 17 direct discharges to water and 10 discharges onto the surface of the ground noted during 2025. In 2026, 2 direct discharges to surface water and 3 discharges onto the surface of the ground were noted.
- NIP inspections will continue in 2026 in Piercetown/Murrintown area, Castletown/Inch area, Mount Howard & Lady's Island area. 15 inspections have been booked in for February/March 2026.
- A stand giving out information on septic tank maintenance was at the Bannow Rathangan Show and Climate Action nights in Clonroche and Kilanerin.

Discharge Licences

Currently there are 88 active Section 4 Discharge Licences with scheduled annual, biannual, quarterly, bi-monthly and monthly returns in respect of each individual Licence. The monitoring returns on receipt are assessed by Environmental Technical Staff and actively pursued to address any ongoing issues arising from exceedances in chemical/microbiological and flow parameters as laid down in the Discharge Licence for the site.

No. of Monitoring Submission Returns for January 2026	9
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Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The 5 stations in Bunclody, New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey have now had their monitors updated to measure air quality and noise levels. A new station has been installed in Bunclody and is fully operational. The 18 low-cost sensors installed in Enniscorthy monitoring PM10 & PM2.5 have been removed to be calibrated. 6 low-cost sensors will be reinstalled in Wexford Town in 2026. The TownAir Project to monitor gases NOx, SO2, CO has now been completed. This will be compared with 2016 levels taking during the SAFFIRE project. The project team will give an update once the work is completed. There have been 15 inspections of premises / forecourts / shops who are all selling compliant products.

Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

DECO Paints: Auto-Refinishers Q1 Website Compliance Register will be updated in March. Site inspections are ongoing, 4 Operators re-Certified since January. 3 Operators have signed declarations that they have ceased operating, WCC will continue to monitor. 1 un-registered site was inspected in December 2025, now registered and Certified. 1 un-registered site for investigation in March 2026.

Dry Cleaners: 5 Dry-Cleaners currently registered, 5 of whom are Certified as Compliant. 1 non-registered premises continuing to operate following inspection and warning; enforcement work ongoing.

Petrol Stations PVE emissions Stage 1 testing & compliance: 4 Inspections in December. 1 premises re-certified in Feb 2026. 1 non-compliant premises continuing to operate following inspection and warning; enforcement work ongoing. 3 Stations awaiting final assessment reports. Q1 Register will be updated in March.

Agriculture

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

Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council's target has remained at 271 GAP Initial inspections for 2026 concentrating in catchments where agriculture has been indentified as the main pressure and is not meeting the objectives of teh Water Framework Directive. Catchments such as Heathpark, Begerin, Owenduff, Boro, Lady's Island Lake, Aughboy, Mangan, Lask and Kilanerin are currently being visited. A team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role led by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section. The team will undertake other agricultural inspections such as sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up inspections. A total of 123 inspections have been carried out in 2026 to date with 55 of these been initial GAP inspections and 47 GAP follow up inspections.

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

A total of 31 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been assessed in 2026 highlighting the continued investment in Wexford Agriculture and maintaining compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Waste/Litter Management

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	%Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
Jan to Dec 2025	2441	Up 3%	981	Down 4%
Jan-24 Mar 2026	619			

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 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2025	Jan-Feb 2026
Incidents	3896	4235	4195	4419	1014
Closed	3720	4007	3936	4086	747
Closure Rate	95%	95%	94%	92%	74%

Members Portal

	Jan to Dec 2025	1 Jan to 24 Mar 2026
Incidents	180	42
Closed	179	33

Customer Services
Environmental Cases

Issue Type	January	February	March	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	15	17	12	44
Air Pollution	10	8	5	23
Beach Bye Laws			1	1
Bring Banks	11	1	1	13
Coastal	3	6	5	14
Community Cleanup	72	89	85	246
Dog complaint	3	4	2	9
Fines	15	8	2	25
Litter	201	169	149	519
Loose Animals			2	2
Noise Pollution	9	5	4	18
Oil Pollution	2		5	7
Waste Pollution	23	19	14	56
Water Pollution	9	8	5	22
Work Request	7	5	3	15
Total	380	339	295	1014

Court Overview

Month	Heard	Outcome	Litter	Waste	Water	Air	Noise	Dogs
Jan - March	5	Total fines	€950	€100	NA	NA	NA	€0
		Total costs	€1000	€0	NA	NA	NA	€0

Litter/waste/Air/Noise and control of dogs Overview

	Jan 2026
Fixed payment Notices issued	4- 1 FPN WBPL 3 Waste regulations
Litter fines issued	31
Fines paid litter	22
FPN paid	6
Successful prosecutions	5
Legal proceedings in progress	18
Amount collected in fines	€3370 litter, €1500 dogs, €75 FPN, €1500 waste regs – total €6445.00
Dog fines issued	5

Control of Dogs & Horses - The Council employs two full time wardens. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2024	2025	Jan-Feb 2026
Dogs collected	564	546	79
Dogs reclaimed	147	149	21
Dogs re-homed/transferred	442	386	55
Dogs put to sleep	31	10	4
Dog Fines	11	12	3

Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites Feb 2026	Recycling out Feb 2025 (t)	Recycling out Feb 2026 (t)
Glass bottles		284.8	249.28
Aluminium Cans		3.31	1.64
Total	108	288.11	250.92

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Feb 2025 (t)	Recycling out Feb 2026 (t)	Recycling out Feb 2025 (t)	Recycling out Feb 2026(t)	Recycling out Feb 2025(t)	Recycling out Feb 2026 (t)	Recycling out Feb 2026 (t)	Recycling out Feb 2026 (t)
Total Recycling out	51	59	47	48	66	60	49	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	274	257	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Feb	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	72	75	112	109	134	138	83	83

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	Feb 2025	Feb 2026
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	150	187
Gorey *		40
Enniscorthy *		69
Wexford *		27
New Ross*		28
Rosslare		23
Total Bring Site Inspections	718	755

Environment Education and Awareness

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

Green Schools: 3 schools have applied for their first flag; Court NS; Kilnamanagh NS and Galbally NS. 17 schools had assessment visits for the renewal of their flag and the finding have been forward to An Taisce.

School Workshops:

A further 10 schools will participate in the Picker Pals programme in January. Since 2020, 225 classrooms from 100 different schools have taken part in Picker Pals. This represents 97% of all primary schools in the county. In 2025 – 2026 school year 49 classrooms (10 funded by WCC, 32 by DECC & from corporate / philanthropic donations) from 40 schools are taking part.



Picker Pals Statistics 2020 – 2024

Participants (children)	4,400
Total participants (family members & participating child)	11,000
Waste removed (2.5kg per person/adventure)	27,500kgs +

Rubbish Film Festival: The awards for the ‘Rubbish Film Festival’ were held on Tuesday 10th March in County Hall and celebrated the creativity, commitment and environmental leadership of transition year students from across the County. An Cathaoirleach Councillor Joe Sullivan welcomed and congratulated all the students involved. The festival received a great response from the 7 participating secondary schools, with transition year students showing their creativity and innovation in producing short films that were both educational and entertaining. Councillor Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council presented the trophy for Best Film to Gorey Community School for their film entitled ‘School of Fish’. Students from Presentation Secondary School Wexford received the award Best Runner Up Film for their film ‘Game Over’. The award for Best poster was presented to Coláiste an Átha, Kilmuckridge for ‘Oblivious’ The Best Film and Best Poster will now go forward to represent Wexford at the National Awards on 22nd April.

National Tree Week: An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Sullivan presented trees to members of Castletown Development Group on Friday 13th March to celebrate National Tree Week. National Tree Week is an annual event organised by the Tree Council of Ireland in partnership with Coillte. It is the largest tree celebration in the country, providing a unique opportunity for people to come together and celebrate the beauty and importance of Ireland's trees.

This year's theme ‘Growing a Greener Future Together’ reflects the power of partnership and community action in shaping a healthier, more sustainable Ireland.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Sullivan stated that ‘this year's theme invites communities across our County to come together to appreciate the beauty and crucial importance of Ireland's trees. I encourage all to plant more trees and to celebrate Ireland's trees’.

This year marks 40 years of National Tree Week, the theme “Growing a Greener Future Together” reflects the collective effort of communities, organisations, and individuals across the country who continue to plant, protect, and cherish Ireland's trees.

Circular Cups for Community Events: The "Circular Cups for Community Events" initiative is Ireland's first of its kind programme designed to eliminate single use waste at local, not for profit community events, providing access to high quality reusable cups for various events across the Southern Waste Region. This pioneering initiative was developed by the Southern Region Waste Planning Office in partnership with local authorities across the Southern Waste Region and IRD Duhallow. It was officially launched by Minister of State Alan Dillon TD. The programme is available to a wide variety of not-for-profit organisations within the Southern Waste Region, including local sports clubs, schools, youth organisations, craft markets, and community festivals.

A shared stock of reusable cups is available, including: 12,000 pint cups, 9,000 half-pint cups and 7,000 hot/cold beverage (coffee) cups. The main goal is to significantly reduce single use waste at community events, empower communities to embrace sustainable practices, and drive Ireland's national circular economy ambitions forward.



Local Waste Prevention Grant / Local Circular Economy Grant 2026: Applications were recieved from a number of tidy towns groups, community groups and other voluntary groups for the waste prevention / local circular grant scheme. This scheme aims to support communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas. Closing date for receipt of applications was Thursday 26th of March 2026. Assessment of each application has begun.

National Spring Clean: Registrations are now open for all groups to register for An Taisce's National Spring Clean Programme. Registrations and support for WCC's Community Clean Up programme is ongoing. Registrations have also opened for our Snap into Action competition – it is open to both schools and community groups – by entering they could be in with a chance of winning a cash prize of €500 for their group/school.

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

Date	No. of community Clean Ups
01/02//2026 – 28/02/2026	89
01/01/2026 - 30/03/2026	270

CLIMATE ACTION

WCC is behind on our glide path for Thermal and Transport emissions. If HVO is not used for our fleet, in a significant way, Wexford County Council will not meet our CO2 target of 51% reduction by 2030. Currently we are above CO2 emissions from the baseline years of 2016-2018, so we now require over 51% reduction by 2030. The pathfinder projects will address the thermal requirements.

1. A report on the Implementation of the Climate Action Plan will be provided at the April meeting of the elected members. This is an annual requirement.
2. Five of the six weeks of the Over 55s Climate Course have now taken place with over 30 people in attendance every week. The feedback on the course is very positive. Participants are currently carrying out a Climate Action of their choosing and participants will meet for the final week of the course to discuss the progress of their action and the challenges encountered. The Climate Team have arranged talks on Biodiversity from an ecologist and talks from the Tidy towns and the community allotments.



Over 55s Climate Course Enniscorthy library

3. Green Flag trial – The 3rd workshop was held with 5 other LAs. This workshop concentrated on the development of the Green flag form and discussions were held around the topics and items to be included.
4. Climate Action and Biodiversity Fortnight with take from 11th – 24th May. This is the 3rd Climate Action week/fortnight hosted by the Climate Action team, Wexford county Council.
5. Training was provided on Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for Surface Water Management to staff in March. The training was delivered through the Local Authority Waters Programme in association with LASNTG. Eighteen Staff from the roads sections, the five Area Offices, Special projects & Environment sections attended the training. This course will support Wexford County Council in the practical delivery of Nature-based solutions in public spaces/realm, streetscapes, public parks, footpaths, public carparks and other public spaces to protect water quality, reduce pluvial flood risk, increase climate resilience and enhance placemaking.
6. South East Energy Agency Local Authorities Energy and Climate Seminar is scheduled to 22nd April. [Link to register](#). Elected members are invited to attend this event and have been informed of change of date 1. [Register – Local Authority Energy & Climate Action Information Seminar – Waterford County & City Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford](#)
7. Wexford Town SEC supported by Wexford County Council Climate team, Southeast Energy agency and the SEAI hosted a regional Energy Event on Thursday, 12 March 2026 at St. Joseph's Community Centre, Wexford. The event had Business, community and residential elements to it along with over 30 exhibitors. Over 300 people attended the event. Feedback gave a 92% satisfaction rate for the event.

8.Pathfinder Retrofit Programme Update

- The Apex Leisure centre, New Ross is at stage one of the design process.This stage is due for completion in quarter 2. This exciting project will be the first building in Wexford County Councils SEAI funded Pathfinder Programme.
- Ferrybank Leisure Centre – Emergency Enabling Works (Air Handling Unit Replacement) SEAI have approved match funding (50%) for the Ferrybank LC emergency air handling unit replacement works awarded to Mechanical Contractor Aircon Mech Ltd and is due to start in quarter 2.
- Co Hall Lighting – Mini Tender will be published in quarter 2.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME (CCAP)

Wexford County Council has been allocated a further €669,000 under Phase two for not-for-profit organisations to undertake Community Climate Action projects. 36 applications totaling €1.46 million were received; applications are currently with Pobal and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. Notification as to the outcome of applications is expected to be issued in early April.

The CCCAP Phase 1 is nearing completion with 13 of the 16 funding projects fully completed. Two project groups are at risk of not being able to carry out all funded project elements; Wexford County Council are in contact with Pobal and the DCEE regarding potential reallocation of this portion of funding.

Biodiversity

The draft Biodiversity Action plan is due to go for public consultation in the next quarter with events proposed around the county.

Local Biodiversity Action funding amounting to €96,000 has been announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This fund is available for the Council to cover County wide projects such as the Wetlands Survey of Wexford (phase 4), Swift surveys of New Ross and Enniscorthy, Invasive species surveys and control, biodiversity events and awareness raising and the Return to Nature and Hare's Corner projects which support faith communities, landowners and community groups to implement actions for enhanced biodiversity on their lands. The applications for these projects has been submitted to NPWS.

There were over 124 collections of trees and hedgerow species from Holmestown facility on 21st Feb under the Hare's Corner initiative through the Burren Beo Trust and supported by the Biodiversity office. Inspired by the term 'The Hare's Corner'.



The climate team organised a webinar hosted by John Lusby on increasing awareness of wildlife and the considerations to be made regarding wildlife in heritage buildings. The webinar was attended by the Heritage and Conservation officer and staff from Special Projects, Housing and Climate Action sections.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND ARTS

CUBBIE – SENSORY SPACE

The new sensory Cubbie was installed in Wexford Town Library in December 2025 and was officially launched by an Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council, Cllr. Joe Sullivan, on 2nd March 2026. The Cubbie is a multisensory space that offers personalised sensory experiences to users, who can adjust lighting, visuals, and audio to their own needs as required. It is free to use and is suitable for all ages.

The Cubbie, located on the second floor of Wexford town library, can be used by visitors to the library at any time during library opening hours.



In addition to supporting visitors within the library, the cubbie also offers support for those with sensory needs who may face challenges in attending events in the town or interacting with the surrounding community.

The initiative was supported by the Healthy Ireland Fund. Healthy Wexford's vision is where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

Chair of the Wexford Healthy County Committee, Cllr Leonard Kelly emphasised the potential of the new Cubbie to improve access to local events and accessibility within the wider community.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Libraries throughout County Wexford celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge showcasing Irish authors in their book displays and introducing simple Irish words and phrases into events. The Ghrúpa Comhrá Gaeilge in New Ross Library continues to grow where conversation, mindfulness, board games and a céilí are all part of a normal meeting. Gorey and Wexford Libraries also run Irish Language Groups for both beginners and those that want to improve their Irish.

International Women's Day

Gorey Library held a celebration for International Women's Day in early March, speakers included Mary Manning, Oonagh McMorow, and Lorraine Finn. They discussed this year's theme of 'Accelerate Action' while activities and demonstrations were provided alongside refreshments, all celebrating women who have made an impact on those in their community.



This event was a collaboration between Gorey Library, Gorey Municipal District, Gorey Family Resource Centre, Gorey Youth Needs Group and the Riverchapel Women's Group.

WORLD BOOK DAY



Wexford Libraries celebrated World Book Day on March 5th with a series of events including a scavenger hunt, a lucky dip, storytimes and craft sessions. Schools throughout the County visited Wexford Libraries Branches on the day to collect their free World Book Day books and to participate in a range of staff led activities.

Staff members Beata and Emma in Enniscorthy Library on World Book Day

Engineers Week: 28th February - 6th March

Enniscorthy Library held a LEGO Landmark Challenge where participants designed and built their own version of a famous landmark using LEGO. Other events included Three Little Pigs Engineering Workshop, a 3D tour and STEM station events held in Wexford library branches.

Astronomy Week: 20th - 28th March

To celebrate Astronomy Week, John Hackett of South East Astronomy gave a fascinating talk on 'Earth's Companion: Our Moon' in Bunclody Library while Astro Photographer Louise Skelly gave a talk in Wexford Library titled "Celestial Wonders: Auroras and Milky Way over Enchanted Irish Skies'.

Ukrainian Song

New Ross Library hosted an event where the audience listened to traditional songs and sampled traditional Ukrainian food.

LEARNING AND INFORMATION

Skills for Life

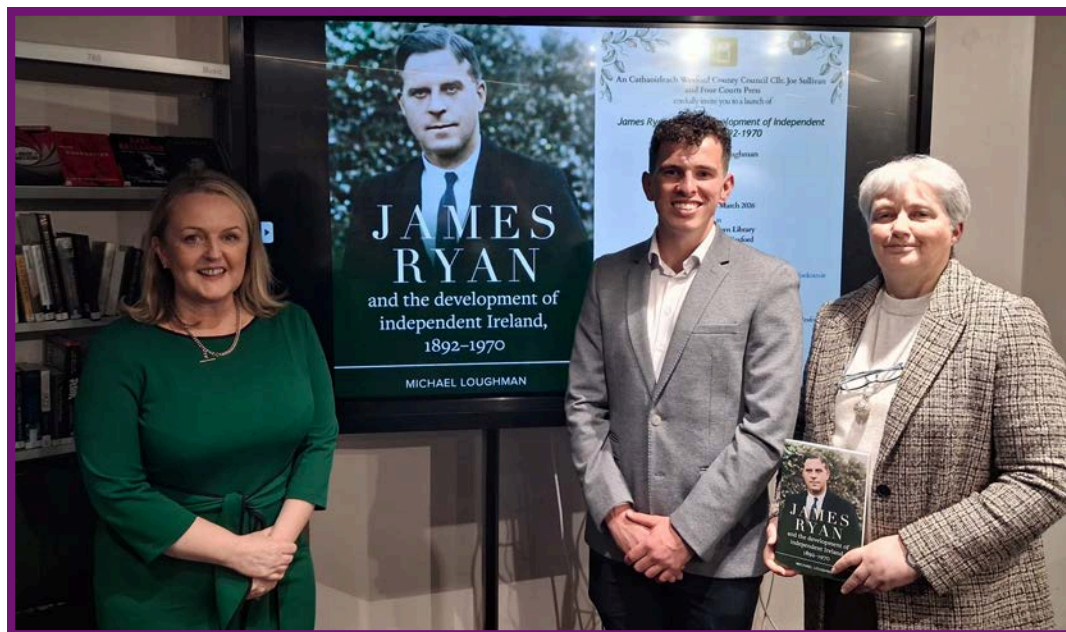
CoMUniversity Collaboration 2026

A collaboration between, Maynooth University, South East Technical University, Wexford Local Development and Enniscorthy Library continued in March. The purpose of this collaboration is to establish a collaborative framework for delivering the ComMUniversity Programme, a Personal and Community Development initiative designed to build confidence, foster learning, and provide accessible pathways into higher education for socially excluded groups. Over twenty weeks a series of lectures will take place, subjects include Adult Education, Local History, Social Care, Sociology, Politics, Psychology, and other disciplines requested by the community.

Digital Skills groups and Digital Literacy sessions remained the focus during March in all Wexford Libraries branches.

HERITAGE AND LOCAL HISTORY

Wexford Library with Four Courts Press was delighted to host the Wexford book launch of James Ryan and the Development of Independent Ireland, 1892-1970 by Dr Michael Loughman. Born and raised in Wexford, Dr. James Ryan played a pivotal role in Ireland's journey to independence and nation-building.



Dr. Michael Loughman with Cllr Lisa McDonald and Susan Kelly in Wexford Library

The book's author, **Dr. Michael Loughman**, an Irish Research Council scholar and recipient of the 2020 Universities Ireland History Bursary, brings fresh insight and meticulous research to Ryan's remarkable life and legacy. **Cllr. Lisa McDonald (Leas Cathaoirleach Rosslare MD)** officially launched the book and praised Dr Loughman for his in-depth research and for bringing the story of this proud Wexford man to national attention.

Wexford Library has launched a new discussion group for everyone with an interest in local history. The Wexford Local History Hub will provide a friendly and engaging space where local history enthusiasts can come together to explore the many fascinating aspects of Wexford's past. Meetings will take place every second Tuesday at 12.00 noon on the 2nd floor of Wexford Library.

“Caesar Colclough of Tintern Abbey” with Alan Ryan of Colclough Walled Garden

New Ross Library held a talk where Alan Ryan offered a lively insight into this influential figure and the world he inhabited. Attendees heard about a colourful career that included periods of imprisonment during the Napoleonic wars, spirited political activity at Westminster, and a lifelong dedication to improving his estate.

Norman Territorial Division in Angevin Leinster

Wexford Normandy Cultural Association held a talk in Enniscorthy Library on Norman Territorial Division in Angevin Leinster. Speakers included historians Barry Lacey and David McIlreavy. The talk highlighted pivotal land grants that Maurice de Prendergast received in the wake of Strongbow's initial grants from Henry II.

Wexford Library had 29 local studies queries and 5 genealogy queries in March.

Wexford Library ran a History Club for Teenagers (14-17 years) during March.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Seed Sewing Workshop with Marie Hirst of Unwinding with Plants

Bunclody Library held a workshop where participants learned how to make a good start to the growing season ahead including pollination of plants, seed dispersal and seed harvesting.

Foraging Talk with Gráinne Kenneally Quirke from Elderberry Farm.

Enniscorthy Library held a talk on immense health benefits, both physical and mental, of foraging and producing your own food from ingredients that are growing wild locally.

3D Printing: The Technology of the Future with Kamel Tribek

In these talks held in New Ross, Gorey and Wexford Libraries, Kamel explored the transformative power of 3D printing technology and its role in promoting sustainability. Attendees had a look into the future of technology and its impact on education, design, and sustainability.



'They Say It might Rain: The Highs and Lows of Ireland's Weather and Climate' with Evelyn Cusack and Séamus Walsh

Wexford Library celebrated the book presentation of 'They Say It Might Rain' with weather experts and authors Evelyn Cusack and Séamus Walsh, introduced by Gerald Fleming. The book is a fascinating tale of Ireland's weather and our connection to it through the ages.

Authors Evelyn Cusack and Seamus Walsh with Susan Kelly in Wexford Library

Wexford County Councils' Climate Action Team, supported by Age Friendly continued a six week, six step climate action course with Jacinta Barrins in Enniscorthy Library for the over 55s in March. The course aims to demystify climate change and highlight helpful actions.

READING AND LITERACY: RIGHT TO READ AT YOUR LIBRARY

Wexford Reads Festival

Wexford Town Library launched the new "Wexford Reads Festival" with an event at the end of March featuring Irish literary horror author A.M. Shine. Shine is described as a master of macabre storytelling whose work blends history, superstition, and Gothic atmosphere. To mark the festival's debut, Shine introduced his new standalone novel "Grace", a haunting modern Gothic tale rooted in Irish mythology.

All Wexford Libraries branches run monthly Book Club meetings for both young and old and for all different levels of literacy. Wexford Library Service also runs an Online Book Club, with a monthly meeting open to all readers throughout the County.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

An Introduction to Micro:Bits and VR Headsets

Bunclody Library held a workshop for children aged 9-12 where they learned about Micro:Bits and how to create a simple game programme. They were also introduced to the VR Headsets where they explored the ocean, got up close to wild animals and much more.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 28 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 7 researchers visited the Archive during March. Research topics included first registrations and associated information for vintage tractors (1922-45); drawings and plans for the old Theatre Royal, Wexford and for Wexford Opera House (1960s-2006); research through extant minute books for Wexford County Infirmary (1769-1922); research on Oulart dispensary (1850s-60s); research through a small burial book which records several burials in each of the old cemeteries in Wexford town (1896-1946); research for Church of Ireland births, deaths and marriages in the Free Press newspaper, 1899.

Outreach

The Archivist launched an art installation by artist John Busher in Enniscorthy Castle on 26 March. Titled Fallow Bridge, the exhibition comprises a series of sculptures created by John in response to the destruction of infrastructure across County Wexford during the War of Independence and Civil War. John was the recipient of a Commemoration Award 2025 from Wexford County Council in conjunction with the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The exhibition was complemented by a display of several artefacts from Wexford County Archive's 1919-23 collection – including Máire Moran's Cumann na mBan brooch, Seamus O'Brien's prison plate and spoon, and a series of photographic postcards showing the destruction of Taylorstown viaduct in August 1922.

ARTS

ArtLinks Artists Bursary Awards 2026

Wexford Arts Office has awarded nineteen Wexford Artists grants ranging from €1,000 - €3,000 out of a total fund of €40,000 for 2026. The aim of ArtLinks is to support the professional development of artists at all stages of their careers in County Wexford, and is run in partnership with Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford Arts offices.

Artist in the Community Open Call 2026 – 2027

The Artist in the Community programme has funded twenty projects from across County Wexford to the amount of €35,000. This is open to all Wexford Community Groups to apply to work on an arts project with an artist from the Artist in the Community Artist panel. The maximum award is €3,000 in match-funding. A separate strand supports a max of one collaboration between two or more artists on the Artist in the Community Panel for a maximum fund of up to €5,000.

Spring connects Bursary Open Call 2026

Wexford Arts Office, together with The ISACS Network and SpringMoves Dance Festival and La Brèche Pôle National des Arts du Cirque in Cherbourg Normandie, has announced a new artistic residency exchange between Wexford and Le Breche in Normandy. This is an opportunity for two artists working as a duo/ partnership/collaborators during 2026. The two artists selected were in Le Breche during March 2026.

Westgate Music Rehearsal Space Residency Open Call

Wexford Arts Office launched a six month residency at the Westgate music rehearsal space for Wexford-based musicians during 2026. As part of this residency, the selected musician will be supported to perform at the Wexford Arts Centre. The closing date for applications is April 2026.

Living Arts Project Open Call

Wexford Arts Office, in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre and The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, announced its open call on 24th March to primary schools and visual artists to participate in the Living Arts Project. Projects will commence in September/October 2026. The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Eight Wexford-based artists will be selected and partnered with schools to create a body of work over the academic year. The deadline for applications is 30th April 2026.



Trauma Informed Practice in the Arts - Artists Training at the National Opera House

Wexford Arts Office hosted Lucy Mannion, Director of TINT Education, in collaboration with Fadi Zmorrod, Artist Director of Doulab Circus, to deliver a two day workshop for artists working in community settings. It offered a foundation in the core concepts, science, and principles of trauma-informed practice, with a focus on real-world application in participatory arts contexts.

Trauma Informed Practice in the Arts Training at the National Opera House Wexford

Performing Arts Forum Belfast Gathering Applications

Wexford Arts Office is working with Performing Arts Forum to offer two bursaries for arts practitioners based in County Wexford to attend the Performing Arts Forum Gathering in Belfast on 26th and 27th May 2026. Each Artist Bursary will cover a ticket to the Performing Arts Forum Belfast Gathering, an artist Honorarium of €180 and accommodation and travel contributions of €150. Artists Anita Petry and Joe Brennan were selected for 2026.

County Wexford Youth Film Project (CWYFP) Win Award

CWYFP has won an award for the short film made in 2025 'They Don't Know Us' for "Best Youth Project Film' at the First Cut Youth Film Festival. Supported by Wexford Arts Office, the CWYFP is open to any young person under the age of 18. The CWYFP hosts weekly free workshops, taking place in St Michaels Theatre, New Ross.

County Wexford Youth Theatre (CWYT) performance at Wexford Arts Centre

CWYT held four performances of the original play 'Molly' from the 11th - 14th March at the Wexford Arts Centre.

Screen Wexford

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

Film and TV Production Workshop

On 28th March 2026 from 10am – 4pm funded by Wexford County Council and Jumper Productions, a one day workshop was held. It covered topics for production assistants, production managers and producers plus practical insight into how a production team operates. The presenters were producers Fiona Kinsella, Leona Duff and Amanda Farley.

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.

Bare Ground, Site Visit

Working with the residents of Pairc na gCon in Enniscorthy, a densely populated estate with over 100 children, Wexford based artists Jeni Roddy and Lynn Haughton are conducting research to engage with residents and to explore what this project will look like. Hopes are to achieve social impact and cohesion for the citizens of this estate.

Threshold Spaces

A workshop with the Early Onset Dementia Group of Castle Gardens Day Centre was held during the month. Artist Mayumi Nakabayashi explored the idea of thresholds and learning tools to allow creativity.

Music Generation (MG)

An ongoing partnership between Wexford County Council, WWETB and Music Generation supporting performance music education countywide for young people in twenty-five schools and a variety of youth work contexts.

Visits to Primary Schools

The Music Generation Wexford team began a programme of visits to twenty-three primary schools across the county where the organisation provides instrumental and vocal tuition to more than 3,835 children. The schools and Musician Educators visited included: Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts (Music Educator Jenna Larsen); Ferns National School (Music Educator Diarmuid Comerford); Kilmore National School (Music Educator Geraldine Mahon); and Davidstown Primary School (Music Educator Gayle Murphy).

The team met with a wide range of young musicians, from junior infants to 6th class.

Bunclody Music Hub Team Meeting

The Bunclody Music Hub Musician Educators and the Music Generation Wexford team met at Bunclody Music Hub on March 4th to plan the final concert for the academic year which involves more than ninety-two students.

Selskar Sounds Music Hub

The number of young musicians attending Selskar Sounds Music Hub has increased by 10%. The Musician Educators met on March 12th to organize a final jam session with all participating young musicians. The Hub continues to be promoted to further increase enrolment before the end of the year.

Yellow Bellows Concert at Presentation Arts Centre

Yellow Bellows and Yellow Bellógs, the young voices ensembles led by Musician Educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford, presented a concert on March 27th at the Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy.

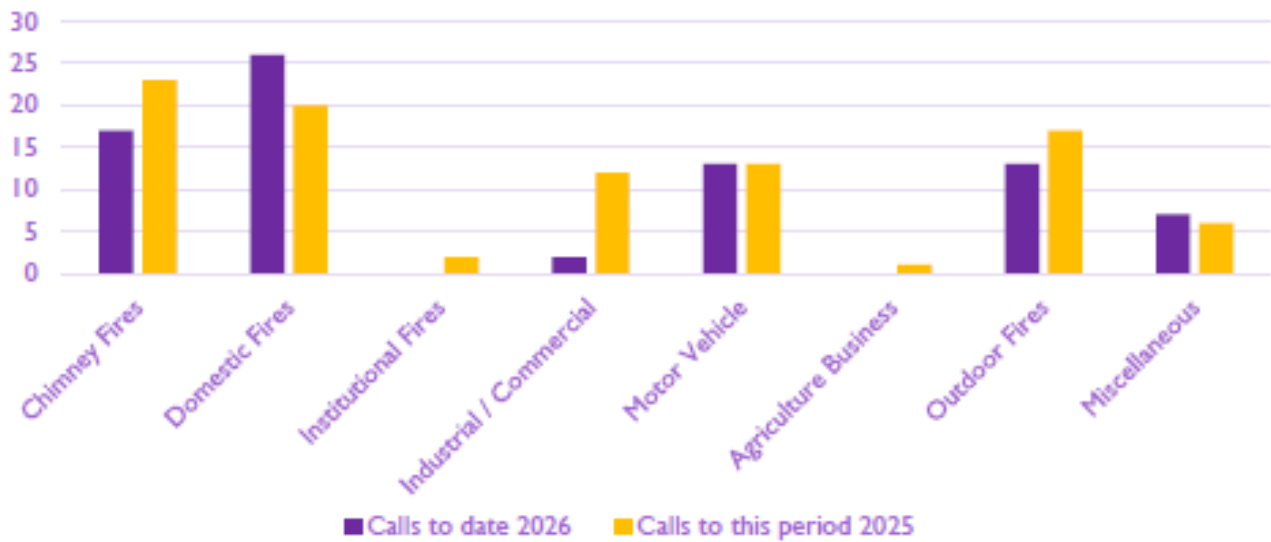
CREATIVE IRELAND

Open Calls

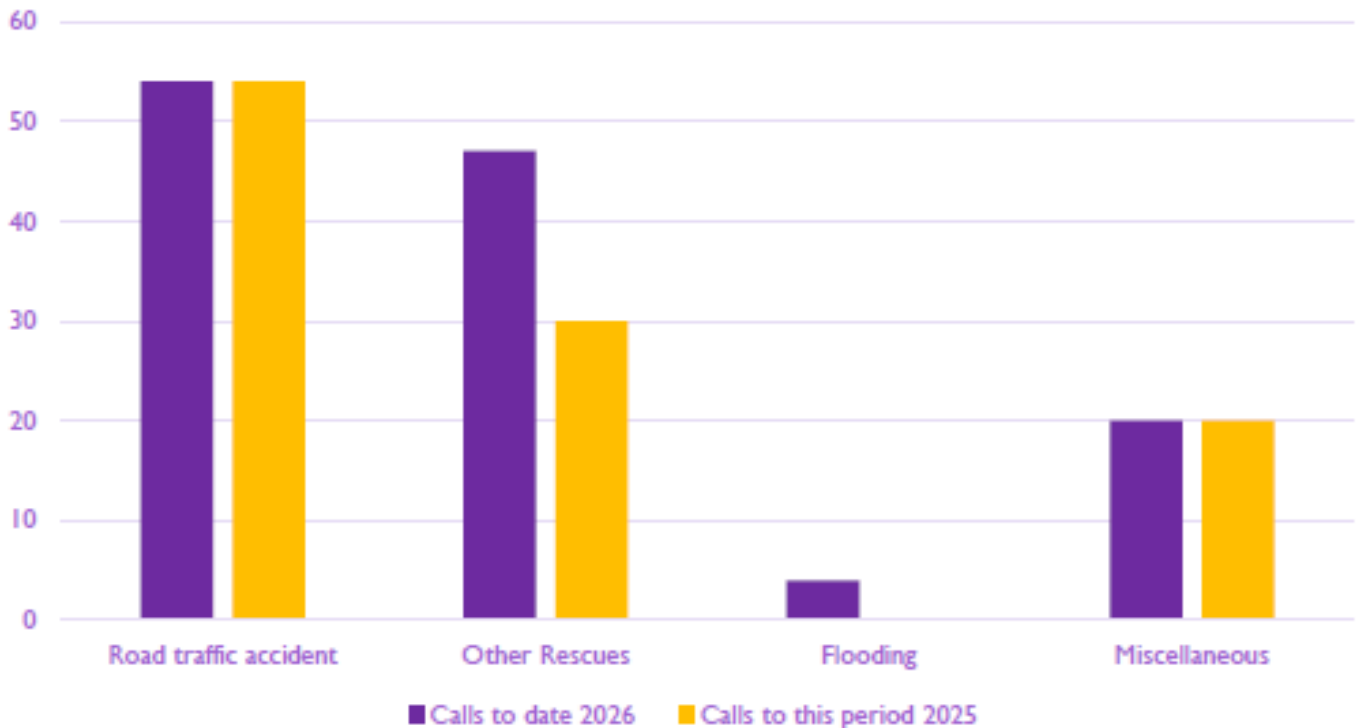
Connecting Creatively Courtown/Riverchapel

In partnership with Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District and the Courtown/Riverchapel Town First Team, proposals were invited for a community arts project (Feb–Oct 2026) to strengthen connections between the two communities. The selection process for this project has com

Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service



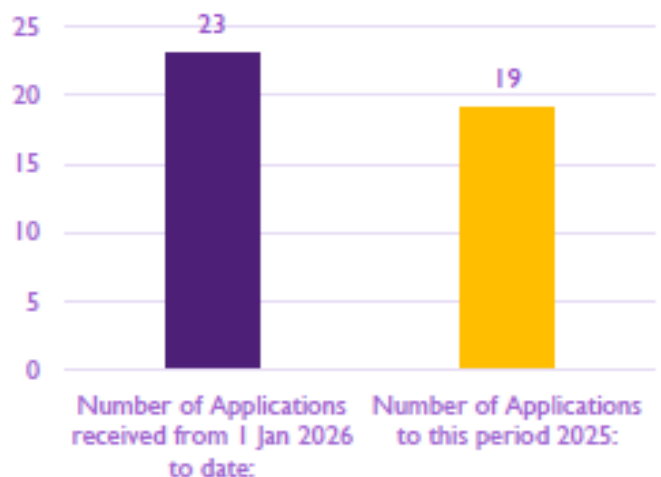
Special Services - Wexford Fire Service



False Alarms



Fire Safety Certificates

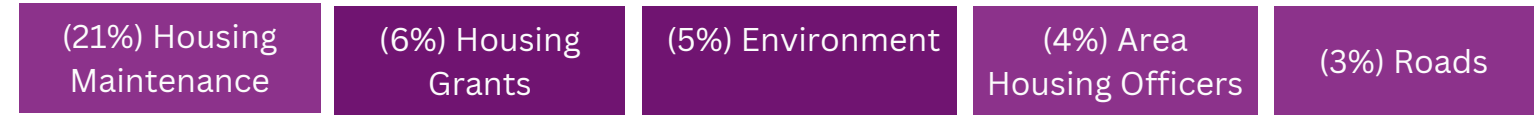


CORPORATE SERVICES

CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – MARCH 2026

Task	March 2026
Phone Calls	3149
Emails received and sent	2987

TOP 5 CSU PHONE QUERIES



FOI OFFICE REQUESTS MARCH 2026

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	19
Customer Complaint	33
Ombudsman Complaint	0
Access to Information on the Environment	5
Data Access Request	3
Total	60

FINANCE

Annual Financial Statement 2025

The 2025 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 2025 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 2026 Local Authority Home Loan allocation of €9,390,000, which is included as a separate item on the April agenda for Members approval.

Local Authority Home Loan Scheme (LAHL) & Local Authority Purchase & Renovation Scheme - Change to Scheme Limits

Circulars 14/2026 and 15/2026, both dated 18 March 2026, notified local authorities of the following amendments to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme and the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Scheme, respectively. The effective date for the changes is 1st April 2026, which are outlined below.

1. Increase to house price limits

The maximum market price, borrowing amount, or purchase price if bought under an LA Affordable purchase scheme, of houses/dwellings that can be purchased under the LAHL (Local Authority Home Loan) has increased from €300,000 to €345,000 for Wexford.

This increased limit also applies to the LAPR (Local Authority Purchase & Renovation Loan) for end of works value of a vacant or derelict property eligible for a Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

The maximum allowable mortgage is now €310,500 (90%).

For clarity, the market/purchase price/end of works value cannot exceed the limit of €345,000, even if the borrower uses their own financing to fund the excess.

Increased income limits for all single applicants in each local authority area

The income limit for single applicants is being increased from €70,000 to €80,000. The income limit for joint applicants remains unchanged at €85,000.

Mortgage Protection Insurance

Local Authority Mortgage Protection Insurance (LA MPI) is a requirement of the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme and the Local Authority Purchase & Renovation Scheme (LAPR). It is now also payable on the interest only bridging loan of the LAPR.

Interest Rates:

There was **no change** to the interest rates, they remain as follows:-

- 4.0% for mortgages with a term up to 25 years.
- 4.05% for mortgages with a term from 26 years up to 30 years.

Audit Committee

The last meeting of the Audit Committee took place on Monday 9th March, 2026 and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17th June, 2026.

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, 2026.

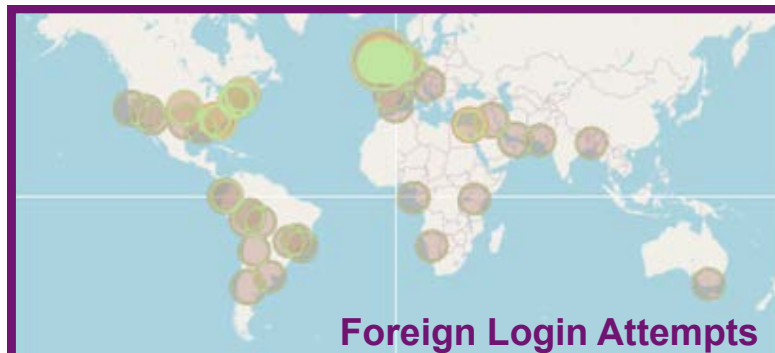
ICT SECURITY UPDATE - MARCH 2026

Notable Incidents in Wexford County Council

A malicious email targeted some Elected Members on their wexfordmcc.ie accounts. The email subject referred to an updated HR policy on staff salary adjustments, and the email itself contained a QR code which when scanned took the user to a fake Microsoft login page that had been customised with Wexford County Council branding.

- 786.6k emails in total (WexfordCoCo tenant)
- 674.6k stopped from malicious IPs
- 227 stopped with malicious links/attachments
- 10,859 emails in total (Cllr tenant)

Incoming Mail

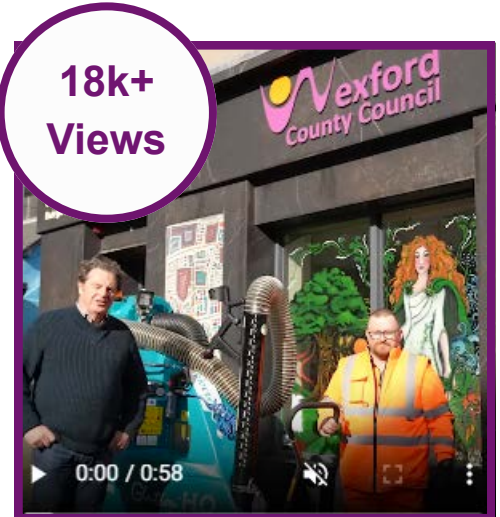
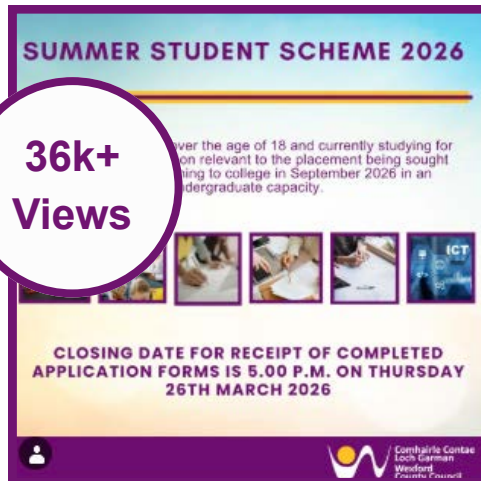


In the News

US medical device manufacturer, Stryker, was the victim of a cyberattack that affected operations worldwide, including in its Irish base in Cork. The attack was initiated by an Iranian threat actor group, who claimed to have stolen over 50 terabytes of data and completely wiped over 200,000 devices. This attack highlights the importance of strong access control on corporate accounts.



TOP 3 POSTS FOR MARCH 2026



Carrig on Bannow Playground

New Street Sweeper "Glutton"

Post Requests March 2026 = 55

**PRESS
RELEASE**

There were 23 Press Releases for Q1 2026



Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

Confirmation received that we were 100% compliant with the above Act for 2025



THRIVE APP

We are introducing a new app called Thrive to help improve communication across all sections of Wexford County Council. The first project meeting took place last week, and work is now underway in terms of content, layout and training.

Annual Staff Forum

The staff forum was held in January, with a second session in March. In total over 470 staff attended. The forum was considered a great success according to feedback via the newly introduced Mentimeter app, which enabled two-way communication.



Local boxing star Kayleigh Byrne was this year's Grand Marshal at Goreys St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive