2026

JANUARY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council

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PHOTO ALBUM JANUARY 2026

Enniscorthy & Gorey Christmas Lights - Ambulance & First Aid Cover by our Civil Defence Teams

Wexford Women Together

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	- (	1,108 Units Delivered	+	480 Units Projected	=	1,516 Delivery Pipeline	)	=	**326 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 next Expression of Interest will run from 14th January to 26th February inclusive. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	7 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Delivered December 2025	29
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	**57**

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 & 4	2 x 2-bed	Q1 2026	2
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	2 x 2-bed	Delivered June & December 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2026	8

Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	1 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed	Q1 2026	2
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	2 x 3 bed	Delivered December 2025	2
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q1 2026	2
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	1
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
		Total Part V	**42**
Project Address (AHB)	**Unit Type**	**Est. Delivery**	**Total**
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 x 1-bed apt	Delivered December 2025	6
		Total AHB	**92**
		Overall Total	**191**

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
Carrig-on-Bannow **(PART V)**	2 x 3 bed	Delivered Dec 2025	2
Murrintown Upper **(PART V)**	3 x 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	3
Seaview, Rosslare Harbour **(AHB)**	20 x 2 bed apt 8 x 3 bed hse	Q1 2026	28
		Overall Total	**43**

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 2-bed	Delivered December 2025	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	2 Delivered December 2025. 12 due in 2026	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	7 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q3 2025. 4 delivered Q4	7
		Total Turnkey	**26**
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy (Part V)	4 x 2-bed	2 Delivered December 2025. 2 delivered Q3 2025	4
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy (Part V)	5 x 3-bed	Delivered December 2025	5
Holly-Close, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy (Part V)	2 X 2 bed hse 1 X 3 bed hse	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	34
		Total Part V	**46**
Milehouse, Phase 2, Enniscorthy **(AHB)**	7 x 1 bed hse 26 x 2 bed hse	Q1 2026	33
Castle Street, Enniscorthy **(AHB)**	5 x 1 bed apts	Delivered December 2025	5
		Total AHB	**38**
		Overall Total	**110**

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 **(PART V)**	8 x 2-bed	2 Delivered Q2 2 Delivered Q3 2 Delivered Q4	8
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge **(PART V)**	1 x 3 bed	Delivered December 2025	1
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge **(PART V)**	2 x 3 bed	Q1 2026	2
Turners Way, Coolcotts **(PART V)**	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q2 2026	4

Borough District of Wexford cont'd

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Beechfield, Clonard **(AHB)**	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q1 2026	50
Whiterock Hill, Wexford **(AHB)**	6 x 2 bed 26 x 3 bed	8 Delivered April 2025 17 Delivered August 2025 15 Delivered December 2025	15
		Overall Total	**80**

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 164 units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No. of Units
Enniscorthy	30
Gorey	45
New Ross	18

District	No. of Units
Rosslare	35
Wexford	36
Total	**164**

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 & Claimed**
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118
2025	120	137*

Notes: * 17 units completed in 2025 – not claimed – to be paid from 2026 allocation.

HOMELESS SERVICES AND SUPPORT UNIT (HSSU)

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

There were 1442 calls to the HSSU up to 31st December 2025, breakdown of same:-	
1049 (73%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
155 (11%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
222 (15%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
16 (1%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

December 05th - Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD, officially launched the fourth new affordable housing project in County Wexford in 2025.

Minister Browne, who was accompanied by the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr. Joe O'Sullivan joined the Cathaoirleach of the Enniscorthy Municipal District, Cllr. Barbara Ann Murphy, Elected Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Chief Executive of Wexford County Council, Eddie Taaffe, senior housing officials from Wexford County Council and representatives of the Anthony Neville Homes Team at the programme launch.

This new phase of homes, delivered by Anthony Neville Homes in partnership with Wexford County Council will provide 16 much-needed homes in Enniscorthy.

This phase of the development launched includes 12 two-bed houses, 3 three bed houses and 1 four-bed unit. The 16 homes will be made available to eligible buyers through the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme, which is managed by Wexford County Council. Applications will be accepted via an online portal which will go live on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 12pm.

Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Cllr. Barbara Ann Murphy joined the elected members from the Enniscorthy Municipal District, to launch the affordable housing information event in advance of the upcoming application portal launch in January.

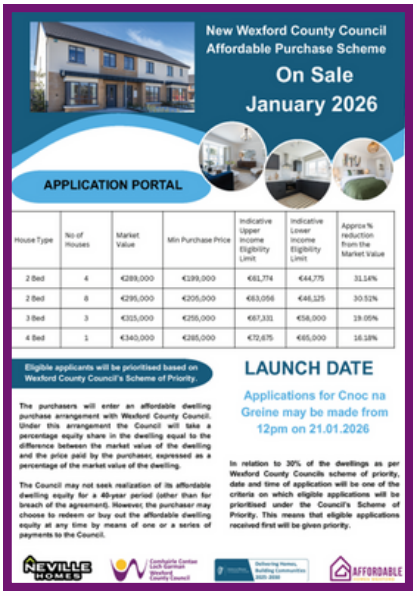
The event was an opportunity for applicants to learn about the affordable housing scheme and the application process.

Expression of Interests for Building Contractors and Housing Developers - for the delivery of affordable housing in County Wexford.

This call is targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 dwellings in any one scheme. Please note that Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended applies.

Please submit a completed Expression of Interest Application Form as soon as possible **but no later than Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 4.00pm.**

For more information visit out website at: https://www.wexfordcoco.ie



Choice Based Letting - 204 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/25. As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 299 properties were available for allocation. Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table below:-

Municipal District	Properties Available for	No. of Properties	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4/5-bed
Enniscorthy	87	70	8	44	17	1
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	63	23	2	11	9	1
New Ross	54	29	7	12	8	2
Rosslare	54	43	1	27	15	0
Wexford	52	39	1	16	22	0
TOTAL	**310**	**204**	**19**	**110**	**71**	**4**

Housing Allocations - From the 1st January to 31st December, 2025 Wexford County Council allocated 352 properties. There were also a further 105 Approved Housing Body tenancies created.

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	15	10	79	20	2	126
New Ross	26	6	47	3	2	84
Enniscorthy	23	8	22	25	2	80
Wexford	33	9	31	51	3	127
Rosslare	15	1	18	36	70	48
TOTAL	**112**	**34**	**197**	**135**	**9**	**487**

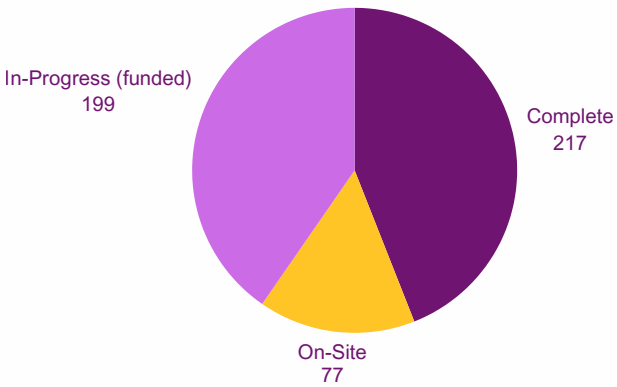
Estate Management Cases – 354 open cases as of December 2025					
Complaint	**Enniscorthy**	**Gorey/Kilmuckridge**	**New Ross**	**Rosslare**	**Wexford**
Abandonment	10	1	10	0	18
Breach of Tenancy	18	31	26	3	0
Damage to Property	2	8	7	0	4
Estate Management	28	69	25	2	7
End of Tenancy	0	1	0	0	0
Unauthorised Occupants	1	6	7	0	1
Verbal Abuse/ Violence/ Harassment/Drugs	17	25	19	6	3
TOTAL	**76**	**140**	**94**	**11**	**33**

HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

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	199

Construction Status



Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline (2027+)	589

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	6	Belvedere, Wexford	18	Rosbercon, New Ross	50
Clonard, Wexford	55	Adamstown, New Ross	4	St. Walerans, Gorey (social)	40
Bride Street, Wexford	3	Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	Grogan's Road, Wexford	4
					Total 199

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	50	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 589

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Invest Wexford brand was established by WCC to promote County Wexford as a competitive and attractive destination for both foreign direct investment (FDI) and domestic enterprise leveraging its strategic connectivity, cost competitiveness, local support eco system and exceptional quality of life. Following a recent e-tender process, O'Connell Marketing has been appointed as the successful tenderer for the provision of services for digital review and development of a marketing strategy for Invest Wexford. The aim is to reposition Invest Wexford's marketing tools having regarding to the new requirements of the business eco system with a key focus on digitalisation.

The project is to be delivered in two phases: (1) a review and refresh of the brand's digital assets and channels, followed by (2) the development and implementation of a sustainable, results-driven digital communications strategy.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

In 2025, Local Enterprise Office Wexford strengthened its role as a key driver of enterprise development in the county. The year demonstrated how sustained investment, targeted capability-building and strong stakeholder engagement have created a high-performing and increasingly competitive entrepreneurial environment in County Wexford.

The year opened with strong national representation as five Wexford creative enterprises featured at Showcase in the RDS following intensive preparation supported by LEO. This early momentum was reinforced in March with €1.76 million Enterprise Ireland funding allocation, an increase of €183,500 reflecting growing demand for digitalisation, energy efficiency and management development supports. The introduction of the Market Explorer Grant further enhanced opportunities for first-time exporters entering new international markets.

Local Enterprise Week highlighted the depth and diversity of Wexford's business ecosystem, with 11 strategically focused events addressing start-ups, scaling, digital transformation, sustainability and women in enterprise. Collaboration continued throughout April with an SME roundtable event, bringing 40 local companies into structured engagement with LEO and industry experts.

Wexford gained national visibility in May as Mór Taste represented the county at the National Enterprise Awards, showcasing the county's growing strength in food innovation. LEO Wexford reinforced its commitment to early-stage enterprise through its sponsorship at the County Wexford Business Awards. Sectoral development remained strong throughout the year, with three companies progressing through the SuperValu Food Academy and significant national exposure generated at the National Ploughing Championships. Food producers achieved outstanding success at Blas na hÉireann, securing 31 awards showing a clear return on long-term investment in product quality, innovation and capability.

Capability-building continued at scale, with the Management Development Programme, Export Accelerator Programme and specialist Retail Masterclasses supporting business leadership, export planning and strategic growth. This was further enhanced by the launch of Tap Retail supporting 14 retailers in Enniscorthy to enhance their digital presence. A new partnership with SETU under the TU Rise Programme brought targeted business clinics to rural enterprises in Rosslare Harbour Community Enterprise hub, ensuring balanced regional access to high-impact supports. National Women's Enterprise Day further strengthened networks among more than 100 female entrepreneurs.

Metrics 2025

2025	Financial Supports	Lean	Green	Digital	SYOB	MDP	Gen Training	Total	Ment/ MFI Ment	RD&I	MFI Rec	Energy Efficiency	Client Trans to EI	Grow Digital
Target	42	15	18	15	105	105	840	1050	345	1	13	18	5	6
Output	42	2	34	77	141	47	871	1116	341	1	17	17	1	29

Looking over the past eleven years, the impact is clear and data-driven. Employment in LEO-supported companies has increased from 1,070 in 2014 to 1,945 in 2024 an 82% rise. More than 1,550 net new jobs were created during this period, with positive net job creation recorded every year. The results of the employment survey for 2025 will be announced in the end of January 2025. Client numbers grew from 170 to over 230, reflecting a larger, more stable, and more resilient enterprise ecosystem.

TOURISM

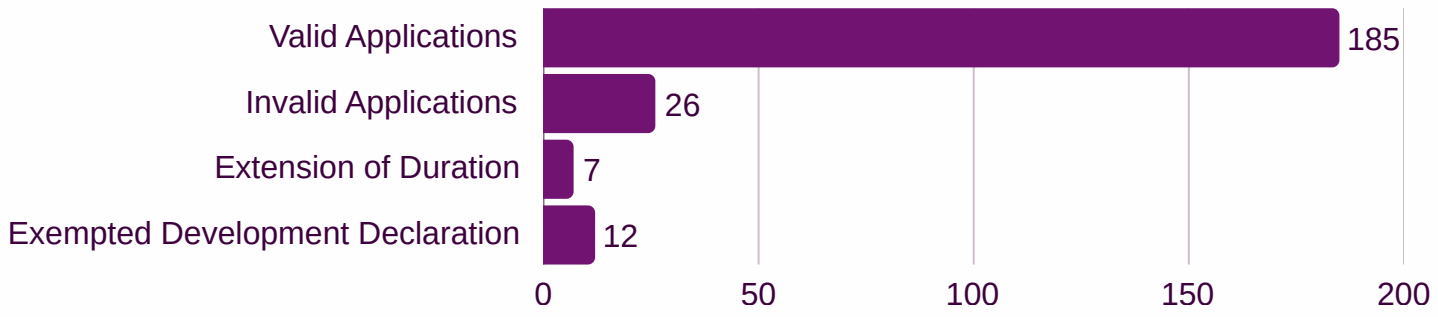
MILLENIUM
2027, EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE NORMANS 1027-2027

Progress of the 2027 Year of the Normans Project

The County Norman Forum Steering group chaired by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Sullivan met on Monday 15th December to review progress. The Tourism Officer gave a presentation on the new branding and marketing collateral and details of potential projects that have been submitted from the 5 districts.It was agreed that details of these projects will be shared with Anne-Cécile, International Relations Officer to look at potential collaboration opportunities as the project lead must be based in Normandy. A successful joint submission was made in June 2025 between Wexford County Council and Visit Wexford in partnership with Le Cotentin to host a vibrant interactive showcase at the Norman Food and Crafts Fair. The project is titled “The Village of Guillaume” which will take place in the Village of Barfleur Le Cotentin in July 2027. The next funding call for submission of projects closes on the 31st January 2026.

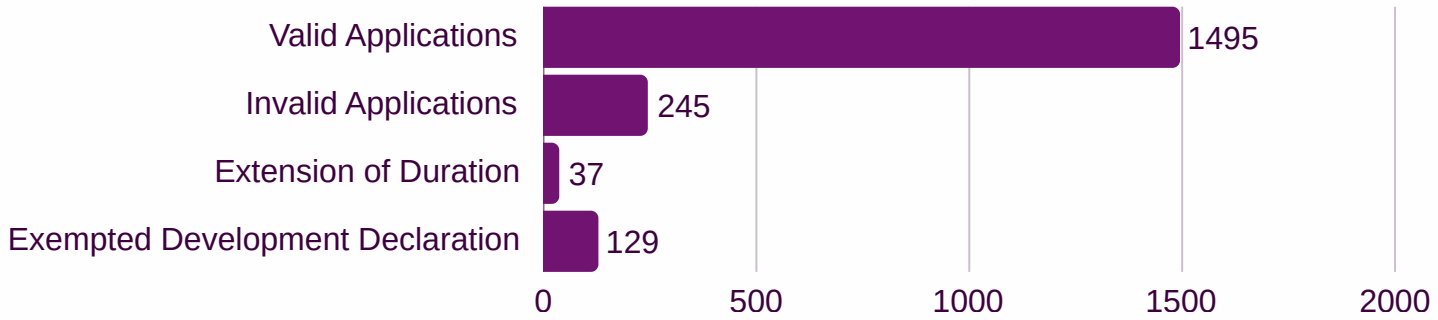
The funding call is open to stakeholders from France, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, Ireland, Southern Italy, Sicily, Norway, Denmark and Flanders to contribute projects towards shaping the programme for this landmark commemorative year.

Planning applications received 21st November - 31st December 2025



211 total number of applications

Planning applications received 1st January to 31st December 2025



1740 total number of applications

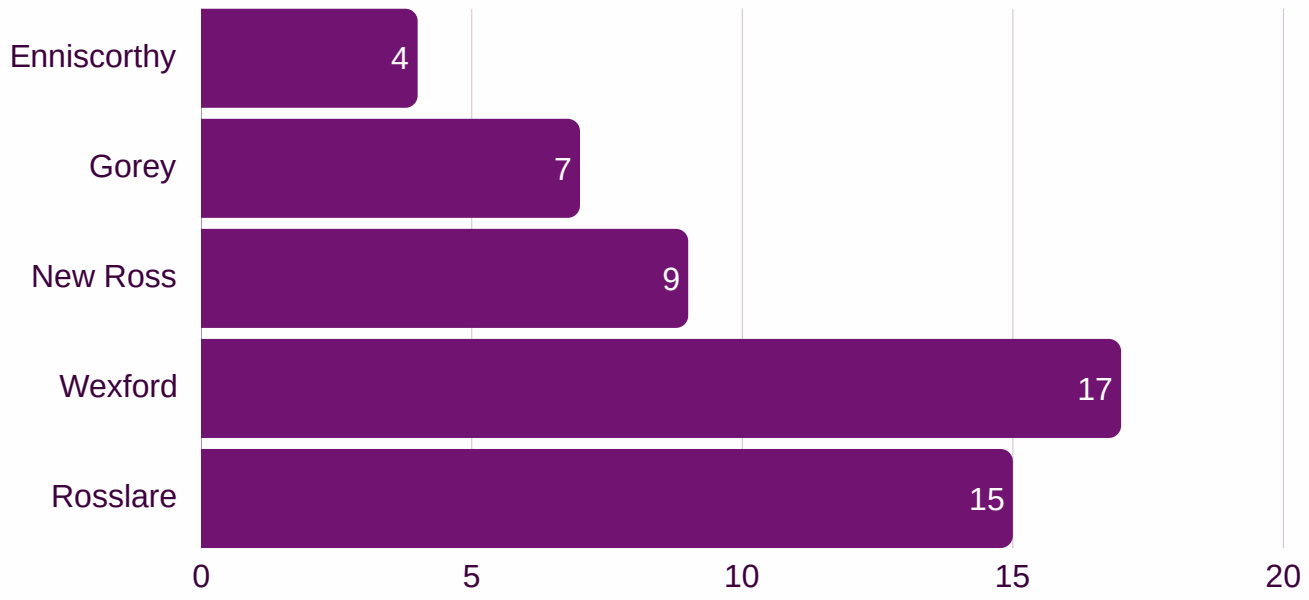
Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 31st December 2025

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	80	74	4
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	149	137	21
New Ross MD	83	90	2
Rosslare MD	106	95	1
Wexford BD	84	78	4
Total	**502**	**474**	32

Average days to pre-planning meeting is **29**

Major Pre-Planning - Year to date to the 31st December 2025

Number of meetings held by district



51 Total

Number of Housing Units

1,522 units

Commercial Development

14,440 m2 approx.

Planning CSO Returns - year to date to the 30th November 2025

2025 Permissions granted for new dwellings

Housing Developments (total units)	Apartments including self contained dwelling units (total units)	One off houses	LACs Local Authority Development	Total number of permissions granted for new dwellings
325	141	256	152	874

Forward Planning

Housing Growth Requirements

The National Planning Framework – First Revision, which issued in April 2025, identified a need to provide 50,000 housing units per annum in the state. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage subsequently issued Section 28 Guidelines to implement this target. The Guidelines identify Housing Growth Requirements (HGR) for each County. County Wexford has been allocated the fifth highest percentage increase nationally under the new HGR with an increase from 1,072 units to 1,622 units per annum for the period 2025-2034. The Guidelines also allow for additional flexibility in terms of headroom/additional provision, increasing from 25% to 50% over required zoning.

Local Authorities are required to review the Core Strategy in their existing County Development Plan (CDP) and, if necessary, amend it to accommodate the revised housing targets. Local Authorities must also review the quantum of land zoned for residential purposes within their functional area and determine whether there is adequate zoned land available to serve the revised targets. Where it is found that there is not adequate land zoned, local authorities are required to vary their plans to address this.

Work is well advanced and the Chief Executive will submit a report to the Members outlining his recommendations on the method by which it is intended to implement the revised housing targets. This will take the form of a series of variations to the CDP to increase the supply of zoned land. The first variation to the CDP will deal with the revisions required to the Core Strategy and land use zoning and objectives for Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town.

Workshops were held with the Members of Enniscorthy and New Ross Municipal Districts on the 16th and 17th of December respectively. It is anticipated that the variation will go to the Members at the end of January 2026 and for public consultation in early February 2026.

Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 31st December 2025

477	298	238
Live cases	Cases opened year to date	Cases closed year to date

Building Control - Year to date up to the 31st December 2025

449	515	231	6
Validated commencement notices	Building control inspections	Validated cert. of compliance on completion	Taking in charge reports sent to districts

Dangerous Structures and Places - Year to date up to the 31st December 2025

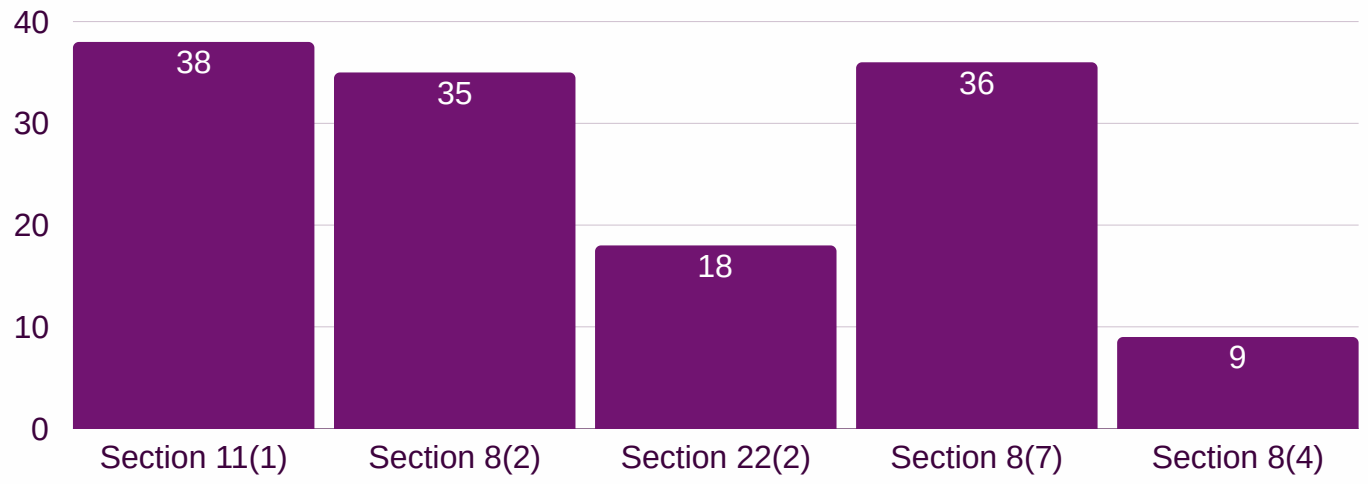
Notices issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964

Section 3(1) Notice	Section 3(2) Notice	New Files Opened	Files Closed
7	2	15	7

- **Section 3(1) Notice** instructs the owner to carry out works to make the site safe within a timeframe
- **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 31st December 2025

Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990



136 total notices issued

149	66	386	42
Sites on the Derelict Site Register	New files opened	Site inspections/visits carried out	Files closed

- **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

URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund

174 sites approved on the programme as of the 31st December 2025

- **32** Engagement with Property Owner Commenced
- **2** Process to Purchase Commenced by CPO
- **1** Process to Purchase Commenced by Agreement
- **3** Property Acquired by LA
- **8** Advertised for sale - property owned by LA
- **75** Brought back into use by Original Owner (closed case)
- **40** Property no longer vacant/derelict following review (closed case)
- **7** Being Dealt with Under Different Programme
- **6** Sold by local authority

A proposal has been submitted to the Department of Housing for the inclusion of **21 additional properties** in the URDF Call 3 programme which is pending decision.

Disability Access Certificates (DACs) Year to date up to the 31st December 2025

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	11	0	2	8	1
Gorey	20	0	2	17	1
New Ross	13	0	2	10	1
Wexford	37	0	0	36	1
Rosslare	9	0	2	5	2
2025 Totals	**90**	**0**	**8**	**76**	**6**

90 total number of valid DAC applications

Disability proofing - year to date up to the 31st December 2025

139

LAC/PLAC/LRD and General Planning Applications

10

Major pre-planning event days

Access Items

40 Letters issued by Access Section on foot of FSC/DAC Comparison Reports (induction to possible enforcement)

DAC/Revised DAC Applications received	Responses received to letters: Replies – stating no DAC required	Responses received to letters: No reply received	Responses received to letters: Replies – stating will submit application - not submitted as yet
6	15	3	3

Access Activity

Following the launch of the new National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030 in September 2025, Wexford County Council Access Team, in conjunction with ICT have drafted the final report for the monitoring of our obligations under the previous National Disability Inclusion Strategy.

The extracts below inform of the overall status of WCC in demonstrating compliance based on the entries by each section for actions identified in the National Disability Inclusion Strategy relating to their respective services provision.

Wexford County Council
Disability Inclusion Strategy 2019 - 2024
Implementation Report

33 Total Departments

468 Total Actions across the Organisation

217 Total Key Actions across the Organisation

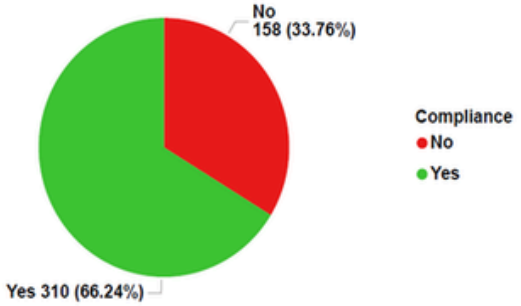
251 Total Other Actions across the Organisation

310 Total Compliant Actions across the Organisation

66.24% Overall Compliance across the Organisation

**** NOTE - Compliance means Action Status has been checked and verified by Access Office

Overall Actions across the Organisation by Compliance



Access Activity

JAM Card Initiative

530 staff to date have completed the training here in Wexford County Council, with 221 still to complete so running at just over 70% completed
Civil Defence have 43 out of 70 volunteers completed the training a 61% total completed.

Complaints, Queries and Requests to the Access Section in 2025

94 of which 86 have been addressed or closed. The assistance of Departments and Districts is significant in bringing many of the issues to a successful conclusion.

The following table identifies some of the items and the funding allocated from the Access Budget to assist in addressing the issues in the items below in collaboration with the districts.

District	Funding €	Reason
Enniscorthy	8,622.79	• Accessible octagonal tables for activity garden • Works to ramp at the 1798 centre
Wexford	12,670.00	• Pierce Court Ramp • 33 Whiterock View footpaths • Talbot Green Disabled Bays
Gorey Kilmuckridge	22,365.03	• Morriscastle adman steel shed • Gorey Tidy Towns - Signage • Cahore Access Bench - Benches • Millbrook Footpath – Upgrade after fall incident • Ramsfort entrance – safer accessible route • Paddy Blues - uncontrolled crossing • Cois Abhainn Blackwater – footpath access
New Ross	15,716.81	• Bridge Street - footpath works for access • Duncannon adman steel shed -rollator • Make Way Day - Promotional Video • Mary Street- redesign footpath for access

REGENERATION UNIT

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Projects funded under Measures 1,2 and 3 of the 2024 TCF Suite of Supports are now complete and funding drawn down from the DRCDG.

Under Measure 1 we have Town Teams established in Castlebridge, Taghmon and Bunclody with meetings scheduled for 2026. We anticipate further roll out of TCF initiatives with these Town Teams in 2026.

Under Measure 2 we have a Town Centre First Plan in Place for Courtown/Riverchapel and we continue to meet as a Town Team and we will continue to seek funding streams throughout 2026 that will enable us to make this ambitious plan a reality.

Under Measure 3 works are now complete on these project development measures for the St Michaels Theatre New Ross restoration project and Bridgetown water based facility.

We had meetings in December for the New Ross and Enniscorthy TCF Teams with meetings Planned for Wexford TCF Team in January.

Further announcements on Town Centre First are expected Nationally in early 2026.

Vacant Homes

Work is continuing on vacant homes with €597,802 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks and €550,000 of initial approvals granted in this time period which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 30-09-25	
Applications Received	553
Inspections Required (First)	13
Inspections Required (Final)	13
Applications Info Requested	125
Applications Approved	407
Awaiting Approval	0
Applications Rejected	7
Applications Approved In Principle	2
Withdrawn By Applicant	13

Funding Issued	**152**
Total Funding Paid to Date	€8,762,774.90
Total Funding Approved To Date	*€23,207,852.00*

WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	**Blackstairs GWS** • **Caim Tank** – Works complete. Road Reinstatement to take place in Q1 2026. • **Reservoir Bypass** - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment. Recouped from Dept. • Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q2 2026.
MARWP 2024-2026	• Funding approval – €1.2 million for the upgrade of 3.9km Watermain for Blackstairs GWS. • Topographical Survey Carried • Detail design ongoing • Site Investigations contract preparation underway
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	**Individual Well Grants** • A total of **23** new well grant applications were registered in December 2025. • **15** Well Grants have been paid in this period, totaling **€25,035.07.** • **51** inspections to date carried out to date in November 2025. **Total paid out for Well Grants for 2025 is €607,617.05**
Group Water Scheme Subsidies	• **Subsidy A (**payable towards the general operational and management costs of all types of GWS's: **€ 347,388.21 paid** • **Subsidy B** (payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&M costs associated with "bona fide" DBO contracts for GWS's **€378,134.07.** • Q4 2025 will be paid when the NFGWS submit validated costs for the schemes. • Applications for Grant towards Capital Replacement Costs of the DBO GWSs have been submitted. **Total Subsidies Paid to GWS for 2025 is €725,522.28**
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	**New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024** • Ramsgrange – €8.1 Million funding approved to Wexford County Council • Wexford County Council to meet with Uisce Eireann and DHLGH in Q1 2026 to discuss responsibilities
Lead Remediation Grant	• 10 applications received to date on revised grant, 8 paid, 2 approved but have yet to submit claim for works complete.
Compliance monitoring	• 168 private supplies on register for compliance monitoring. End of year shortfall reports will be processed in December. • 434 investigative and compliance samples tested. • All but one supply tested at least once (due to seasonality of businesses)

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	Q2 2026
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q2 2026
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q4 2026
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2027
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q2 2026
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q2 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. Critical Path - Awaiting substantial engagement from Uisce Eireann regarding DPI Resolution and connection agreements.
- **Stonebrook** submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval
- **Kyle Close** submitted to Planning for Pre Planning Part XI Assessment.
- **Critical Path** - Awaiting substantial engagement from Uisce Eireann regarding DPI Resolution and connection agreements

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 underway to address Service Area requirements, Active Travel provisions, and Biodiversity considerations.

Preliminary design of the River Slaney Bridge and the associated Railway Protection Structure (RPS) at the river crossing has commenced. Preparation of the Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) and Maritime Area Consent (MAC) applications are ongoing.

Updates to the traffic modelling are nearing completion, and environmental surveys remain ongoing.

Revised tender documents for the Phase 3 Targeted Archaeological Test Excavations are being prepared.

Consultation with directly affected landowners is continuing.

A Real Estate Valuation of the 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.

The draft Bridge Agreement for Structure B1 (Railway Overbridge) has been reviewed by Wexford County Council, and comments have been issued to Iarnród Éireann.

Negotiations between real estate valuators and landowners regarding Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) compensation are ongoing.

Procurement documents for the appointment of Technical Advisors for Phases 6 and 7 have been completed, and a request to publish the tender has been submitted to TII for formal approval. A response from TII is awaited.

Procurement documents for the appointment of the Main Construction Contractor have also been completed, and a request to publish the tender has been submitted to TII for formal approval. A response from TII is awaited.

On-site works under the Archaeological Services (Stages I–IV) contract are expected to commence in early January 2026.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

SAFETY SCHEMES

National Road	Progress update
N25 Tagoat	Detailed design drawings issued for comment, Stage 1 RSA to be completed with Design report issued December to TII Approvals.
N30 Leeches Bend West of Clonroche	Works are substantially complete – Awaiting cats eyes installation. Stage 3 audit carried out, minor items identified to be rectified.
N25 Larkins Cross	Stage 1 Safety Audit complete, audit reviewed by WCC and Tramore House and comments returned. Awaiting reply from auditors.

2025 PAVEMENT SCHEMES

N25 Ballygillane to Ashfield Cross Roundabout Phase 2 Pavement Scheme €2,460,000 - The scheme was completed in early June.

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2025 €2,750,000

The following schemes have been identified for surface course replacement for 2026

- N11 Oylegate to Scurlocksbush Roundabout. 1.7km – contractors appointed, Civils works are ongoing, pavement works are dependent on temperature
- N30 Ballymackesy 1.0km – Tender documents received, Tender Assessment Report received. WCC to submit to TII, with their guidance on contract award given the 2026 allocation has yet to be awarded.
- N30 Leeches Bend includes a HD28 allocation – included in the safety scheme.
- N11 Oylegate Village Repair Works complete.
- Retexturing of Traffic Lanes for 2.35km on the N11 and N30 – contractor appointed and works have commenced.
- N30 Clonroche completed
- N11 Kyle Cross
- N11 Ferrycarrig Hill

Additional Maintenance Allocation

Additional maintenance allocation of €575,000 was secured in 2025 from TII for the following minor repairs across the national road network:

N25 Clonard overbridge - Works complete.

Minor pavement repair to approaches to the N25 Duncannon Road Roundabout. Works Complete

Minor pavement repair within N25 Kilrane traffic calming. Works completed.

Minor pavement repair at N25 Cushinstown. Works completed.

Minor pavement repair at N80 Moyeady.

N11 Oilgate Village Pavement Repair. Works Completed

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's allocation through the Regional and Local Road Grant 2025 is €24,243,148. Projects are completed.

Restoration Improvement Programme
Wexford's allocation is €12,440,500.

97 projects have been added to our countywide programme and all projects are completed.

Surface Dressing Programme
Wexford's allocation is €2,841,500. 71 projects are completed.

Community Involvement Schemes - All 7 schemes completed

Local Involvement Schemes (LIS) - All schemes completed.

Bridge Rehabilitation - 15 of 17 projects completed under this programme.

Safety Improvement Works - All 12 Projects completed.

Specific Improvement Grant - This scheme includes €170,000 for 3 bridges – Wexford, Edermine and Kildavin (Murntown) Bridge Remediation Project.

Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are now appointed to progress this scheme. The works involve bridge inspections, overseeing site investigations and undertaking necessary designs for remediation works. Preliminary inspections were carried out on 25th November.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works - All 23 projects on the programme completed.

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

Winter Maintenance - The Winter Service Plan came into effect on Monday 13th October 2025 and continues to Thursday 30th April 2026.

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Pathfinder projects	
Project & Location	**Project Update**
Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3	Awaiting construction approval.
Hospital Junction Newtown Road	Hospital Junction currently in detail design stage. Tender for works in Q126. Land transfer agreement underway with HSE. Advance works started at boundary to SW in Dec 25 involving removal of leylandii trees followed by wall construction in Jan 26.
Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme	Advance works to complete permeability paths and front-of-school works on Kennedy Park School in 2026, with the main works starting Q3 2028.
Roxborough Cycle Scheme	Preliminary design complete. Surveys to continue in Q1/26 to prepare design for a planning consent process.

Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy Town - Document is being finalised for draft publication in Q1/2 2026.

Wexford Town - Document is being finalised for publication in Q1/2 2026.

Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRS)

The following sites were approved by NTA for funding in 2025:

Ballaghkeene NS Construction works ongoing

Kiltealy NS Construction works ongoing

Enniscorthy Vocational College – Construction works commenced 22nd October. Works are ongoing with installation of new footpath, upgraded street lighting and pedestrian crossings.

Ballyroebuck NS - was approved for €170,000 funding as part of additional school on high-speed roads. Road resurfacing strengthening and SD's completed and funded by NTA. Awaiting high friction & lining (weather dependent)

St Leonard's National School

Construction of intervention measures at St. Leonards National School at final stages. Re-surfacing works initiated on 25th November to be followed by line marking. Secured 50% of cost of resurfacing from NTA.

Re-Surfacing – St. Leonards NS

Age Verification:

An additional age verification measure has undergone extensive testing and is now fully incorporated into the Bolt app. All users (existing and new) are now required to upload a photo of an ID document as proof of age. Only those over the age of 18 years are permitted to avail of Bolt bikes and scooters. This age verification measure will be a mandatory requirement for all users from 1st January.

Utilisation Data Comparison:

There is a notable year-on-year increase in usage of Bolt bikes and scooters in Wexford Town. The table below is a comparison of Bolt trips (bikes & scooters) for the period Sept, Oct, Nov 2024 versus the same period in 2025.

	# trips 2024	# trips 2025	+/-
Sept	6026	6755	12%
Oct	5112	7179	40%
Nov	4761	5587	17%
	15899	19521	23%

E-bike demand is holding steady, with growth in e-scooter usage driving the above figures. The latest data now shows a 70 / 30 split in favour of e-scooters.

Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme

Schedule of bus shelter locations reviewed by Active Travel, DOS and Local Link. Schedule submitted to NTA for follow up meeting on Monday 1st December.

Other works

Fethard footpath extension – works nearing completion. The project has been expanded to include speed cushions, new footpath and junction tightening into Castle Park Estate.

Old Dublin Rd. - Footpaths complete and funding allocation utilised.

Pedestrian crossings completed in addition to previous report:

Roxborough – Kerlogue Manor to Lidl
Clonard Road x2

Completed crossings – St. Edans NS Ferns & Castledockrell

***Ballycarney** – includes 3 ramps in total and pedestrian crossing upgrade*

Ballymurn - pedestrian crossing and footpath extension works completed

Weafer Street, Enniscorthy – Junction tightening and safety measures at 3 junctions. Construction works completed at Parnell Rd / Weafer Street junction. Works paused to accommodate busy trading period.

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 applied for awaiting completion of installation	Works commenced December to be completed in January
Ballycullane Village	Prices returned and contractor appointed	Contractor appointed, installation to commence in January
Auburn Avenue, New Ross	Awaiting ESB connection	Installation completed by contractor, awaiting ESB connection
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	ESB application submitted.	Awaiting final quotation before appointing contractor.
Kilhile Arthurstown	Design returned, awaiting pricing	Out for pricing from contractors
Glentire Heights to the Ballagh Village	Works Ongoing	Contractors appointed & works progressing
Kiltealy Village	Works Ongoing	Contractors appointed & works progressing
Kilrane Manor, Kilrane	All lights replaced with LED lanterns.	All operational
Sean O Byrne Park, Gorey	Installation complete, awaiting ESB connection.	Connection from ESB and post connection works by contractor
Clonattin Road, Gorey	Installation completed, ESB connected	Lights operational
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.	Connection and final post works check to be completed.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Projects at Planning Stages

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: January 2026
Ballast Office- a)Essential repair Work	Tender Stage	A letter of Acceptance has been issued to Mythen Construction. Documentation is being sought from the contractor ahead of the contract start date. Construction will begin in January 2026.
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
Ballynagee Link Road	Design Stage	Fencing to secure the site is due to be completed in Q1 2026. Surveys and Ground investigation works are anticipated to commence in Q1 2026.
Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building	Planning Stage	No update
Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme	Planning Stage	No update
Dunbrody Centre and Extension	Detail Design	Site investigations (site survey, trial holes, bore holes etc.) are underway and are to be concluded in January 2026. The design will be finalised once this information becomes available.
Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme		No update
Phase 1-New River Slaney Bridge Project	Design Phase	Planning application for Phase 1 is to be submitted in Q3 2026
Phase 2		The consultants brief is currently being peer reviewed. Consultants will be procured using a two-stage process. The 1st stage, invitation to prequalify, will be advertised in January.
Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2 420827	Design stage	It is expected the tender for construction works will be published in January 2026.
Enniscorthy Technical Park IDA Tech Building 420847	Design stage	The planning application was submitted in December 2025.
Enniscorthy- (A) Town Centre & Tourism Project	Preliminary Design stage	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 January 2026.
(B) Templeshannon Regeneration Project.		Consultants for preliminary design, planning, detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Market Square scheme. Consultants will be procured using a two-stage process. Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify, will be advertised in January 2026.
Esmonde Street, Gorey	Tender Stage	Construction works on-site are expected to commence in January/Februrary 2026.
Gorey Market House	Design Stage	Surveys to inform the detailed design are largely complete. Stage 1 (prequalification) of main works tender has been completed. It is anticipated the main works tender package will be issued to the shortlisted tenderers in March 2026. An enabling works tender package is in preparation, with these works to take place in advance of the main contract works commencing.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - At Planning Stage

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: January 2026
Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)	Design Stage	It is anticipated that the full scheme will progress through Part 8 pre-planning in January 2026 and be submitted for development consent via Part 8 in May 2026. Irish Rail approvals process requires an Irish Rail Pre-Project Assessment to be completed. It is likely the application for this will be submitted in Q1 2026.
John Street Grain Store, New Ross	Planning	A completed planning pack to facilitate an application for development consents for a new public realm to the rear of the property is expected to be submitted to An Coimisiun Pleanála in January 2026.
Riverchapel Community Centre	Design stage	An integrated design team has been appointed to progress the project through the tendering and construction stages to completion. An initial Order of Magnitude for the project has been prepared and the design proposal is being reviewed for suitability ahead of progressing to tender. Initial costings have been returned in excess of the original project budget. A thorough review is being carried out into the design brief as part of project value engineering.
Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenways	Route Options Stage	Options Selection Report Peer review completed. The Preferred Route Corridor report has been received for Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour. A public information event is being planned for February to announce this. Additional flood modelling is currently ongoing prior to finalising the preferred route corridor for Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand.
Wexfordia		
Irish National Heritage Park	Preliminary Design	It is planned to submit a planning application for Phase 1 of the project, including Vykingar Viking Village; and the new Visitor centre to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Q3 2026, subject to the receipt of a Marine Area Consent from MARA. Preliminary Design of the new visitor centre is now complete
Hook Lighthouse	Preliminary Design	The current design was presented to the Board of Hook Heritage Ltd. at a special Board meeting held on November 14th. Irish Lights have also been consulted on the design. A Public Consultation event with display of the most up to date designs for the local community is planned to be held in the existing visitor centre at Hook Lighthouse in Q1 2026.
New Ross Tourism Project:	Preliminary Design	An application for additional funding for completion of the centre was forwarded to the DCRDG in December 2025. The Norman centre will be an important element in the European wide celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of the birth of William the Conqueror, the first Norman King of England. 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 the shorlisted tenderers in Q4 2025 with works proposed to start in Q2 2026

Projects Under Construction

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: January 2026
Adoration Convent	Construction Stage	Works commenced onsite in July 2025.A formal ground-breaking ceremony was held on September 30th, attended by elected members, the Adoration nuns and officials from Georgia Southern University and Wexford County Council. Works are progressing well onsite & completion is scheduled for January 2027.
Enniscorthy Sports Hub 420330	Construction Stage	Works are progressing and currently on programme for completion in September 2026

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: January 2026
Ferndale Gymnasium	Construction Stage	Works are currently expected to be complete in January 2026. The completion of the Project is contingent on the ESB and Uisce Eireann connection.
SouthEast Greenway		
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3	Complete	No Update
Rosbercon Trailhead	Preliminary Design	Part 8 process for Rosbercon Trailhead is due to commence in Jan. 2026
Lot 4	Detailed Design	Tender for the main works contract is due to be advertised in Mar. 2026
Lot 4a	Preliminary Design	No Update
Lot 5a	Under construction	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 March 2026
Lot 5b ,Lot 6,Lot 7	Detailed Design	Site investigation works are ongoing. Detailed design ongoing.
Lot 8	Preliminary Design	No update
Lot 9	Detailed Design	No update
Trinity Wharf	Detailed Design Stage	IGSL completed offshore site investigations in early November. Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing. The Stage 1 (pre-qualification) advert for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) was published on Etenders in September. Works are programmed to commence in May 2026. A revised Stage 1 (pre-qualification) advert for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) was published on Etenders was issued in December 2025.
Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Design Stage	Modelling of the current conditions is almost complete, and the scheme will be moving to optioneering in the coming weeks.
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. 5 out of the 6 projects were allocated funding.
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: 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. **Wexford Total :€897,416**
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 and Community Development and the Gaeltacht on 10th Oct 2025. Coastal Destination Courtown Project was not successful in this round of funding

COMMUNITY

HEALTHY WEXFORD

End of Year Updates:

- The Wexford LCDC and Pobal approved the one year extension of the Healthy Ireland Round 4 Fund into 2026.
- The Healthy County Committee met in December and received updates from the working groups on Healthy Ireland funded and other funded projects.
- Healthy County Coordinators and Slaintecare LDOs from across the country met in Wexford in December in a review and planning session, led by the National Office. This meeting provided insight into the plans from the National Office and an opportunity to discuss and share learnings from across the country.
- Healthy Wexford finalised the video project to highlight the personal health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering. The video was release on International Volunteer Day on 5th December across Wexford County Council and Healthy Wexford social media and can be viewed here: https://www.facebook.com/reel/1450648336626311/?

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Here are some of the latest activities of the CRF in 2025.

Ministerial visit to the Gym at Our Lady's Island GAA Club, Rosslare MD.

Ministerial launch of The Bank Community & Enterprise Hub, Rosslare Harbour, Rosslare MD.

Camross Hall carpark resurfacing, NR MD.

Barntown Parish Filed project, Wexford Borough

Community Recognition Fund 2023: - End of Year Figures for 2025	
Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date **(86%)**	€1,291,978.69 *(incl. WCC Admin)*
Works complete (24no. of 27no. projects)	89%
Works in progress (0no. projects)	0%
Projects to be started (2no. projects – *DRCD granted extensions to April 2026*) • Kilmuckridge Playground, (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD) – April 2026 *new extension* • Riverchapel Community Complex, (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD) – April 2026 *new extension*	7%
Projects cancelled by Community Group (1no. funding decommitted) • Fethard Community Development Assoc. (New Ross MD)	4%
Total of fund claimed to Q4 2025 from Dept.	€1,099,751.90 (73%)

Community Recognition Fund 2024: End of Year Figures for 2025	
Total Fund	€1,703,377.00
Total fund expenditure to date **(67%)**	€1,138,539.10 *(incl. WCC Admin)*
Works complete (8no. projects of 22no. projects)	36%
Works in progress (7no.)	32%
Projects to be started (7no. projects)	32%
Total of fund claimed to Q4 2025 from Dept.	€1,077,692.24 (63%)

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT

Accommodation

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

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	285	838
Irish Red Cross	32	102

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme: Alll six Refurbishment Programme properties are now open and operational.

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	46	68
Unity Court, Wexford	39	57
Michael Street, Wexford	8	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	5	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	6	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	3	21

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

"Christmas Movie Night" in all IPAS Centres

The LAIT collaboration with the IPAS Centre managers organised a Christmas movie night for all families to enjoy in the centres. It took place in 3 IPAS centres and over 170 children attended the evening. Goodie bags, pizzas and soft drinks were provided for all the children to enjoy during their movie.

Internal Human Rights Day - Christmas Jumper Day

To mark International Human Rights Day a jumper-day fundraiser was held to raise funds for vulnerable families. Over 200 euro was raised and gifts were delivered to families by the LAIT during Christmas week. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Clinics

LAIT continued to support IPAS and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) with regular clinics helping people with various needs. LAIT visited all 24 BOTP centres and 5 IPAS centres in December wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Some of the women from Rosslare and Moran's IPAS centres at the equine therapy taster session with Rag Tree Equine Centre, Blackwater

Cricket Leinster Schools Cricket 2025 Statistics					
Primary Schools	**Schools Visited**	**Total Visits**	**Lessons Delivered**	**Girls Participation**	**Boys Participation**
	30	55	160	1311	1387
Secondary Schools	4	7	8	147	57
July Provision	2	2	2	29	16
Secondary Blitz		1		14	35
Primary Blitz		2		44	47
Table Cricket	1	3	6	11	12

Additional Sports Active Activities	
Women's Shed Taster	Duncannon Women's Shed took part in a Scooch & Bocce Taster Session.
Walking Rugby with adults in disability day services	In collaboration with Leinster Rugby, a 2-day walking rugby taster programme was delivered in St. Joseph's Community Centre with Windmill Therapeutics Services in Wexford.
Chair Yoga for Chronic Conditions	6-week chair yoga living with chronic conditions in Clonard Community Centre finished. 14 participants took part.
IPAS Women Equine Therapy Taster	As part of the Sport4Empowerment programme, 10 women from Rosslare and Moran's IPAS centres took part in an equine therapy taster session with Rag Tree Equine Centre, Blackwater.
Safeguarding	1 x Safeguarding 1 Course was held in December with a total of 17 participants.
	1 x Safeguarding 2 Course was held with a total of 11 participants.
	18 Courses have been held in 2025 with a total of 278 participants.

Mental Health Services Working Group

The Mental Health Services Working Group met on four occasions last year. The Group's Terms of Reference have been agreed, and work has commenced on publicising the group and assessing the service needs for the County. The aims of this working group are to highlight the need for a 24/7 mental health crisis centre in Co Wexford, identify gaps in service provision, strengthen the voice of the County representatives of the Regional Health Forum and promote mental health services supports.

Local Sports Plan & County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Work on these plans will be undertaken concurrently. Sector 3 Solutions Ltd has been appointed as consultants to write both plans. Preparatory work has begun in compiling the systems mapping for the consultants to inform the consultation process and draft of the two plans. The plans are due to be delivered in Q2 of this year.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Pop-up Surveys

The Community Safety Coordinator completed the final Pop-up Survey of 2025 on community safety issues on the 9th Dec at the Men's Shed County Network meeting in Enniscorthy. This totals 8 Pop-up surveys completed in 2025 throughout County Wexford. 318 people participated and 91% stated they felt safe in the community where they lived. Results of all surveys will be published in Feb 2026 when work on the website is completed.

Wexford LCSP Steering Group

The Wex LCSP Steering Group had its final meeting on the 10th Dec and agreed a draft Communications Strategy and draft online Consultation Questionnaire for the 3-year Community Safety Plan. This will be presented to the members at the next meeting of the Partnership on the 29th Jan 2026 for consideration and approval.

Pilot Projects

Pilot Projects continued with the establishment of Community Intervention Teams to deal with issues of anti-social behaviour in estates in Enniscorthy and Wexford. This involved the Community Safety Coordinator bringing together An Garda Siochána, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, WCC Housing Officers, Wexford Local Development, Slaintecare, Residents, and other stakeholders to agree a collaborative approach in tackling this complex problem.

Safe Play Areas

The Community Safety Coordinator also worked closely with WCC Housing Department, the Sláintecare Coordinator, the Wexford Traveller Interagency Group (TIG), and residents in coordinating and completing two safe play areas for members of the Travelling Community in Marsh Meadows New Ross, and Drumgoold, Enniscorthy. These projects were funded from the Dormant Account Fund.

The Partnership will continue with its work on other projects whilst developing the 3-year Community Safety Plan for County Wexford in 2026.

AGE FRIENDLY

End of Year Updates:

- In December, the Final Meetings for the Older Person Council and Age Friendly Alliance were held. Dates were agreed for meetings to be held in 2026.
- The Older Person Council raised the issue about access to Banks for the elderly in the December meeting. Members requested that a letter be sent out to the Regional Managers of each of the Banks operating in Wexford to raise this issue. This request was actioned.
- It was agreed to place an Age Friendly Memorial bench in Pierce Park. Wexford Borough Council also purchased an Age Friendly seat to be installed in that district.

WEXFORD PPN

PPN Representatives Workshop

Wexford PPN held a very successful PPN Representatives Workshop in The Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. The workshop was part of our Capacity Building Programme.

The aim of the workshop was to help Reps understand their roles and how they can effectively engage and contribute to the various County Council and non-County Council Committees they sit on e.g. Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), Town Centre First Committees, Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP).

It was also a great opportunity for our representatives to meet up and share knowledge and experiences. Training was delivered by Jamie Moore.

Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP)

Georgia Southern Visit:

On 11 December, the SHCP Local Development Officer met with representatives from the Institute for Health Logistics & Analytics as part of a Georgia Southern visit. The programme included site visits to SHCP-supported initiatives, including Parable Gardens, where SHCP funds an education project enabling young people to engage with nature and green therapy.

HILG In-Person Planning and Review Session:

Healthy Ireland Local Government's National Office hosted an in-person Planning and Review Session for all SHCP Local Development Officers and Healthy County Representatives in Whites Hotel, Wexford in December. The session reviewed programme progress for 2025 and supported strategic planning for 2026.

Traveller Wellbeing Through Creativity – Programme Launch:

SHCP Local Development Officer attended the online launch of the Traveller Wellbeing Through Creativity Programme in December. This national initiative supports creative approaches to health and wellbeing within Traveller Primary Healthcare Projects and Traveller organisations and is being embedded within the HSE. The programme is delivered in partnership with the HSE, The Arts Council, Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland. Applications are now open.

Opera For All – Review Meeting:

A review meeting was held on 5 December with Wexford County Council's Community and Arts Sections and Wexford Festival Opera to assess the success of the 2025 'Opera For All' initiative. The programme successfully engaged local communities and disadvantaged groups through outreach workshops and access to Wexford Festival Opera performances. Planning for 'Opera For All' 2026 was also discussed.

UCD One Health Conference:

The SHCP Local Development Officer attended the UCD One Health Centre Annual Conference on 9 December at O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The conference brought together national and international leaders across public health, policy, academia, agriculture and environmental sectors, providing a valuable opportunity to engage with emerging One Health research and policy developments.

Enniscorthy Municipal District Presentation:

On 16 December, the SHCP Local Development Officer presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting, outlining programme progress in the district during 2025 and proposed plans for 2026.

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

Seaview Coastal Protection project is in its final stage with beach access to commence shortly. Precast concrete segments for the beach access are now half complete.

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

Kilpatrick temporary beach access completed in April. Meeting with NPWS took place on 3rd November 2025. AA Screening Report, Hydraulic & Survey reports are ongoing.

Killmannock Drainage works: Hedge cutting, surveys have been carried out, Wayleave application is being progressed to access drainage works area.

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

Ballyconniger & Clone bridges now removed.

Rosslare CRFRS: Ongoing, 2nd Public Participation Day likely to be Q1 2026.

Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement: Premlinary drawing and ecology reports being prepared, Public Information evening took place in Ballygarrett GAA club. Works due to be carried out Q1 – Q2 2026.

DAFM Funding - We were allocated a total of €690,000 for Pier & Harbour projects by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine for projects in Duncannon, Slade & Courtown Harbours. 75% is funded by the Department, 25% co-funded by WCC.

- Courtown repair to wall pier works – 100% Completed
- Slade Handrailing - 100% completed
- Slade Power point works – Awaiting ESB to make temporary disconnection prior to completing works.
- Duncannon Old Pier – Truir construction Ltd now appointed and work has now commenced.

Operations -

Pre-planning meeting held with MARA for the reconciliation application for New Ross Marina and debris boom. Application almost complete rechecking possibility of any initial planning circa 2002/ 2003 with Municipal office. Reviewing files received in Early December around marina planning prior to finalizing application.

Marine Usage License (MUL) application for the Barrow pre dredging surveys. No definitive timeline from MARA. No further update.

Explosive bye laws all responses now received from Dept of Defence, KK COCO and AN GS. No issues to report and all submitted along with the responses to public consultation to Dept of Justice in December. Dept of Justice plan to come for a site visit 1st or 2nd week of Jan to confirm no changes since the initial site visits were conducted two years ago.

Hydrographic Services contract closed on Dec 12th, and decision submitted to procurement on December 17th. Contract to be awarded shortly.

Public Conveniences

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

Septic Tank Inspections

NIP Grants 2025	January- December 2025 44 applications received	40 Grants paid/sent for payment, total paid €371,774.22	4 outstanding for review/documents

No of Verification Inspections

2024 - Verification Inspections = 58	2025 - Verification Inspections = 91

Court cases

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

Ongoing Inspections

- 77 cases closed in year up till the end of December 2025. There are currently 123 open cases.
- All files for 2018 & 2020 are now closed.
- 125 new inspections have been carried out for 2025. 44 passed and 81 failed.
- There were 17direct discharges to water and 10 discharges onto the surface of the ground noted.
- NIP inspections will continue in 2026 in Piercetown/Murrintown area & Lady's Island area.
- 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 1st January to 22nd December 2025	**103**

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. 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 has been completed. There has been 15 inspections of premises / forecourts / shops who are all selling compliant product.

Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

DECO Paints: Auto-Refinishers Q4 Website Compliance Register will be updated in December. Site inspections are ongoing, 8 re-Certified since September. 3 Sites identified for enforcement in Q4 report that they have ceased operating, WCC will continue to monitor status. 1 un-registered site to be inspected in December.

Dry Cleaners: 5 Dry-Cleaners currently registered, 5 of whom are Certified. 2 non-registered premises identified 1 has been Inspected and is now undertaking assessment for certification. 1 to be inspected in December.

Petrol Stations - PVE emissions: Stage 1 testing & compliance: 9 Inspections since September; 2 Stations have ceased trading. 5 re-certified. 2 Stations awaiting final assessment reports. Q4 Register will be updated in December.

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

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

Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council carried out a total of 167 farm inspections in 2024 and the target has risen to 271 inspections in 2025 concentrating in areas where water quality was most at risk of not meeting its objectives under the WFD. A total of 245 of these 271 initial GAP inspections have been carried out to date. A team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role lead by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section. A total of 379 farm inspections have taken place altogether up to the end of October under GAP regulations, Sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up. The team continue to work in Aughboy, Mangan, Boro, Owenduff, Heathpark & Begerin catchments for 2025.

A total of 110 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been assessed in 2025 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-Dec 2025	2109		895	

All environmental complaints are loggedby the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. The total figures for complaints from 1/1/2025 – 31/12/2025 are as follows:

Section D

Bring Bank job by Status

Status	Bring Banks
closed	63
Total	**63**

Work Requests by Waste Area

Waste Area	Closed	Open	Total
Other	0	0	
Waste Area North	41	5	46
Waste Area South	55	2	57
Total	**96**	**7**	**103**

Fines Statistics

Waste Area	Fines	Fines Paid	Fines Cancelled
Other	22	6	17
Waste Area North	779	114	291
Waste Area South	709	62	188
Total	**1510**	**182**	**496**

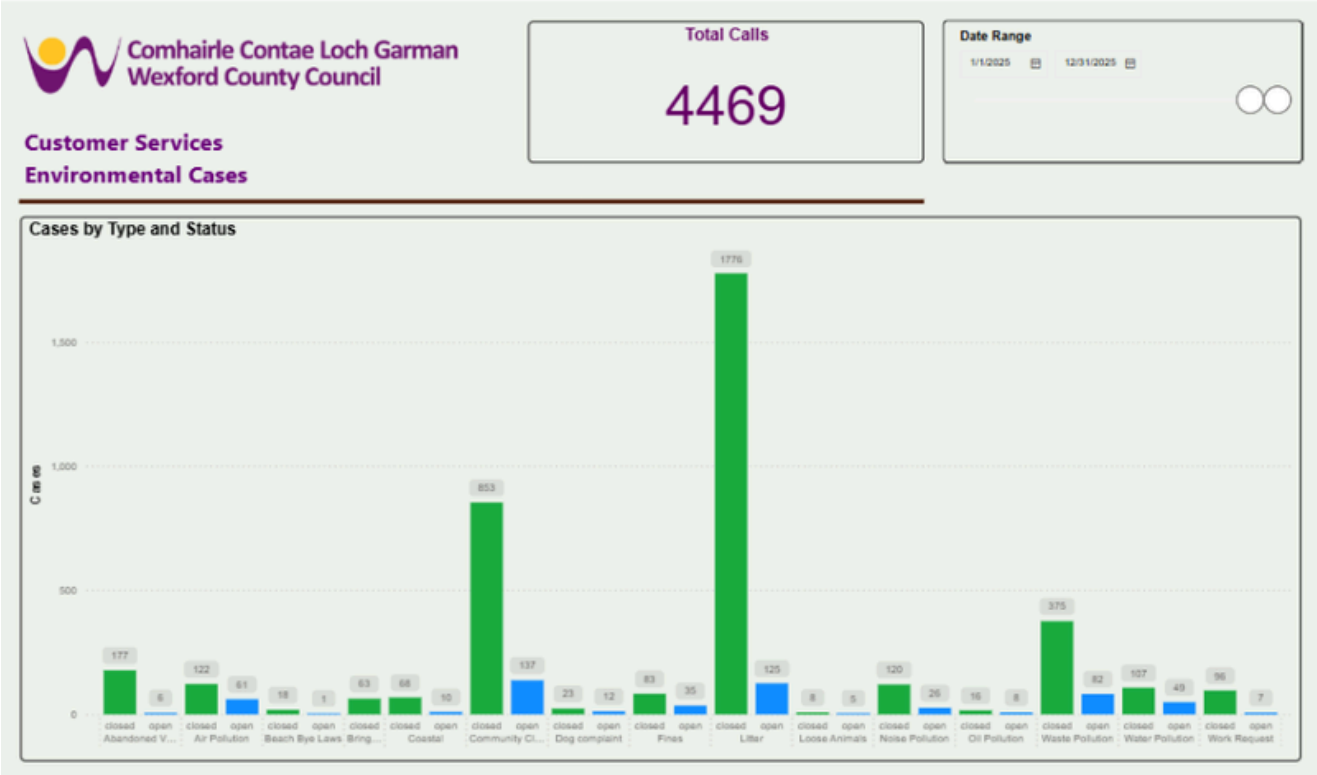
Section F

Community Cleanups

NSC	Logged	Litter Pickers	Gloves	Refuse Bags
No	6487	1277	4305	18759
Yes	418	313	993	2093
Total	**6905**	**1590**	**5298**	**20852**

Issue/Report Type	closed	open	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	177	6	**183**
Air Pollution	122	61	**183**
Beach Bye Laws	18	1	**19**
Bring Banks	63		**63**
Coastal	68	10	**78**
Community Cleanup	853	137	**990**
Dog complaint	23	12	**35**
Fines	83	35	**118**
Litter	1776	125	**1901**
Loose Animals	8	5	**13**
Noise Pollution	120	26	**146**
Oil Pollution	16	8	**24**
Waste Pollution	375	82	**457**
Water Pollution	107	49	**156**
Work Request	96	7	**103**
Total	**3905**	**564**	**4469**

Total Calls logged January- December 2025



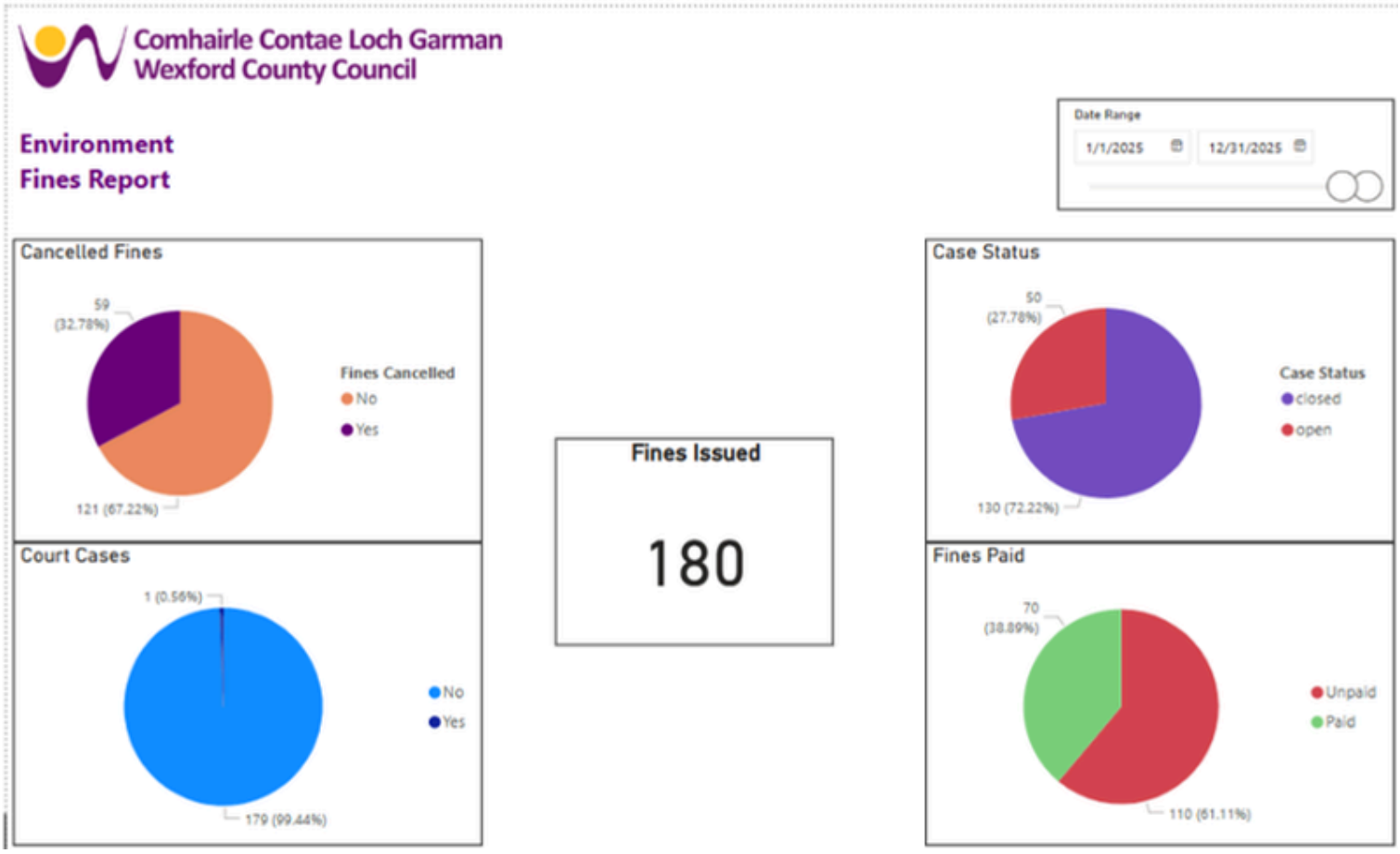
Court Overview - no court cases are heard in September

Month	Heard	Outcome	Llitter	Waste	Water	Air	Noise	Dogs
Jan-Dec	16	Total fines	€3100	€1875	NA	NA	NA	€200
		Total costs	€2000	€2425	NA	NA	NA	€250

Litter Overview

	Jan- December 2025
Fixed payment Notices issued	14
Litter fines issued	126
Fines paid litter	62
FPN paid	6
Successful prosecutions	15
Legal proceedings in progress	26
Amount collected in fines	€9326 litter, €1300 FPN €1200 dogs, Total €11,826.00
Dog fines issued	10

Total Fines Issued January- December 2025



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

Control of dogs	2022	2023	2024	Jan - Oct 2025
Dogs collected	546	575	564	546
Dogs reclaimed	117	128	147	121
Dogs re-homed/transferred	370	404	442	386
Dogs put to sleep	51	38	31	10
Dog Fines	21	14	11	7

Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites Nov 2025	Recycling out Nov 2024 (t)	Recycling out Nov 2025 (t)
Glass bottles		264.28	242.31
Aluminium Cans		2.33	2.13
Total	108	266.61	244.4

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
WASTE CATEGORY	Recycling out Nov 2024 (t)	**Recycling out Nov 2025 (t)**	Recycling out Nov 2024 (t)	**Recycling out Nov 2025 (t)**	Recycling out Nov 2024(t)	**Recycling out Nov 2025 (t)**	Recycling out Nov 2024 (t)	**Recycling out Nov 2025 (t)**
Total Recycling out	47	52	48	42	79	76	49	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	**N/A**	268	287	N/A	**N/A**
Daily Average Customers **Jan-Nov**	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
	70	73	112	115	127	130	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	Nov 2024	Nov 2025
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	169	182
*Gorey **		28
*Enniscorthy **		71
*Wexford **		54
*New Ross**		16
Rosslare		13
Total Bring Site Inspections	856	924

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

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

Green Schools: Closing date for applications for the first green flag Litter & Waste was early December. 3 schools have applied for their first flag; Court NS; Kilnamanagh NS and Galbally NS. Contact with all green schools is ongoing.

School Workshops:
A further 10 schools will participate in the Picker Pals programme in January.

Lets Fix Fashion: 3 secondary schools have registered to participate in 'Lets Fix Fashion' programme. The programme is all about empowering students to think twice about the clothes we wear and the impact they have on our world. Through fun activities like social media takeovers, upcycling and circular economy webinars, and running swap shops, students explore how fashion can be both stylish and sustainable!

Relove Fashion: The Environment Section is supporting the National Relove Fashion competition which is open to young people aged 12 – 19 details have been circulated to all schools and youth groups. 14 registrations have been received, and promotion of the competition is ongoing.
It is a sustainable fashion competition where entrants are challenged to explore their creative design skills to create a sustainable and wearable outfit using clothing from the treasure troves of charity shops, swap shops, or reused textiles already available at home.

Christmas Jumper swap: A Christmas jumper swap took place on Tuesday 25th November in Catherine McCauley primary school. 58 jumpers were recirculated. #LetsGetCircular #CircularLiving

Annual Christmas Decoration Competition: The awards for the annual Christmas Decoration Competition took place on Thursday 18th December. 65 students and their families were invited. An Cathaoirleach Councilor Joe Sullivan presented the prizes. All 198 decorations received were displayed in County Hall and received great praise. The People's Choice award proved to be a great success again this year where members of the public voted for their favourite decoration on display. Brainna Browne, Kilrane National School, secured this award with her decoration 'Ferris Wheel'. The overall primary school winner was created by Luke Waters, 3rd class, St Garvan's National School, Caroreigh. Luke made the winning decoration entitled 'Luke's Lantern' by simply using cardboard, coca cola boxes, a cardboard tube and newspaper. The Overall Runner Up was an entry entitled 'Pandy' by Emily Tobin, 1st class, Mercy School, Johns's Rd, Wexford.

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Clean Coasts Ocean Heros Awards 2025: County Wexford is proudly represented in the 2025 Ocean Hero Awards with seven local groups nominated across eight different categories. The awards hosted by An Taisce's Clean Coasts Programme recognize exceptional contributions to coastal care and environmental protection.

Ballygarrett Tidy Towns won the Nature Award for the Little Tern Project.

The nominees were:

- Ballygarrett Tidy Towns – shortlisted in Nature Guardian and Group of the Year categories
- The Surf Shack Ireland – shortlisted in the Community Champion category
- Courtown Community Council – shortlisted in the Nature Guardian category
- Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Connection Festival at Kilmore Quay – shortlisted for the Community Action Award
- Aodhán Power – shortlisted for the Leadership Award
- Campile Area Development Group – shortlisted for the Emerging Group Award
- Duncannon Village Renewal – shortlisted for the Emerging Group Award
- The winners will be announced on 5th December.

Trees For Wexford Scheme: All 147 applications have received a notification that their application is approved, and trees will be available for collection in late January.

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

Date	No. of community Clean Ups
01/12/2025 – 31/12/2025	50
01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025	990

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 Machinery Yard now is obtaining HVO rates from Inver.

1. Two SMEs who attended the Energy Information Event in Gorey have progressed to SEAI audits and Energy efficiency grants through the Local Enterprise office.
2. Approx 30 people attended the Energy information Event in Courtown. This event was for both Businesses and homeowners and was organized as a result of the Gorey event.
3. The Climate Action team in conjunction with Jacinta Barrins course provider have produced a short video clip to promote the Over 55s Climate Course in the new year.
4. Eco Driving for drivers of WCC fleet vehicles is well underway. The drivers identified for training have completed the Module 1 theory training and a number of drivers have also completed Module 2 Practical training. The remaining drivers will complete the practical module in February 2026. Feedback on the course is positive from the drivers. See below

The training was relevant to my role	Strongly Agree
Training was delivered to a high standard	Strongly Agree
Was participation / interaction was encouraged	Strongly Agree
Do you feel you improved your skillset from this training	Strongly Agree
I can use the skills and knowlege at work / in my own vehicle	Strongly Agree
The duration of training was appropriate	Strongly Agree
The training room/ facilities were suitable	Strongly Agree
I would recommend this training to others	Strongly Agree

5. Staffing costs associated with the Climate Action Team were successfully recouped from the DCEE in December 2025.
6. Wexford County Council announced a circa €1.6m (gross) energy retrofit of the Apex Leisure Centre in New Ross. This ambitious retrofit project funded through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Pathfinder Programme grant, match funded by Wexford County Council, aims to decarbonise the leisure centres heating systems, improve the buildings overall energy efficiency while reducing its operational running costs. The primary objective of the SEAI Pathfinder Programme is to contribute towards Wexford County Councils ambitious 2030 Carbon Emissions and Energy Efficiency Targets as set out in the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan.
7. The Climate Team in conjunction with the Energy Officer and Environmental Awareness Officer highlighted and promoted the Christmas Energy Shutdown and posted a quiz on the Climate & Energy Intranet page on the energy savings from the 2024 shutdown which amounted to over 10,000 savings in kWh and 2.6 tonnes of CO2 eq. The CAT sponsored the prizes for the quiz.
8. Staff from all sections are inputting into the Climate tracker with details on the progress on their actions for 2025. The information in the tracker will be used for various reporting requirements.
9. The Climate Action Southeast Sub-region Operational Committee meeting was held on 9th December. Notice was given by CARO of a number of reporting requirements on the LACAP and KPIs coming up in Q1 2026 including
   - Climate Action KPI 2025 data collection
   - CAP Implementation Report 2025
   - LACAP KPI Return Data – 2025
10. SPC November meeting showed good interested in the Georgia Southern University possible research project on real-time out of season water quality testing for a pilot area.

11. The Environment Awareness Officer Cliona Connolly presented at the December CASG meeting on the sustainability of the Fleadh and gave a comprehensive overview on other sustainable and circular projects and initiatives underway and completed.
12. Wexford Sustainable Energy Community won an award at an SEAI event. The Climate Action Team were involved with this group in running some of their events in 2023/2024.
13. The Climate Connected Web Tool was Launched in Galway on Monday 8 December 2025. ClimateConnected.ie provides an accessible, user-friendly web tool that guides people through their home energy use, transport habits, shopping patterns, diet and waste management—helping users identify their biggest emission sources and explore realistic pathways to reduce them, both as individuals and as part of community action. WCC contributed to the DZ element of the project with information on projects in Enniscorthy DZ.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME (CCAP)

The application window for Phase 2 of the CCAP closed on Tuesday 16th December. Wexford County Council has been allocated a further €669,000 under Phase 2 for not-for-profit organisations to undertake Climate Action projects.

The CCCAP Phase 1 projects are progressing well with 8 of the 16 Phase 1 projects fully completed.

Biodiversity

The actions developed in the making of the Wexford Draft Biodiversity Action Plan have been screened for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The outcome of the screening process has determined that the actions set out in the draft plan are not likely to have significant negative effects on the environment and, therefore, that Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required. Similarly, no impacts are considered likely as a result of the draft actions on the conservation objectives or overall integrity of Natura 2000 sites (European Protected Sites) due to the scale and nature of the works, lack of connectivity or distance to any Natura 2000 sites. It is therefore considered that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is also not required. The draft plan will now be translated into Irish and prepared to go on public display in February 2026 for a period of six weeks.

Local Biodiversity Action funding amounting to €96,000 has been announced from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This fund is available for the Council's Biodiversity officer to apply for to cover County wide projects such as the Wetlands Survey of Wexford (phase 4), Swift surveys of the County, 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 Hare's Corner, an innovative biodiversity initiative coordinated by Burrenbeo Trust, in conjunction with Wexford's Biodiversity Office, is being rolled out this coming year to landowners in County Wexford. Inspired by the term 'The Hare's Corner' - an old farming expression for an awkward section of a field which wasn't intensively farmed and so was 'left to nature' - the aim of this project is to help create habitats that have proven benefits to biodiversity, climate-action as well as to the wellbeing of participants.

The Hare's Corner project offers landowners (private landowners, farmers, schools/community groups) easy to apply for supports to carry out simple but impactful actions for biodiversity such as creation of a wildlife pond, native mini-woodland, heritage mini-orchard, wildlife hedge, or bespoke 'plan for nature'. This support is offered in the form of materials (native trees and heritage apple trees), micro-funding (e.g. machinery costs for pond digging), and specialist advice and guidance. More information can be found here

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND ARTS

Library Development Plan – Public Consultation

As part of the preparation of a new Library Development Plan 2026-2030, public consultation sessions continued in Wexford Libraries branches throughout December. Members of the public shared their thoughts on the services they would like the library service to provide over the next five years. An in-person staff planning day was also held in December. Public surveys for adults and for teenagers will be available online and in hardcopy in early January.

READING AND LITERACY: RIGHT TO READ AT YOUR LIBRARY

Family Time at Your Library - is a fun reading initiative that takes place during December in libraries throughout the country. The events are aimed at supporting a family-focused approach to reading with children, as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. The whole family are also introduced to collections of children's books, e-books and e-audio books.

This year Wexford Library Service branches held a variety of events including:

Moo Music Workshop: an interactive workshop where 0-4 year olds sing, dance, play and learn.

Flossie McFluff Saves Christmas: Illustrator Audrey Dowling read from Flossie McFluffs' latest adventure and taught the participants how to draw the characters from the book.

There were also storytimes, craft sessions and Mrs Claus visits in all Wexford Libraries branches throughout December.

Mairead from Moo Music in New Ross Library

Little Library Book Bags - this initiative continued in Wexford Libraries branches with events held during the month including:

Creative Movement Workshop with Doulab Circus: - Dance artist Juliet Zmorrod from Doulab did some interpretative dance in Gorey and New Ross Libraries around the themes explored in the books from the Little Library Book bags.

Fabulous Festive Storytime with Helena the Storyteller: - Professional storyteller Helena treated the young school starters to a festive storytime in New Ross and Gorey Libraries.

Little Irish Folklore Friends: - Junior Infants from Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts visited Wexford Library for a storytime and craft with author Niamh Donnellan.

Ireland Reads Day - this is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and other organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts. Ireland Reads Day 2026 will be on Saturday 28th February 2026.

A Very Austen Quarter-Millennium - To celebrate Jane Austen's 250th Birthday Enniscorthy Library held a creative morning where adult participants got to enjoy a selection of colouring sheets, made their own bookmark, and worked on their own craft and needlework projects.

Wexford Local Development

The Elevate Progamme continued over two days each week in December in Enniscorthy Library. This programme focuses on creative writing with the Elevate book club participants, the programme is sponsored by Wexford Local Development to promote & support educational achievement in County Wexford and facilitated by local author Caroline Busher.

Book Buddies Inclusive Book Club continues in Gorey Library.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Schools - Wexford Libraries branches continue to liaise with local schools and Early Learning Centres and cater for weekly class visits for story-times, general book borrowing, and library activities. They also continue to provide Outreach visits in their local areas.

Staff member Beata Marchilewicz in Enniscorthy Library

COMMEMORATION 2025

Local Studies - Wexford Library and Archive Service has now uploaded four collections of oral recordings to the Digital Repository of Ireland: County Wexford Oral History Project, Memories of 1916, Memories of World War 1 and Southend Maritime Heritage Oral History Project. These recordings are freely available for all to listen to or download from home or any remote location. County Wexford Oral History Project - Digital Repository of Ireland https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/w950k210m

Commemoration 2025 - Wexford Library Service Historian in Residence Paul Byrne continued a short series of talks in December in several Wexford Libraries branches to close out the Decade of Centenaries lecture series for 2025. They included The Ballad of 1925, The Harry Furniss Centenary and The 1925 Local Elections. This programme is supported by Wexford County Council in partnership with Department of Culture, Communications and Sport as part of the 'Commemoration 2025 programme'

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Integration Services

The 'Home is Where the Heart Is' project concluded this month. An evening of celebration was held in Bunclody Library where family members and the local community were invited to view the artwork and stories created by the 'Home is Where the Heart Is' project participants. This project was in partnership with Fighting Words Ireland and the Wexford County Council Integration Office. This is an Adult Literacy for Life funded project.

Staff members Shane Gibbons & Laura O'Neill with local author Caroline Busher at the "Home is Where the Heart Is" celebration evening in Bunclody Library

Wexford Library continued their English classes with Wexford Town Friends of Refugees. The Wexford Reading Circle continued also.

Stop Gender-Based Violence - Soroptimist International Wexford held a talk in Wexford Library as part of their Orange the World campaign event.

Christmas Carols - New Ross and Gorey Libraries held carol services during the month provided by local groups of Ukrainian performers and the Gorey Choral Group.

Art Exhibition - Paintings by local artists Maeve Holmes, Deirdre O'Keeffe, Marianne Kenny, Trudi Doyle and John Kehoe were added to the ArtBank exhibition in Bunclody Library.

LEARNING AND INFORMATION

Age Friendly - Wexford Library held Age Action one-to-one IT training sessions while New Ross Library held Age Friendly Digital Literacy classes run by WWETB. Gorey Library hosted a Christmas themed "Happy To Chat" coffee morning and a retro Movie Matinee.

Library eResources Clinics - Wexford and Enniscorthy Libraries held staff led clinics during December demonstrating the range of online resources available to library members.

Volunteering Information Session - John Bird, the development and placement officer with the Wexford Volunteer Centre, held information sessions in Enniscorthy & Wexford Libraries for members of the public who were interested in volunteering in their communities.

Skills for Life - Digital support classes continued in Wexford Libraries branches in December led by a WWETB tutor. Alan Maher of Maher Consulting delivered a talk in Gorey Library on the basic legal and regulatory requirements for starting and operating a small business.

HERITAGE AND LOCAL HISTORY

Norman Influence in North Wexford - Gorey Library held a talk with the Wexford Normandy Cultural Association during December. The speakers were Barry Lacey and David McIlreavy. Seventeen local studies enquiries were responded to, together with a total of thirteen genealogy enquiries completed in Wexford Library in December. Two updates were made to the Wexford Great War Dead website.

Book Launch - Wexford Library held two book launches during the month.

Enchanted to A Stone: The de Lacy Family of Oulart in the Revolutionary Period by Brian Ó Cléirigh
Irish Merchant Ships and Shipowners by Terry Conlan, launched by Capt. Sean Boyce.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Wexford Science Café - Wexford Library held a panel discussion during December about Solar Farms on the Rise. ESB Renewables, Sean Moroney and Feargal Desmond, took the audience through the issues of larger-scale solar energy facilities and plans for the Wexford Solar Hub, based on four linked farms. On 20th January the Café will hold a session for school-leavers and their parents and teachers, in which they will discuss possible paths to careers in science and technology.

Christmas Jumper Swap - For the month of December Wexford Library offered the public a way to reuse and recycle by inviting them to donate or swap their Christmas jumpers.

Upcycled Christmas Wreath Workshop - An evening of upcycling took place in Enniscorthy Library where participants spent the evening transforming pre-loved denim into a seasonal, sustainable wreath.

ARCHIVES

Collections management - In addition to 32 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, four researchers visited the Archive during December. Research topics included the formative years of Wexford Festival Opera for a dissertation (1951-55); research on the Moulton surname in Co. Wexford; information on Hugh McGuire who was Mayor of Wexford for three successive years, 1892-94.

Acquisition - The Archive actively acquires primary school archives from primary schools across County Wexford to safeguard same for their significant value as historical and genealogical resources. Extant registers and roll books (1897-1970s) for Rathgarogue National School, New Ross were deposited in the Archive in late December.

Outreach - Following the launch of Brian Ó Cléirigh's book, Enchanted to a stone, in Oulart Community Centre on 3 December, the Archivist presented an Oulart-related artefact that displayed on the evening – a ceremonial silver trowel from the county archive collection that had been used by Fr Patrick Kenny, PP in the laying of the foundation stone of a monument in Oulart village in 1898 to the memory of the heroes of 1798.

ARTS

Small Arts Festival and Fáilte Ireland Festival Open Call 2026
Wexford County Council Arts Office has announced two strands to the Festival Grant Scheme for the Small Arts Festival grant and the Failte Ireland Small Festival Grant to take place in 2026. Deadline for receipt of applications for both was 1st December 2025 . This scheme is supporting 24 festivals across the county with grants ranging from €1,500 - €3,000 in 2026.

Artist in the Community Artist Panel Open call for 2026 – 2027
Wexford County Council Arts' Office held an open call seeking professional artists across all art forms to be on a panel for the design and facilitation of Art Projects with communities throughout County Wexford in 2026 through the Artist in the Community Scheme. Thirty five artists were selected following this call.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary 2026 - Wexford County Council Arts' Office is offering two bursaries in 2026 for artists who are resident in County Wexford at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is a dedicated residential workplace for artists in County Monaghan. Each Bursary will cover full board and lodgings for a one-week residency plus a €300 stipend. This opportunity opened in December 2025 and the closing date is 27th January 2026.

Drama League of Ireland Bursary 2026 - Wexford Arts Office are offering two scholarships in 2026 for the Drama League of Ireland Residential Summer School which takes place at the University of Limerick, Saturday August 1st – Saturday August 8th 2026. The scholarship, valued at €695, will cover the cost of a residential place at the Summer School and includes tuition, accommodation and meals. This opportunity opened in December 2025 and the closing date is 27th January 2026.

Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme 2026 - Wexford County Council Arts' Office is offering two places for the Irish Writers Centre's National Mentoring Programme (NMP). This programme offers two Wexford writers the opportunity to receive sustained creative and professional support from an established Irish writer of their choosing. This opportunity closed on 31 December.

Artlinks Bursary Award 2026 - Wexford County Council Arts' Office announced the Professional and Emerging ArtLinks Bursary Awards 2026, it opened for applications in December. These Awards are designed to support artists to develop their practice by providing them with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and critically engage with their art. Wexford Arts Office partners with Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford local authorities on this award.

Cowhouse Parenting Residency Programme 2026 - Wexford County Council Arts' Office in partnership with Cow House Studios is pleased to offer a two-week residency designed specifically for parenting artists. The Parenting Artist Residency makes it possible for awarded artists to dedicate time to their work by offering childcare and supports during the residency. The deadline has passed.

SETU 3rd Year Exhibition – Westgate Heritage Centre - Wexford County Council Arts' Office hosted the 3rd Year SETU students for their weeklong exhibition 'Hidden Sides' at Westgate Heritage Centre in December.

County Wexford Youth Film Project's (CWYFP) Youth Film Festival 2025 in New Ross - Funded by Wexford County Council Arts' Office, CWYFP is facilitated by filmmaker Therese Dalton and based in St. Michael's Theatre. It offers young people (ages 13-20) free hands-on training in filmmaking.

CWYFP hosted their annual Youth Film Festival in New Ross in December. There was a full house and the Festival's guest speaker was Conor Flannery who has worked on major film productions including 'Wednesday' and 'Gladiator II'. There were five short films and one musical film shown on the night as well as a youth panel discussion.

Participants of CWYFP Youth Film Festival in St. Michaels Theatre New Ross

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

'Connections' with artist Vanya Lambrecht Ward / community leader Billy Murphy - This event took place in The Presentation Arts Centre in December and 40 people attended. Continuing the artist main meeting connections, this was a conversation around socially engaged Arts Practice for artists and community in Enniscorthy.

Voices in Harmony Christmas Concert - The Enniscorthy male choir held their Christmas concert at Templeshannon Community Centre. There were 25 members of the choir performing and 180 people attended.

Music Generation (MG) - An ongoing partnership between Wexford County Council, WWETB and Music Generation supporting performance music education countywide for young people in 25 schools and a variety of youth work contexts.

Christmas Concerts - Each of the primary schools on Music Generation's programme had a Christmas performance, supported by the musician educators who are based in their schools. The Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts 6th class band with musician educators Louise Malone and Jenna Larsen played music and sang carols in Tesco.

Bunclody Music Hub Christmas Busk - As Music Generation Wexford had received great support from the local community in Bunclody, the group of young people performed Christmas songs in Bunclody Town Square.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Small Things Like These Community Documentary Film Screening - In 2023, Small Things Like These was shot in New Ross. In 2025, the Culture Team of Wexford County Council, supported through the Creative Ireland programme preserved the memory of the making of the film adaptation of Small Things Like These. This film features stories and accounts of local people who were involved in the production. The Culture Team with New Ross Municipal district hosted a screening of this documentary in December. It was opened by Cllr John O'Dwyer, Cathaoirleach of New Ross Municipal District.

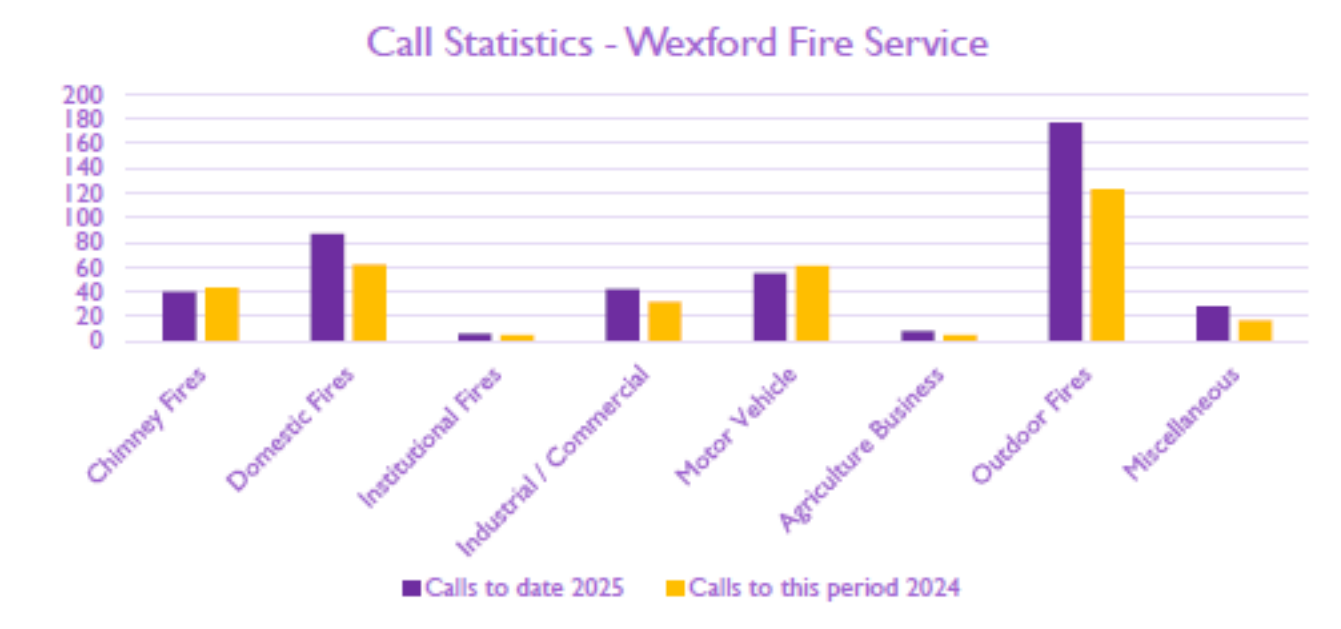
Connecting Creatively - Courtown and Riverchapel - Creative Ireland Wexford Culture Team Projects 2026 with Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District Artist Call Out - The Creative Ireland Creative Communities Programme and the Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District in collaboration with the Courtown/Riverchapel Town First Team, invite proposals from socially engaged artists and creatives to address this mindset of connection between the Courtown and Riverchapel communities. Running from February-October 2026, the community art project will build on already established links between the two villages, working with a range of local community groups including the Town First Team. The project will support the consolidation of the town centres, helping the communities to find ways to meaningfully connect through creative activity. Taking a community-focused approach, the project will celebrate relationships, togetherness and reimagine the identities of the once separated villages as one.

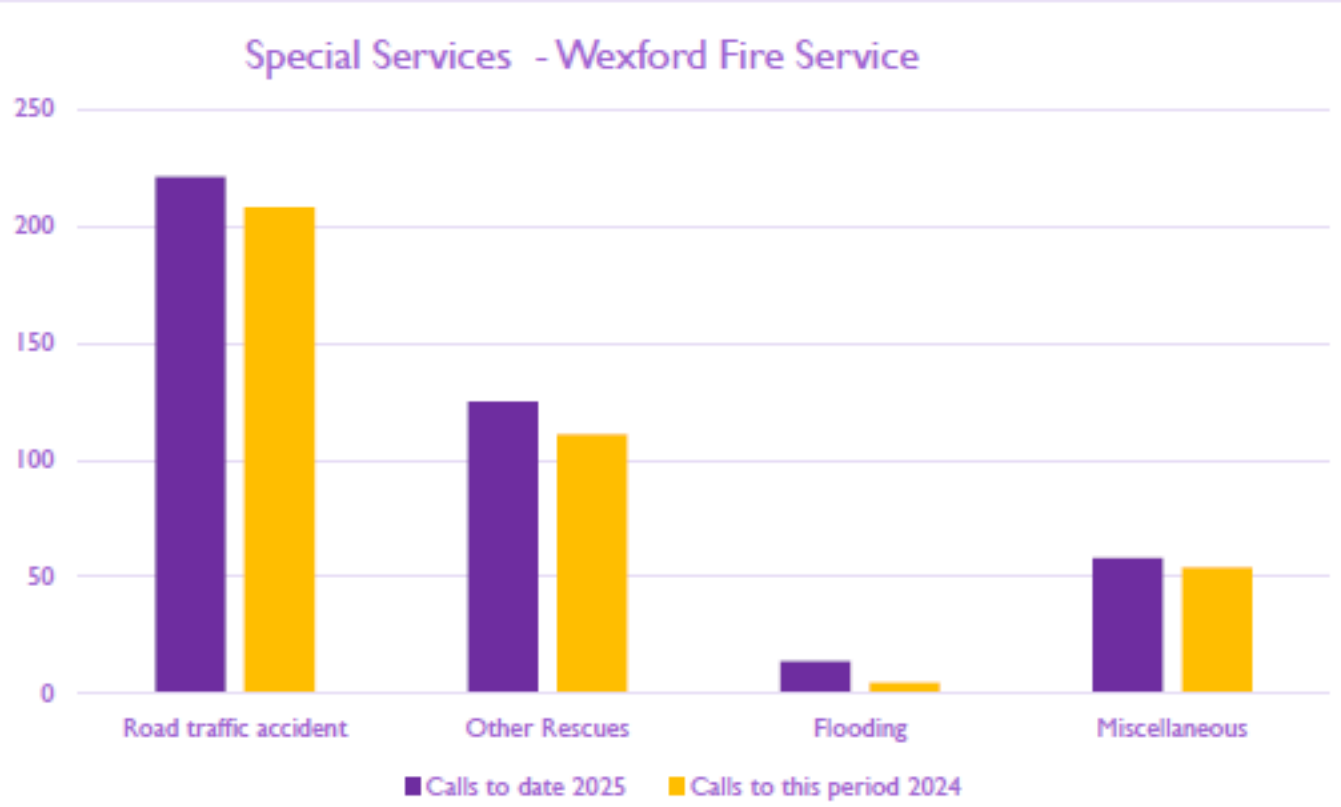
Artist In Residence Sought for Eadan's Glen Housing Estate, Ferns - The Creative Ireland Programme and the Housing Department at Wexford County Council in collaboration with the Enniscorthy Municipal District now invites proposals from collaborative and socially engaged artists to complete a residency at Eadan's Glen, Ferns between February and October 2026. The residency will support the development of the Residents' Association and build upon the sense of community already established there.

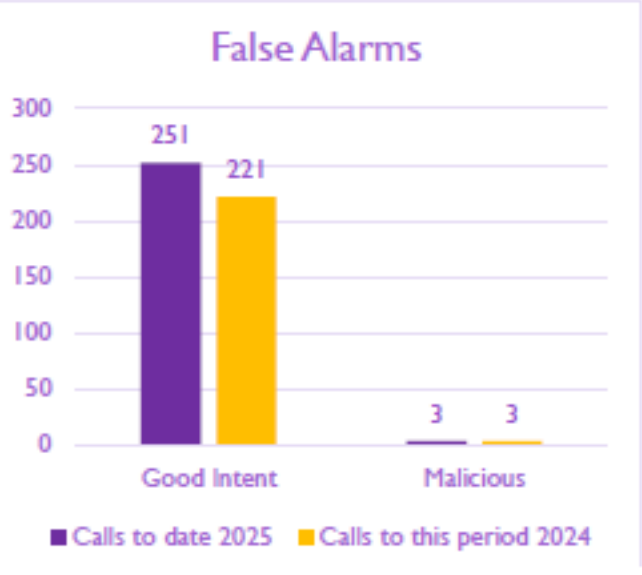
Community Building and Placemaking through Heritage in Killanne - The Creative Ireland programme and the Heritage Office at Wexford County Council, in collaboration with the New Ross Municipal District and the Killanne Development Group, sought applications from collaborative, socially engaged artists for a project that explores and celebrates community and heritage in Killanne. Working with residents of Killanne, the project will take a collaborative approach to creativity, that values experiences of and personal connections to the heritage of the community.

Creative Residency - Gorey Hatch Lab - Wexford County Council through the Creative Ireland programme and the Gorey Hatch Lab invites applications from mid-career and established creatives and artists from all art forms to take part in a creative residency scheme from January-December 2026. This residency is an action of the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 which aims to identify opportunities for artist residencies. The aim of the residency is to enhance capacity for creative thinking in business, while also providing opportunities for the residency holder to expand their creative practices and professional development within the business environment. The closing date for this application was Monday 1st December 2025.

WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES NOVEMBER 2025







CORPORATE SERVICES

CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – DECEMBER 2025

Task	November 2025
Phone Calls	1,794
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,432

TOP 5 CSU PHONE QUERIES

(33%) Housing Maintenance	(9%) Environment	(6%) Housing Grants	(3%) Area Housing Officers	(3%) Roads

FOI OFFICE REQUESTS DECEMBER 2025

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	6
Customer Complaint	32
Ombudsman Complaint	0
Access to Information on the Environment	0
Data Access Request	1
Total	**39**

FINANCE

Annual Financial Statement 2025

Work will be commencing on the preparation of the 2025 Accounts shortly once all transactions for 2025 have been updated to the financial management system. The preparation of the annual accounts will take a number of months to complete but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

Audit Committee/Audit

Following their meeting with the Local Government Auditor in December the Audit Committee will prepare their annual reports in respect of 2024, in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, for consideration by the Council. It is expected that the report will be included on the agenda for the February Meeting of the Council.

Cash Flow/Overdraft - Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €15m to 31st December 2026.

Auto-Enrolment - Auto-enrolment is a new national retirement savings system for employees that was introduced on 1 January 2026. The National Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings Authority (NAERSA) is the state body established in Ireland to administer the new “My Future Fund” auto-enrolment pension scheme.

They will automatically enrol workers into “My Future Fund”, ensuring that employees who are not actively paying into a qualifying pension, through payroll, will begin saving for their future. At the start, employees will put 1.5% of their gross pay into their “My Future Fund” account, this will be matched by their employer and the State will add another 0.5% These rates will increase incrementally over the first ten years of the scheme, building up to a retirement savings pot when employees reach 66.

There are specific criteria for auto-enrolment into “My Future Fund” and an employee is auto-enrolled if the employee:-

- Is aged between 23 and 60
- Does not pay into an existing pension through payroll
- Earns €20,000 or more in a year across all employments or more than €5,000 in a 13-week period

Employees can voluntarily opt-in provided they meet certain criteria, e.g. aged between 18-22 and 61-66, earn less than €20,000 p.a., pay PRSI Class A or J.

It has also been confirmed that the only PRSI Class exemptions will be Class S, Class M, Class A8 and Class A9.

The Department of Social Protection has confirmed that as Councillors are subject to Class S PRSI, they are excluded from the initial stage and will not be auto-enrolled in the new system.

The relevant website for more information is www.myfuturefund.ie

ICT SECURITY UPDATE - NOV/DEC 2025

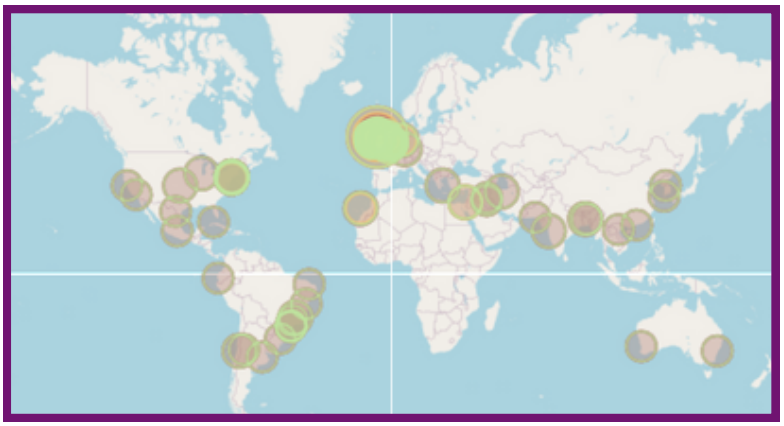
Notable Incidents in Wexford County Council

- Malicious emails impersonating Cllr Garry Laffan were received from a Russian sender address in November.
- The Office of the Ombudsman suffered a ransomware incident in December. No risk to our environment is currently expected.

Incoming Mail

- 2.1M emails in total
- (WexfordCoCo tenant)
- 1.9M stopped from malicious IPs
- 485 stopped with malicious links/attachments
- 18,842 emails in total (Cllr tenant)

Foreign Login Attempts



Global News

- Jaguar Land Rover have revealed the cyberattack that halted production in September has cost the company £485m in lost revenue, compared to a profit of £398m at the same time in 2024
- Costs for resolving the incident itself reached £192m, between consultants fees and other supports

COMMUNICATIONS

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council

Weather Related Posts

85k+ Views

Christmas Related Posts

108.5k+ Views

Affordable Housing

52.6+ Views

Followers for 2025

Increased from 11.9k to 15.5k

Increased from 4.1k to 6.2k

Decreased from 14.6k to 14.4k

Happy New Year &
Best Wishes for 2026

Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive