# CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

JULY



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# PHOTO ALBUM JULY 2025



WERFORD CIVIL DEFENCE

**Civil Defence - Training Day 2025** 

Making sock puppets at Wexford Women's Refuge for Cruinniu na nOg





LOCH GARMAN GNÍOMHACH TRÍ SPÓIRT SPORTS ACTIVE WEXFORD

Integration Blitz in **Curracloe Utd** 

# 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. (1218 below includes leasing)



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 opened on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 and will run until 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2025. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

## Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	7 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q2 2025	29
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	12 x 2-bed apt 12 x 3-bed apt	Delivered February 2025	24
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q4 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2026	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q3 2025	14
		Total Turnkey Units	81

# Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

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	Q2 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2026	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	1 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed <b>2 x 3-bed</b>	Q3 2025	4
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q3 2025	2
Pearsons Brook	2 x 3 bed	Delivered March 2025	2
Upton Meadows, Kilmuckridge	2 x 3 bed 1 x 2 bed	Delivered Q2 2025	3
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q1 2026	1
Millquarter, Knockmullen	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Q1 2026	12
		Total Part V	36

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	Q3 2025	6
The Close, Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey	2 x 1 bed apt 4 x 2 bed apt 17 x 3 bed	6 Apts. Q2 2025	6
		Total ABH	98

# **Rosslare Municipal District**

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

# **Enniscorthy Municipal District**

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 2-bed	Q2 2025	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	Phased from Q3 2025	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	7 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q3 2025	7
		Total Turnkey	26
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	4 x 2-bed	Q3 2025	4
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 3-bed	Q3 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	4 x 2 bed 1 x 3 bed	Delivered Q2 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	2 x 2 bed 2 x 3 bed	Delivered Q2 2025	4
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	16 x 3 bed hse 2 x 2 bed hse 16 x 1 bed apt	Delivering on a phased basis from Q3 2025	34
		Total Part V	52
Milehouse, Phase 1, Enniscorthy (AHB)	4 x 2 bed hse 16 x 3 bed	17 delivered Q4 2024 – Remaining 20 units to deliver Q2 2025	20
		Total AHB	20

98

# New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard an Bhile, New Ross <b>(TURNKEY)</b>	2 x 2 bed apt 2 x 1 bed apt	Delivered Q2 2025	4
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) <b>(AHB)</b>	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q1 2026	48
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (PART V)	2 x 1 bed apt	Delivered Q2 2025	2
			54

# **Borough District of Wexford**

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd (PART V)	2 x 3-bed	Delivered May 2025	2
Ard Uisce, Wexford (PART V)	8 x 2-bed	Q3 2025 2 delivered May 2025	8
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge (PART V)	1 x 3 bed	Q2 2025	1
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge <b>(PART V)</b>	2 x 3 bed	Q1 2026	2
Turners Way, Coolcotts (PART V)	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q2 2026	4
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 <b>(AHB)</b>	6 x 2 bed 34 x 3 bed	40 Delivering on a phased basis from Q2 2025 in 3 phases. 8 delivered April 2025 32 to deliver Q3 2025	32
			99

Support has been offered to	District	No. of Units	District	No. of Units
AHB's for other proposals amounting to 367 units across	Enniscorthy	63	Rosslare	55
all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and	Gorey	173	Wexford	57
Departmental approval.	New Ross	19	Total	367

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING PROGRAMME**

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

Department Targets for County Wexford				
Year	Number Delivered & funding received			
2021	54	0		
2022	68	37		
2023	51	146		
2024	116	118*		
Total	289	301		
Status Update July 2025				
Units completed to date		71**		
Works in progress	10			
Contract awarded		24		
In tender process		15		
Total		120 No.		
2025 allocation		120 No.		

Notes

\* 26 units completed and claimed in 2024 - not funded - to be paid from 2025 allocation

\*\* includes 51 units completed in Q4 2024

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

#### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**



#### Application Portals Now Open for Schemes in Wexford & Enniscorthy.

Application portals for both the 'Ard Uisce' & 'Old Forge Road' schemes launched in June. The schemes which are being sold under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme, will see up to 24 affordable purchase properties made available for sale to eligible private purchasers at a price below the market price of the properties with funding secured under the Governments Affordable Housing Fund Programme.

Prices net of the Affordable Dwelling Contribution start from €250,000 for three-bed semi-detached houses and €270,00 for four-bed semi-detached houses, with buyers able to get support through the Government's Help to Buy Scheme.



#### **Application Process -**

Applications for the units, can only be accepted online via the scheme application portals which will are hosted on the Wexford County Council website. All applications will be initially prioritised in order of date and time received.

#### Affordable Housing scheme launches and application clinics – June 2025

To assist applicants through the application process, members of the Affordable Homes Team hosted a series of Information events including application clinics in Wexford & Enniscorthy. All events were open to all members of the public and allowed applicants to see all aspects of the application programme including identifying key supporting documents and demonstration of the online application portal.



# CHOICE BASED LETTING

70 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2025 to 31/05/25. As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 127 properties were available for allocation.

Municipal District	Properties Available for Allocation	No. of Properties Advertised
Enniscorthy	34	17
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	44	14
New Ross	44	19
Rosslare	6	6
Wexford	26	14
TOTAL	127	70

# **HOUSING ALLOCATIONS**

From the 1st January to 30th June, 2025 Wexford County Council allocated 210 properties. There were also a further 54 Approved Housing Body tenancies

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	9	1	54	11	1	76
New Ross	14	2	39	2	2	59
Enniscorthy	12	5	15	4	1	37
Wexford	21	5	22	20	0	68
Rosslare	7	0	0	17	0	24
TOTAL	63	13	130	54	4	264

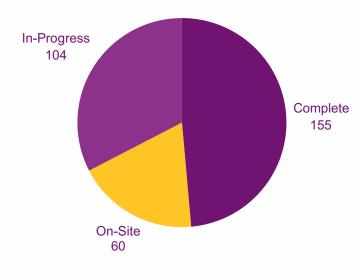
# ESTATE MANAGEMENT CASES

Area	Complaint	Open	Total
	Abandonment	3	3
	Breach of Tenancy	4	4
Funice entities	Drugs	1	1
Enniscorthy	Estate Management	10	10
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	8	8
	Enniscorthy Total :	26	26
	Breach of Tenancy	3	3
Comercial Million and Installed	Drugs	4	4
Gorey Kilmuckridge	Estate Management	10	10
	Gorey Kilmuckridge Total :	17	17
	Abandonment	2	2
	Breach of Tenancy	2	2
New Ross	Damage to Property	2	2
	Estate Management	7	7
	Unauthorised Occupants	6	6
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	9	9
	New Ross Total :	28	28
	Breach of Tenancy	2	2
	Estate Management	2	2
Rosslare	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	2	2
	Violence	3	3
	Rosslare Total :	9	9
	Breach of Tenancy	16	16
	Damage to property	4	4
Wexford	Estate Management	6	6
	Unauthorised Occupants	1	1
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	2	2
	Wexford Total :	29	29
Total		109	109

# **HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS**

Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY				
Dwellings Complete 2022	48			
Dwellings Complete 2023	23			
Dwellings Complete 2024	54			
Dwellings to Complete 2025	30			
Dwellings to Complete 2026	104			
Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline	407			

#### **Construction Status**



# **Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2025 - Total 90**

Creagh, Gorey	22 Units	Tagoat, Rosslare	18 Units
Wexford Street, Gorey	30 Units <b>COMPLETE</b>	Ramsfort Park, Gorey	20 Houses

Funded Projects for delivery 2025 – 2026			
Monomolin, Gorey	5	Ballygillane, Rosslare	5
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Grogans Road, Wexford	4
Cluain Fada, New Ross, New Ross	22	Killeens, Wexford	60
Adamstown, New Ross	3	Francis Street, Wexford	2

#### Total 104

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Clonard, Wexford	55	Creagh, Gorey	24
Group TAP Housing	5	Castlemoyle, New Ross	82
Rosbercon, New Ross	50	The Lyre, Enniscorthy	50
Bride Street, Wexford	3	St Walerans, Gorey	40
Lacken TAP	1	Park, Wexford	12
Kilmore Quay, Rosslare	12	Belvedere, Wexford	8
		Bunclody, Enniscorthy	65
Total 407		1	

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **European Transport Committee**

A visit by European Transport Committee, will take place on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The visit will allow the Committee to meet with key stakeholders. Visiting delegates will participate in a site visit to Roche Logistics Group and Rosslare Europort. The event is being co-ordinated by County Wexford Chamber.

#### **Georgia Southern University**

WCC continues to collaborate and develop new opportunities with GS particularly in the areas of research and internships where Dustin Anderson, Associate Provost, Division of Academic Affairs accompanied by Stetson Rowles, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering and Construction at the Institute for Water and Health recently visited Wexford. During the 4 days visit, Stetson engaged with WCC Environmental section exploring research opportunities and areas for collaboration where GS can assist in coastal sustainability, biodiversity and the marine. Preliminary discussion also took place around possible GS internships.

#### TOURISM

#### 2027 European Year of the Normans programme



Wexford is partnering with Le Cotentin for the Year of the Normans 2027. Our participation reflects a continued dedication to celebrating and preserving this common heritage and offers an opportunity to strengthen historical and cultural ties between our regions on an international platform.

As part of this commitment, a funding application has been submitted jointly with Le Cotentin, Normandy in respect of a Wexford delegation of cultural ambassadors to take part in the 2027 celebrations. The group will host a vibrant and interactive stand at the Village of Guillaume in Barfleur, France in July 2027.

This stand will showcase Wexford's unique Norman legacy through immersive experiences featuring food, crafts, storytelling, and digital interpretation. It will also promote cultural exchange and visitor engagement through innovative elements such as augmented reality, hands-on heritage displays, and themed culinary offerings.

Minister James Browne and a delegation from Wexford met with the President of the Normandy Council, Hervé Morin, and a Normandy delegation in Dublin on 19<sup>th</sup> June on the theme of 2027 – European Year of the Normans programme. This followed on from an event in Dublin Castle at national level to review opportunities for the 2027 programme.







#### TRACKS & TRAILS

A series of 12 Tracks & Trails was shown across 4 episodes aired on RTE One. The objective of Tracks & Trails is to promote tourism, in particular hidden tourism gems across Ireland. The show on the 16<sup>th</sup> May was dedicated to Wexford and featured Wexford's Tintern Abbey. The series was broadcast every Friday evening at 8pm on RTE One. Each episode received an average of 108,000 viewers and over 20,000 watched the series on the RTE Player. Last season's RTE Player views were over 80,000. In less than 6 weeks the Tracks & Trails online promotions have been viewed over 620,000 times. Tracks & Trails also generated significant PR coverage on the island of Ireland.





The Wexford show can be viewed on the RTE player at the following link https://www.rte.ie/player/series/tracks-and-trails/SI0000001984?epguid=AI10012937-12-0002

#### Fringe Fleadh 2025

In the countdown to this August's Fleadh Cheoil, the first of the Wexford County Council Fringe Fleadh 2025 events took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June when Danescastle CCÉ performed at Brennans Lane, New Ross.



The purpose of Fridge Fleadh 2025 is to stimulate the interest in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025 in each Municipal District and to stimulate the appetite of potential tourists to County Wexford. Each of the four Municipal Districts are running Fringe Fleadh events around County Wexford prior to the main Fleadh event.

This year the Fringe Fleadh has 15 events taking place across County Wexford including events in New Ross, Piercestown, Enniscorthy, Ferns, Morriscastle, Gorey, Bunclody, Cahore and Our Lady's Island.

#### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

#### 2025/2026 MUSGRAVES SUPERVALU FOOD ACADEMY

Four LEO Wexford clients have been selected to participate on the 2025/2026 Musgraves SuperValu Food Academy programme. The selected companies include Kilthomas Wood Ltd (Organic horticulture producer), Purefat (producer of skincare/cooking fat products), Mavis Nest Cosmetics (producer of eco-friendly cosmetics and fragrances), Peas and Love Limited (producer of a range of Health foods).



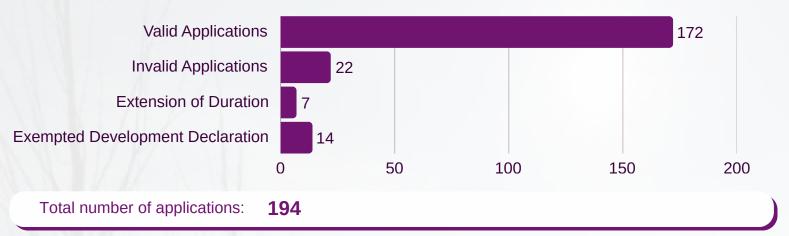
The Food Academy programme in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Offices, provides training in food safety, market research, branding and marketing, finance, sustainability, and business development through a range of dedicated workshops that are run on a hybrid basis. The programme supports the successful development of local Irish food and drink producers by building solid business foundations and skills that equip them to supply and progress into the retail sector.

The Food Academy programme will support these Wexford businesses to get their products retail ready and on shelves in SuperValu Stores.

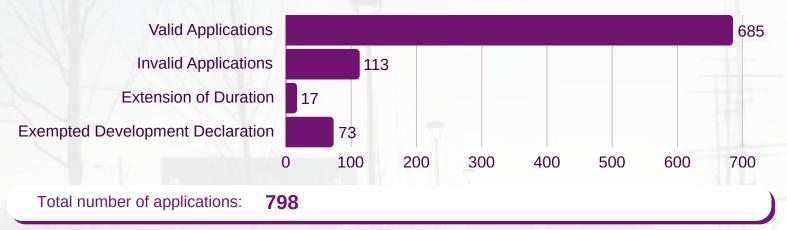
#### 2025 National Ploughing Championships

Each year, the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships provides a national platform for 31 companies, representing each of the Local Enterprise Offices, to showcase and sell their products to over 240,000 members of the public who attend the National Ploughing Championships. Wexford business, The Hair Doctor, who developed a unique shower water filter to help combat the impact of hard water, will be representing the county at this year's event which will take place in Screggan in Tullamore Co Offaly from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September.

# Planning applications received from 26th May 2025 to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025



# Planning Applications received year to date - 1st January to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025

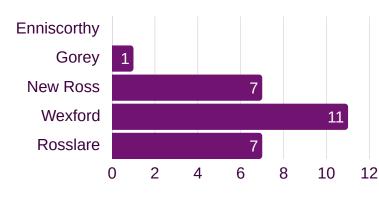


# Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	43	34	6
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	80	73	17
New Ross MD	43	33	13
Rosslare MD	57	44	4
Wexford BD	59	48	16
Total	282	232	56

## **Major Pre-Planning**

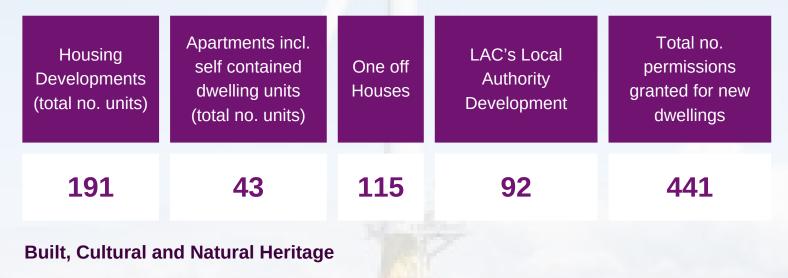
Year to date up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 number of meetings held by district:



26 total

#### **Planning CSO Returns**

2025 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as of 30th May 2025



#### **County Heritage Forum**

The first meeting of the new County Heritage Forum took place on the 26th of June. This nonstatutory advisory group is drawn from agencies and local interest groups who are involved in matters relating to the built, cultural and natural heritage of Co. Wexford. The role of the Forum is to collaborate with Wexford County Council in developing the County Heritage Plan, to provide feedback and assistance in the implementation of the themes of the plan and to monitor progress. The forum is chaired by Cllr. John Fleming.

#### Wexford Heritage Overview

• Commercial development:

Total number of housing

3,481 m2 approx.

units: 521



## **Forward Planning**

#### Chief Executive's Two-Year Progress Report

In accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared which summaries the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 during the first two years of its implementation, following extensive engagement with all Directorates of the Local Authority.

The report summaries the progress made towards achieving the objectives from the date the Plan came into effect up to 30th September 2024. This summary has been informed directly by a full list of over 1,200 objectives which are documented in Appendix 1 of the report, as well as the annual Core Strategy Monitoring Reports prepared for Year 1 and 2 of the Plan, which are available to view on the Council's website. The report aligns with the Southern Assembly Report which notes Wexford is the only county in the region where the number of housing completions surpassed CDP targets in housing delivery.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring Report was also prepared and is contained in Appendix 2.

The report demonstrates that overall, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Development Plan thus far.

The Planning Department will utilise this review and issues and trends emerging to inform the next review of the County Development Plan which will commence in 2026.

The report will be submitted to the Elected Members for the July meeting.

#### **County Development Plan Monitoring**

Consultations are ongoing with Uisce Eireann to complete the Serviced Land Assessment/Infrastructure Assessment Report. Workshops have been concluded with the various sections of the Council involved in the delivery of infrastructure in the Town. A further workshop was held with the consultants preparing the Draft Rainwater Management Plan for the town and the consultants are making revisions to the plan. Ecology mapping and an associated report has been received from Apem Consulting and, following feedback from the planning department, revisions are being made to the document and mapping. Neighbourhood Framework Plans for the town have been received from Loci consultants and they are being reviewed. Flood risk mapping has been received from JBA Consulting and work is due to commence on Justification Tests required for particular parcels of land at risk of flooding. These combined elements are being used to inform the land use zoning and environmental, biodiversity and amenity proposals and policies of the plan.

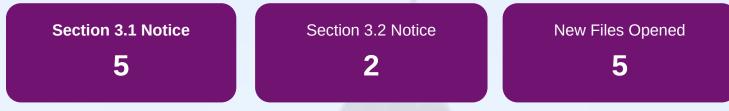
## **Building Control - From 1st January 2025 to the 29th June 2025**



# **PLANNING cont'd**

# Dangerous Structures and Places - Year to date up to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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



## **Derelict Sites**

Derelict Site Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Year to date up to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025:



**URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund** 

# 174 sites approved on the programme as of the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025



- 22 Awaiting initial engagement with property owner
- 34 Engagement with Property Owner Commenced
- 5 Process to Purchase Commenced by CPO
- 3 Process to Purchase Commenced by Agreement
- 1 Property Acquired by LA
- 11 Advertised for sale property owned by LA
- 56 Brought back into use by Original Owner (closed case)
- **35** Property no longer vacant/derelict following review (closed case)
- 6 Being Dealt with Under Different Programme
- **1** Sold by local authority

# PLANNING cont'd

# Access - Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

Number of valid DAC applications for the year to date up to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 **Total 57** - includes 17 carry over from 2024

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	8	0	0	2	1
Gorey	14	0	3	3	0
New Ross	8	0	4	3	0
Wexford	22	0	3	11	0
Rosslare	5	0	1	0	2
2025 Totals	57	0	11	19	3

# Disability proofing - carried out as part of WCC Access activity

 $1^{\text{st}}$  January 2025 -  $30^{\text{th}}$  June 2025

62 LAC/PLAC and General Planning Applications

5 Major Pre-Planning **2** Appeals to An Bord 1 upheld, 1 received

Access letters issued - on foot of FSC/DAC Comparison Reports (induction to possible enforcement)

## 114 total letters issued in 2024 (possible applications)

Response received to letters issued		
DAC/Revised DAC Applications received on foot of letter	42	20
Replies – stating no DAC required (exemption or other)	15	Letters sent Year to Date
No Replies to Letter issued	46	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b> Awaiting responses
Replies – stating will submit application - none submitted	11	18

#### Access Items

#### **Disabled Persons Organisation**

The Access Section attended the recent community event hosted by the Wexford DPO Branch on the 25th of June. This follows on from initial discussions of the 23rd May with the organisation on how networks with WCC, and specifically the Access Team can be formed to support a collaborative approach to inclusivity.

#### The JAM (Just a Minute) Card

Wexford County Council will implement the JAM card initiative throughout the organisation to support our equality and inclusion strategies.

Phase one of the roll out of this initiative will take place for staff of Head Office, the Borough District of Wexford, and WCC staff who have volunteered for the Fleadh 2025. Thus, supporting disability training and awareness and endeavours for an Access for All Fleadh 2025.

#### Fleadh 2025

The Access Section on support information as part of the subcommittee on access items essential to ensure the Fleadh is as assessable as possible for all potential visitors

- Pre Event information which is vital to support all persons intending to travel and or attend the Fleadh. Information which visitors could access prior to their visit to help plan their attendance and avail of the additional supports, while also informing of locations and activities. This approach affords people the opportunity to make informed decision on how, where and when best to attend. Details including a MAP, Website information and Social Media campaign. Possible Drone footage of Wexford Town and of the Town Last year clearly demonstrating crowds attending.
- Shuttle bus to support ease of access from Hill Street and Levingston designated accessible
   parking locations
- Alternative pedestrian access route- running parallel but with points of access to main street and the Quay to afford a "quieter-less footfall" for ease of movement, mobility aids etc.
- The provision of two changing places facilities one North and one South of the town centre
- Sensory Pod possible 2 locations –Old Granary Store beside the Talbot Suites and a possible mobile unit at Selskar/top 1798 Street
- Consideration for a TV-Screen to be located nearer the Tourist Office /South end of the Quay to support an alternative area to view processing/events happening on the stage, this in turn would avoid a build up at the North End of the Quay, allowing for potentially a more even spread of people along the Quay Front.

#### Make Way Day – September 2025

Initial Discussions have taken place with New Ross Municipal District with a view to the Make Way Day in 2025 taking place in New Ross Town.

#### **International Collaboration on Access**

The Access Section has submitted an application for consideration under the URBACT transfer networks call for proposals The project involved integrated accessibility for all city planning (mobility, tourism, urban development), Involved disabled people in decision-making and governance, A project led by the city of Komotini, Greece. The invite to submit as part of correspondence from the Southern Regional Assembly, we would be expecting to hear over the next month or so if successful in our submission. (https://urbact.eu/get-involved)

## Access Items Cont'd

The table below details Access activity and spending allocation at the halfway point of the 2025 programme year.

This activity is a result of a combination of complaints raised directly with Access from members of the public, requests from District Offices and other Sections, as well as findings from wider events such as Walkability audits.

## Enniscorthy MD - Total €5,183

1798 Centre	E #5183.00	(Agreed) Works to make entrance to 1798 Centre more accessible-accessible parking space
St. John's Garden		(Proposed) Accessible Seating

### Gorey Kilmuckridge MD - Total €12,606.67

Morriscastle Adman Steel Shed	€1701.37	To accommodate beach stroller at Morriscastle
Gorey Tidy Towns	€1452.80	Signage information panel for Sensory Garden in town park
Cahore Access Bench	€3645.00	Accessible picnic bench at Cahore
Millbrook Footpath	€3220.00	Repair works to footpath at Millbrook Estate
Cois Abhainn, Blackwater	€2587.50	Repair works to footpath at Cois Abhainn

## New Ross MD - Total €2,230

Duncannon adman steel shed	€2230.00	Completed - To accommodate beach stroller at Duncannon
New Ross Town Centre		Outstanding - Phase 1 works based on walkability Audit items (estimate 12,500)

## Wexford BD - Total €9,703.98

Pierce Court and Anne Street	€8000.00	Completed -To improve public footpath near TK Max
33 Whiterock View	€1709.98	Completed - To add dished footpath
Oyster Lane		Crossing on Oyster Lane (estimated at €7,000)
South Main Street		Loose slabs on South Main Street (estimated at €2,000)

## **REGENERATION UNIT**

#### **TOWN CENTRE FIRST**

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

The draft Town centre first Plan was brought to the Town centre First Team on the 11<sup>th of</sup> July for discussion and it is envisaged that this will go out for further public consultation shortly thereafter with a final TCF Plan approved in August 2025.

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

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

**Measure1**: Claims drawing down the allocated DRCD funding to establish Town Centre First Teams in Taghmon, Bunclody and Castlebridge have issued. These Town Teams are now well established and the capacity building funding was very helpful in getting these Towns up and going.

**Vacant Homes -** Work is continuing on vacant homes with the administration of the Croi Conaithe Grant taking up the vast majority of our time with €240,000 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 30-06-25		
Applications Received	491	
Inspections Required (First)	12	
Inspections Required (Final)	5	
Applications Info Requested	131	
Applications Approved	349	
Awaiting Approval	0	
Applications Rejected	4	
Application on Hold	0	
Withdrawn By Applicant	7	

Funding Issued	96		
Total Funding Paid to Date	€5,231,554.50		
Total Funding Approved To Date	€19,737,852.00 21		

# WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme		
Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul> <li>Kilanerin GWS</li> <li>Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions.</li> <li>Awaiting announcement from Department on approved projects under the MARWP 2024-2026.</li> </ul>	
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul> <li>Blackstairs GWS</li> <li>Caim Tank – Works complete. Road Reinstatement to take place in Q2 2025.</li> <li>Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept.</li> <li>Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q4 2025.</li> </ul>	
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul> <li>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</li> <li>The Department have stated that The Bing CWWC is not considered to be value for money and will not provide any funding for its construction.</li> <li>In May 2025 WCC requested a review of this decision, however the department have responded stating the decision not to approve funding for this project remains the Department's position</li> </ul>	
MARWP 2024-2026	<ul> <li>Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April 2024</li> <li>Submissions made across a range of measures totaling €3.26 million.</li> <li>All submitted projects have progressed to Phase 2 assessment</li> <li>Awaiting announcement from the Department</li> </ul>	
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	<ul> <li>Individual Well Grants</li> <li>A total of 27 new well grant applications were registered in June 2025.</li> <li>19 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totaling €36,679.29</li> <li>38 inspections to date carried out to date in June 2025.</li> </ul>	
Group Water Scheme Subsidies	<ul> <li>Subsidies Paid to GWS to date 2025 Total €465,813.67</li> <li>This consists of</li> <li>Subsidy A (payable towards the general operational and management costs of all types of GWS's: €274,728.54</li> <li>Subsidy B (payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&amp;M costs associated with "bona fide" DBO contracts for GWS's €191,085.13</li> </ul>	
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	<ul> <li>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</li> <li>Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme.</li> <li>Detailed programme for the delivery of project was submitted to Dept. on 10th May 24.</li> <li>Meeting held with Dept. 28th June to discuss next steps for advancing project.</li> <li>Project now with Uisce Eireann to progress to next stage.</li> <li>Workshop -5 held with UE on 3rd October.</li> </ul>	
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul> <li>9 applications received to date on revised grant, 7 paid, 2 approved.</li> </ul>	

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

## **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

#### MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

#### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

Engagement with larnród Éireann is ongoing regarding the railway protection structure at the River Slaney Bridge crossing.

Consultation with directly affected landowners continues, and the Technical Advisors are progressing design updates to address landowner concerns as best as possible.

A Real Estate Valuation of the currently proposed alignment is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks. The preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design, and other supporting reports is ongoing.

#### N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project is currently in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement. The draft Main Contract Tender Documents package has been received and is currently under review by Staveley's, who were appointed as due diligence checker advisors.

The technical and safety approval process with Irish Rail regarding Structure B1 (Railway Overbridge) has been finalised. Correspondence with landowners in relation to the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process is ongoing.

The procurement process to appoint Technical Advisors for Phases 6 and 7 is underway.

Three tender submissions have been received for the Archaeological Services (Stages I–IV) contract.

# NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

#### SAFETY SCHEMES

National Road	Progress update	
N25 Tagoat	Works are continuing on the detailed design for the scheme.	
N30 Leeches Bend West of Clonroche	Invitations to tender were issued on the 27 <sup>th</sup> June with a tender return date of 11 <sup>th</sup> July. Works should commence in August.	
N25 Larkins Cross	The preliminary design for the scheme is being developed. Tender documents should be completed by the third quarter of the year	

#### **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 2025

- N11 Oilgate to Scurlocksbush Roundabout. 1.7km
- N30 Ballymackessy 1.0km
- Tender documents are being prepared at present, and these schemes will be tendered in July.

#### ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION

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



N25 Clonard overbridge between New Ross Road roundabout and Duncannon Road roundabout. Repair adjacent to the bridge deck.



Minor pavement repair within N25 Kilrane traffic calming



Minor pavement repair at N80 Moyeady.



Minor pavement repair at N25 Cushinstown



Minor pavement repair to approaches to the N25 Duncannon Rd Roundabout



Minor pavement repair at N11 South of Oilgate

#### **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

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

**Restoration Improvement Programme** 

Wexford's allocation is €12,068,000.

95 projects have been added to our countywide programme – total of 71 projects completed to date. A number of these schemes were completed using road recycling using existing road materials.



Road strengthening works underway on L-3009-3 near Glynn, Wexford BD, using road recycling methods.



Restoration Improvement Works completed at Kilmore Quay, Rosslare MD, June 2025

#### Surface Dressing Programme

Wexford's allocation is €2,841,500.

71 projects have been added to our programme. Surface dressing commenced in Gorey at the end of May, total of 36 completed to date, and are continuing in the districts.

Surface Dressing Works underway at Shrule, Askamore, Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, June 2025

<u>Community Involvement Schemes</u> 7 schemes, 2 completed to date.

General Maintenance

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

# ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

#### PATHFINDER PROJECTS

Project & Location	Project Update
Newtown Road Phase 1	Project is now complete. Irish Water propose to undertake SI works on the new cycle lanes from Glenville Road & Newtown Road.
Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3	Tender documents to be completed in 12th June 2025
Hospital Junction Newtown Road	Part 8 statutory process currently underway and ending 11th June 2025.
Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme	The design was reviewed by peer review group in NTA on 15th May 2025, RPS currently making design changes. Plan to progress to Part 8 and present design to councillors at next Wexford Borough meeting
Roxborough Cycle Scheme	Consultants reviewed spend as €400K. WCC to seek NTA approval to proceed to public consultation
Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme	Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme (New Ross) to progress to Part 8 in 2025. RPS will review the design once again considering issues raised at the NTA peer review last week

#### Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Wexford Town - Completion of this study is expected in July 2025 pending review by NTA ABTA team.

<u>Enniscorthy Town</u> - Enniscorthy Local Transport Plan Part 2A – Establish Context Report submitted by Consultants on 19th May 2025 for review.



#### Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRS)

The following sites are approved for works in 2025:

- 1. Ballaghkeene NS. Public consultation under Section 38 completed. 24submissions were received from the Section38 consultation
- Kiltealy NS Preliminary design completed and Area engineer reviewing design prior to presenting to stakeholders and school board.
- 3. Enniscorthy Vocational College Preliminary Design complete for internal review and costing. An Taisce has issued Draft Delivery plan for review and comments.
- 4. Ballyroebuck NS has been approved for works as part of an additional scheme for schools on highspeed roads. An Taisce have surveyed the school and issued the Outline Delivery Plan for review and comments.

**Public e-bike and e-Scooter Sharing Scheme -** Expressions of Interest received from 4 suppliers for an e-bike and e-scooter scheme. A request has been issued to submit a detailed proposal.

Castlebridge to Wexford Road (R741) - Topographical survey is complete.

**Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme -** Draft Bus Stop Guidance have been issued by NTA. Going forward it was agreed to proceed with hardstandings, poles and seating where required, until such time as Clear Channels contract is formalised.

#### **BIKE WEEK 2025**

Bike Week took place from 11th - 18<sup>th</sup> May, with 23 events taking place across the County during this period. The week catered for over 700 participants across all ages, from pensioners to pupils.

The week kicked off in Gorey Town Park with a Bike Fest and Family Cycle into the town centre on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and concluded with a Biodiversity Cycle at Hook Head on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The largest event was the cycle to school at Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare Strand, with over 120 students biking it to school in one group. The week proved to be a very successful collaboration between numerous groups and organisations such as schools, community groups, Tidy Towns and Local Sports Partnerships.

#### A short video recap on the week is viewable on our social media platforms





# PUBLIC LIGHTING

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

Location	Progress update
Churchtown Road, Kilrane	Contractor commenced on site 1 <sup>st</sup> July.
Ballycogley Village	ESB connection will be applied for once the design has been confirmed.
Old Garden City, Gorey	ESB connection applied. Public lighting installation works contract awarded.
Kilanerin Village	Full design required for village pinpoint deficiencies. Survey completed. Design and quotations have been sought from 3 contractors.
Sean O Byrne Park, Gorey	Garden City Gorey.Public lighting installation works completed. Awaiting ESB connection.
Coolgreaney Village by the School	Survey completed. Design and quotations have been sought from 3 contractors.
Saltmills Village	ESB connection applied. 2 quotations received. Awaiting a 3 <sup>rd</sup> quotation.
Ballycullane Village	Out for design and quotation. 3 quotations received; Contract will be awarded in July.
Auburn Avenue, New Ross	ESB connection to be applied for. 3 quotations received. Contract will be awarded in early July.
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	Pots & ducts installed.
Kilhile Arthurstown	Design required here and quotations will be sought for an additional 3 to 4 lights.
Mary's Lane, Wexford Town	Pots and ducts installed. Works should be completed in July.
Screen Village	Additional lights required from the village centre to St. Cyrian's Villas. A survey needs to be carried out to identify ducting requirements within the village.
Glentire Heights, The Ballagh	Duct installed, in conjunction with Active Travel - Safe Routes to School, design and quotations.

# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Adoration Convent Wexford -** Tender assessment is now complete and a contract to carry out the project works was awarded to Nevin Construction in June 2025.

Ballynagee Link Road - Design Stage - No update

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building - Planning Stage - No Update

Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme - Planning Stage - No Update

**Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility** - Construction Stage The main works contract has been awarded to Kilcaven Property Developments. Works commenced on site in mid-October 2024, with completion expected in July 2025.



**Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience Upgrade and Extension** - It is anticipated Architect Led Design Team Services Stages (i) to (v) will be awarded by the end of June 2025.

### ENNISCORTHY FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

**Phase 1 - New River Slaney Bridge Project** - A public consultation day on the emerging preferred option for Phase 1 took place on the 13th of May 2025 at the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy from 2:00pm – 9:00pm. The closing date for submissions is the 10th June 2025. The planning application for Phase 1 is to be submitted in Q2 2026 - No Update

**Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2** - It is anticipated the tender for construction works will be published in Q3 2025 - No Update

**Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project -** Preliminary Design Stage - Archaeological, ground investigation and ecological surveys are expected to commence shortly.

**Enniscorthy Sports Hub** - Kevin Thorpe Ltd has been appointed to undertake the works contract. It is expected that works will commence onsite in June 2025.

**Esmonde Street, Gorey** - Tender Stage - The tender assessment is being finalised with a Contractor expected to be appointed for the project in August 2025. Construction works on-site are expected to commence in September 2025. These works will include the overall public realm improvement project and the Uisce Eireann sewer upgrade.

**Gorey Market House** - The works procurment process will commecne in Q3 2025 with works envisaged to commence in Q1 2026 - No Update

**Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)** - The Part 8 process for Phase 1 will commence in 2025. Phase 2, which is likely to require an application to An Bord Pleanala, will be submitted for planning in mid 2026.

# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway** - It is expected to confirm a preferred route in Q3 2025, with Public Information event displaying the preferred option taking place in Q3 2025.

## WEXFORDIA

**New Ross Tourism Project** - Architectural preliminary design is now complete and the Part 8 process is scheduled to commence on June 18th. The works tender process will commence in Q3 2025 with works programmed to commence on site early in 2026. A site investigation works contract will commence on site in the coming weeks.

# **PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Ferndale Gymnasium - Construction is expected to be complete in November 2025.

#### SOUTH EAST GREENWAY

#### SouthEast Greenway - Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3 - Completed

**Rosbercon Trailhead** - Legal procedures for the acquisition of the Rosbercon Depot from CIE are ongoing.

Lot 4 - It is targeted to commence works on Lot 4 in Q1 2026.

**Lot 5a** - A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit for Lot 2 and 5a took place in January 2025 and made a number of recommendations. A proposal for a proposed instruction has been sought from Glas to address these items and some subsequent works will be required in advance of opening that section, which is targeted for Q3 2025.

Lot 5b ,Lot 6,Lot 7 - Appointment was made in June 2025 for the Ground Investigation works contract and works on Lots 5b, 6, & 7 are expected to commence construction in Q3 2026.

**Trinity Wharf** - IGSL are progressing onshore site investigations with percussive and rotary core drilling.

# **FUNDING & DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

**Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025** - A total of 20 Expression of Interest were received with 1no. being withdrawn. Following assessment of all EOI's in accordance with the scheme criteria, 6 proposals were approved by the Management Team to progress to full application stage.

## COMMUNITY



There are currently 688 volunteers signed up for for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025. We are still actively looking for more volunteers to be a part of the biggest celebration of traditional Irish music, song and dance.

Two training days were held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June and a further training day will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O' Callaghan signed regulations for the establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships, in accordance with S114 Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2025. These regulations came into operation on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The regulations set out the function and membership of the Safety Partnerships.

The National Office for Community Safety is now finalising guidance documents which will provide the framework for the establishment and operation of the Safety Partnerships and will be issued in the coming weeks.

When the guidance documents are published Local Authorities will be able to establish the Safety Partnerships in their administrative areas.

#### **BURIAL GROUNDS**

Essential tree surgery was carried out both in Bunclody and Ferns cemeteries during the month of May. Firstly, at Bunclody Calvary Cemetery a large number of trees overhanging the busy N80 route were identified as a risk to both the travelling public and cemetery visitors, they were topped by an independent tree surgeon with assistance from the district area engineer and district outdoor staff.



Likewise essential tree surgery was carried out at Ferns St. Aidan's Cemetery by an independent tree surgeon. Further non-essential tree surgery will be completed in September after the nesting season.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023 - Progress to date		
Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00	
Total fund expenditure to date (78%)	€1,190,860.09 (incl. WCC Admin)	
Works complete (23 projects)	85%	
Works in progress (0 projects)	0%	
To be started (3 projects DRCDG granted extensions)	11%	
Project cancelled (1 project: Fethard Community Development Association - Community Garden	4%	
Total fund claimed to Q4 2024 from Dept.	67%	

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024 - Progress to date		
Total Fund	€1,703,377 (incl. WCC Admin)	
Total fund expenditure to date (23%)	€444,488.59 (incl. WCC Admin)	
Works in progress (4 of 22 projects)	18%	
Works complete (3 projects)	€798,291.00	
Projects to be started (15 projects)	€241,996.00	
Shortlisted Window 3 – Final CRF24 Allocation	€673,815.00	

# The following milestones have been achieved this period:

• DRCDG final approval for CRF24 Window 3 announced 05/06/25. Shortlist by WCC of 9 new projects funded, including:

CRF24WX025W3	WCC-Hospital Hill Community Garden Bunclody	€70,000.00
CRF24WX026W3	Enniscorthy Community Alliance	€98,280.00
CRF24WX019W3	Ballycanew Mens' Shed	€50,000.00
CRF24WX024W3	Ramsgrange Community School	€59,420.00
CRF24WX020W3	Our Lady's Island GAA Club	€144,990.00
CRF24WX021W3	St Annes GAA Club - Duncormick	€56,000.00
CRF24WX023W3	Rosslare Harbour Development Board	€56,665.00
CRF24WX022W3	St. Mary's Day Care Centre Tagoat	€52,900.00
CRF24WX018W3	Barntown Parish Field Development Group	€85,560.00

- Penultimate CRF23 Claim04 in progress for processing end of Q22025. €223,898.84
- First CRF24 Claim01 in progress for processing end of Q22025 €195,102.92



### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK



Wexford PPN's Plenary meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June in Oylegate Community Centre, Wexford and was very well attended.

LGBT+Awareness Training was held in Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy on 23rd of June. Designed to offer support to Community & Voluntary groups in remaining inclusive in an ever-changing world \_ <u>Wexford PPN</u>, in collaboration with FDYS, HSE South East Community Healthcare & <u>Healthy</u> <u>Wexford</u>, we offered this FREE training course to PPN members groups to support communities in their awareness and understanding of LGBT+. The course was very well received and valuable resources were made available to the member groups attending.





# Wexford HEALTHY WEXFORD

Activities funded under the Healthy Ireland Round 4 Fund are ongoing to the end of 2025. We await further information on the progression of Healthy Ireland programme and funding beyond 2025.

#### Healthy Ireland funded project work undertaken in June included

 Healthy Wexford and the Healthy Choices Steering Group has been engaging with UCC to complete an evaluation of our pilot Healthy Choices Programme, specifically around the development process, with a view to provide learnings for further programmes.



 Work is also underway on the Maudlintown Playful Spaces project which includes a new intergenerational games area in the playground and completion of the Gorey Playful Spaces Games Tables Project in Gorey Park. Outside of the Healthy Ireland Funding Healthy Wexford continues to progress with **Social Connection** activities, in a bid to reduce loneliness and isolation across our county. A successful **Meet Your Neighbour** was held in Bridgetown on 13<sup>th</sup> June and another is scheduled for Enniscorthy Community Allotments in July. In addition the **Community Cuppa** pilot initiative continued in June, with Campile and Bunclody groups continuing to trial and refine the initiative in June. Ongoing social connection activities of **Cultural Companion** and **Country Connects** continued during June and will run for the summer months also. The June meet up of the organising committee of Cultural Companions also looked at ways to refine and adapt the initiative for further engagement.

With our **Period Dignity** project we continue to provide and highlight free period product locations across the county. Promotion includes flyers, social media, newspaper and radio advertising.

**Mens Health Week** happened 9<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> June with a theme of 'Connecting For Health' During this week Healthy Wexford actively shared resources and details of local events happening across the county.





On 12<sup>th</sup> June Healthy Wexford attended the **Wexford PPN Plenary Meeting** in Oylegate, sharing information with those in attendance. This event allowed highlighting of current activities while also networking with local community groups.

Healthy Wexford continues to support the Community Team in recruiting Volunteers for **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025** and the team will also support the Community Team in supporting volunteers both in the run up to and during the event. Healthy Wexford has also supported the event through provision of Not Around Us signage and in securing Sunscreen Dispensers for use.

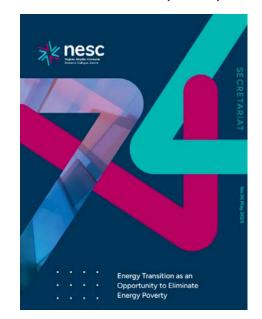
## LOCAL SPORT PLAN / COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Wexford County Council recently tendered for a consultant for the development of the Local Sports Plan and County Outdoor Recreation Plan for County Wexford. The evaluation team met on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June to examine the tenders, and the successful consultants will be notified this week.

#### Healthy Communities WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP)

The Government's advisory body, National Economic & Social Council (NESC) have included the SHCP seed funded project **'Southend Retrofitting Pilot Project'** as a case study in a recent report on energy poverty and 'Energy Transition as an Opportunity to Eliminate Energy' – see link <u>https://www.nesc.ie/publications/energy-transition-as-an-opportunity-to-eliminate-energy-poverty/</u>

The Southend project is given as an example of a community and local authority led way to combat energy poverty in disadvantaged communities whilst transiting to greener energy. We are now working with our Climate Action Team to roll this out across the county in other areas through FRC's and Sustainable Energy Communities.





The Enniscorthy Community Inter Agency Team FRC working group, in partnership with Templeshannon Community & Childcare Ltd. have submitted an application under the recent call for Family Resource Centre's nationwide. Applications submitted are assessed by Tusla.

The national **"Pride of Place"** competition. Community leaders, volunteers, and families came together to celebrate the community's achievements in promoting social inclusion, supporting vulnerable families, and strengthening local bonds.

SHCP were delighted to join the celebrations marking their win. The victory was down to the tireless work of Southend FRC, St. Mary's Maudlintown GFC & St. John of God Primary School, The Faythe and many others in the community. SHCP was delighted to be a part of the team who assisted with this application.

#### LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)



LAIT continues to provide dedicated support to individuals and families living under International Protection across County Wexford, responding to emerging needs and supporting access to services. We participated in the Community Integration Forum which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continues its collaboration with Wexford FC to deliver **antiracism and anti-stereotyping workshops** in schools across Wexford. Most recently, the team delivered a workshop in Educate Together National School, New Ross

In partnership with Sports Active Wexford, LAIT is continuing to support the **Women's Wellness Programme** in the Wexford IPAS Centre. The next phase of the initiative will focus on supporting the integration of participants into mainstream fitness programmes, with the goal of addressing both physical and mental health needs.

Wexford Library was alive with colour, creativity and community spirit as Brazilian artist Fernanda Ferrari joined the local authority integration team to celebrate **Refugee Day 2025**. Families from across the county gathered for a fantastic afternoon of puppetry, storytelling and fun.



A **community soccer blitz** hosted at Curracloe FC, delivered in collaboration with Sports Active and Wexford Local Development (WLD) was a bringing together of communities, sharing their love for soccer.

LAIT remains actively engaged with the **Schools of Sanctuary** initiative, working with schools countywide to promote inclusion, welcome, and anti-racism. This month, Educate Together New Ross was awarded Champion School Status in recognition of its outstanding and sustained commitment to intercultural awareness and inclusive practices.

LAIT is supporting access to **summer soccer camps** for children aged 5–13 from IPAS centres across the county. Weekly soccer training sessions are also underway in Barntown FC for teenagers and adults, with a focus on wellbeing, community engagement, and physical health.

The Refugee Resettlement Working Group was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June and the LAIT is well on target to meet our goals. Newly arrived families under the **Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)** are settling well into their host communities. Several individuals have already gained employment, while others are actively participating in English language learning. As the school year has ended, children are looking forward to engaging in local camps and summer activities.

#### **UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE**

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 19/06/25 – Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker. The Offer A Home scheme has been extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	292	865
Irish Red Cross	34	109

# Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

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

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	47	68
Unity Court, Wexford	40	57
Michael Street, Wexford	12	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	7	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	8	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	0	21



# SPORTS ACTIVE

Pedal Power	6 women participated in the Pedal Power women's 6 week cycling programme on the Southeast Greenway which finished during the month of June.
Buggy Buddies	14 women participated in the 6-week Buggy Buddies programme in Gorey Town Park which finished up in June.
Family Fun Day	A Family Fun Day took place in Pearse Park, New Ross on Sunday 22nd of June. 170 boys, 180 girls, 80 males and 90 females attended throughout the day.
Primary School Orienteering in Pearse Park New Ross	135 children took part in three orienteering sessions in Pearse park which was delivered in conjunction with Southeast Viking Orienteering.
PG Leader Workshop	23 Children participate in a Playground Leaders workshop in Screen Ns.
IWA Club	The IWA Club (Wexford Warriors) has completed 7-weeks in Astro Active Enniscorthy. This club is specifically for children with physical disabilities. 16 children attended (7 boys and 9 girls)
Inclusive Kickboxing for Teens	8 teenagers (5 boys and 3 girls) have participated in a 5-week inclusive kickboxing programme with KBX kickboxing club. The programme is specifically for teenagers with disabilities.

Inclusive Teen Swim	5 teenagers (3 girls and 2 boys) have completed a 5-week swimming lesson programme in Wexford Pool and Leisure Centre. 1 teenager will now integrate into mainstream classes.
Swim for Toddlers with Physical Disabilities	12 toddlers (ages 3 to 5) (8 girls and 4 boys) with physical disabilities attended our swim in the Apex Leisure Centre, New Ross. This programme is in collaboration with the CDNT in New Ross.
Aqua Aerobics for Adults with Disabilities	Four adults with disabilities (3 females and 1 male) attended a 5-week aqua aerobics programme with Wexford Pool and Leisure Centre.
ESF+ Sport4 Empowerment	Morans IPAS Centre 4 x One to one sessions have been carried out for new arrivals
IWA Club	The IWA Club (Wexford Warriors) has completed 7-weeks in Astro Active Enniscorthy. This club is specifically for children with physical disabilities. 16 children attended (7 boys and 9 girls)
World Refugee Day	To celebrate World Refugee Day (June 20th) a Social Soccer Integrayon Blitz was held in Curracloe UTD AFC. This was a collaborative programme with WLD, LAIT Wexford and FAI Wexford. 30 males and 3 females participated.
Her Moves Intro to Gym Taster	4 teenage girls participated in the Her Moves Intro to Gym Taster Event in Active Tribe, Courtown.
Safeguarding	1 Safeguarding Course was held in May with a total of 21 participants 16 Female and 5 Male
Award	The Nature Walker App was shortlisted at the Federation of Sport Annual awards.
Development Officer Conference Development Officer Conference	3 Staff members attended the Sport Ireland Development Conference in the National Indoor Arena, Blanchardstown on the 27th and 28th May. This was a fantastic opportunity to build connections and network with the various stakeholders in Sport development in Ireland.
Sports Active Annual Report	The report can be seen on the following link https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/Annual_Report_202 4_Digital_Version.pdf

# ENVIRONMENT COASTAL MATTERS

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

**Coast -** SeaviewCoastal Protection and Beach Access,Kilmore. Contractor started works on site at the end of January 2025 and is currently scheduled for completion in Q3 2025. Kilpatrick temporary beach access is now complete

- Ballyconniger & Clone bridges were installed before Easter
- Carne, dredging complete
- ·Slade, Dredging complete

**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.

**Operations** – Still no update from MARA regarding the Marine User License Application for river barrow surveys. Similar projects have been requested to complete a NIS prior to any survey work commencing and license issue, so we should be prepared to complete the same. The Explosive Byelaws are due to go to public consultation next week. The port had its first export shipment of logs during the month with more shipments planned for next month.

## **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-June 2025 - 17 applications received	12 Grants paid/sent for payment, total paid €107,151.60	5 outstanding for review/documents
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#### **No of Verification Inspections**

2024 - Verification Inspections = 58	2025 - Verification Inspections = 32
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#### **Court cases**

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

#### **Ongoing Inspections**

- 34 cases closed in 2025 up till the end of June 2025.
- 14 new inspections have been carried out for 2025.
- 21 verification inspection booked for August.

#### **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 Jan to June 2025

27

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

**Agriculture** - Wexford County Council 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 170 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 with 139 farm inspection carried out so far this year. A team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role lead by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section. A total of 100 inspections have taken place in 2025 to date under GAP regulations, Sludge use in Agriculture and complaints made by the public. The team continue to work in Aughboy, Mangan, Boro, Owenduff, Heathpark & Begerin catchments for 2025.

A total of 58 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.

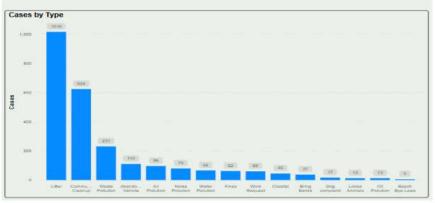
# Waste Management

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

YEAR	Dumping Incidents Reported	% Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
Jan-Apr 2025	1231		620	

	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan – Dec 2024	Jan - May 2025
Incidents	5136	3896	4235	4195	2446
Closed	5135	3716	3952	3778	1793
Closure Rate	99%	95%	93%	90%	73%





Total Calls logged January- June 2025

#### **Court Overview**

Month	Heard	Outcome	Llitter	Waste	Water	Air	Noise
Jan-June	11	Total fines	€2650	€1525	NA	NA	NA
		Total costs	€1250	€1425	NA	NA	NA

#### **Litter Overview**

	Jan- June 2025
Fixed payment Notices issued	2
Litter fines issued	76
Fines paid litter	31
FPN paid	4
Successful prosecutions	11
Legal proceedings in	18
progress	
Amount collected in fines	€4670 litter €300 FPN €1200 dogs, Total €6170
Dog fines issued	5

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

Control of dogs	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dogs collected	546	575	564	195
Dogs reclaimed	117	128	147	65
Dogs re-homed/transferred	370	404	442	162
Dogs put to sleep	51	38	31	5
Dog Fines	21	14	11	5

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

### **Recycling Services:**

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites May 2025	Recycling out <u>( May</u> ) 2024 (t)	Recycling out ( May) 2025 (t)
Glass bottles		318.88	336.32
Aluminium Cans		5.27	3.58
Total	108	324.15	339.9

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
WASTE CATEGORY	Recyclin g out May 2024 (t)	Recycling out May 2025 (t)	Recycling out May 2024 (t)	Recycling out May 2025 (t)	Recycling out May 2024(t)	Recycling out May 2025 (t)	Recycling out May 2024 (t)	Recycling out May 2025 (t)
Total Recycling out	55	59	59	60	158	103	51	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	330	354	N/A	N/A
Daily	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Average Customers Jan-may	71	77	113	114	159	168	79	86

**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.

	-		
Activity	May 2024	May 2025	
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	223	191	
Gorey *		50	
Enniscorthy *		51	
Wexford *		33	
New Ross*		30	
Rosslare		27	
Total Bring Site Inspections	803	777	

Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

#### **Environment Education and Awareness**

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

**Annual Artwork Competition:** The theme of this year's competition was 'Bumblebees, Solitary Bees and Honeybee – Nature's Pollinators.' Councillor Ger Carthy, Leas -Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council, presented prizes to 40 school children on Thursday 19th June representing both primary and secondary schools. The overall winner from Primary Schools was Alice Buki Nemeth, Glynn National School and the overall winner from Secondary Schools was Leon Carthy of Selskar College Wexford.

The winning artwork was displayed in County Hall.



**Rubbish Film Festival:** All secondary schools have been e-mailed in relation to the Rubbish Film Festival for the 2025 /2026 academic year. 9 schools have registered their interest in participating and funding is available for 7 schools.

Snap Into Action: Awards were presented to the winners in both the primary school and community group competition by Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Ger Carthy on Thursday 19th June. Danescastle National School received first prize in the Snap Into Action School Competition and received a prize for €500. Kilmyshall National School and Ballyoughter National School were presented with the runner-up award of €250.

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns were the winners in the Snap Into Action Community Group Competition and received a prize of €500. Campile Area Development Group and Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns were presented with runner up award of €250.



**Green Schools:** 30 schools received their green flag at an awards ceremony in Kilkenny on the 14th May. Meanscoil Gharman received their first green flag for Litter & Waste. 29 schools renewed their green flag 3 schools on the water flag; 4 schools on Travel; 5 schools on Biodiversity; 6 schools on Global Citizenship Litter & Waste; 3 schools on Global Citizenship Energy; 6 schools on Global Citizenship Marine Environment and 2 schools on Global Citizenship Travel.

**Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition:** The Competition is open for applications with a closing date of 20th June. Any voluntary group can enter the competition, and judging will take place in July. Winners will be announced at the annual Environment Awards which will take place on Monday 10th November.

**Local Waste Prevention / Local Circular Economy Grant:** Closing date for receipt of applications was 29th May 2025. 9 applications were received. This grant is funded by the Environment Section as part of its commitments under the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 (Ref: National Target 3A 3B 4A 4B. Core Policies CP5 CP7).

**Planting Grant:** Closing date for receipt of applications was 20th June 2025. 133 applications have been received and are being processed.

**Composting Workshop:** A composting workshop was held on Saturday 24th May at Enniscorthy Community Allotments. The workshop covered basic soil science- how soil works; biology and essentials of composting including what can and should not be composted at home or in a community garden setting; how to use compost in your garden and around your home; hands-on investigation and troubleshooting of the 3 bay composting systems on site and how to start a composting pile; how to operate a tumbler composting system and how to set up and start a wormery.







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

Date	No. of community Clean Ups	
01/06/2025 - 29/06/2025	68	entre
01/01/2025 - 29/06/2025	620	( The second sec

#### **CLIMATE ACTION**

The Climate Action team (CAT) attended a number of training and information events during June.

A two-day national conference on Nature Based Solutions – To Protect and restore Urban, Rural and Riverine Environments was held in Dundalk 4 – 5th June. The event included both presentations from expert speakers and a practical workshop masterclass.

The CAT in collaboration with the Water Quality team WCC and LAWPRO hosted the Who's Who Community Water Quality event for the Boro and Bann sub catchments in Clonroche on 17th June and Craanford on 26th June. The evening kicked off with presentations from a range of stakeholders involved in Water Quality. WCC staff involved in Septic Tank inspections, farm inspections, environmental awareness, Climate Action and Rural Water and Well grants were all available on the night with information stands to answer any specific queries.



Clonroche WCC/LAWPRO Water Quality Community Event 17th June



Craanford WCC/LAWPRO Water Quality Community Event 26th June

The Climate Action Regional office (CARO) continued to roll out its training programme on Building capacity in Local Authorities. Training webinars on Energy performance, Finance & Funding Opportunities all featured in training modules held in June.

CARO facilitated a Networking event in Kilkenny Machinery yard for the Fleet Managers and Energy/Climate Staff for the five Local Authorities in the South East Region. The event gave an overview of all legislation & Targets in the Fleet and Transport area for Local Authorities. There was a site tour of the HVO Infrastructure and Biomethane Plant. All 5 South east Local Authorities gave an update on the progress in the decarbonization of the Fleet. The Fleet manager in Kilkenny Co Co presented their own experience in the use of HVO in the Fleet. Tipperary also provided some insight into the use of HVO in their 5 depots with one depot using HVO entirely. The general consensus from the 5 Local Authorities is that HVO is the short-term solution to achieve our legally binding 51% CO2 reduction targets. Wexford County Council is currently off target in our CO2 glidepath to achieve our 2030 targets.

**Community Climate Action Programme:** Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2) was held by Pobal in Dublin on Tuesday 24th June. The conference showcased 19 projects that were funded under strand 2 of the CCAP and provided an opportunity to introduce and promote the use of their learning outputs to assist communities to take meaningful action on climate change.

Foodpath – Investigating sustainable food use in Irish Communities, an online presentation held on 5th June highlighting the results a recently concluded EPA funded research project on reducing food waste.

Green Public Procurement training continued to be rolled out to staff across the organisation.

The Climate Action Team was very pleased to see the Enniscorthy Climate Champion competition feature in an article written by Sylvia Thompson in the Irish times on Thursday 19th June. The article explains the thinking behind the Enniscorthy climate challenge and gives space for some of the voices of the people who took part in it.

Enniscorthy is first town in Ireland to bring the challenge to schools, businesses and community organisations in its urban area. Read more about the challenge at the following link.

https://www.irishtimes.com/environment/climate-crisis/2025/06/19/the-whole-community-approach-to-climate-action/

## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

The successful projects are progressing well with several stages completed; over 50% of the funding payments to the groups have been processed, and a quarter of the 16 projects have been fully completed.

The second round of the Programme is expected to be announced by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment towards the end of quarter 3 2025, groups interested in applying for phase 2 of the programme are encouraged to contact their Community Climate Action Officer.

## Energy

- Stage 1 is complete on the Energy Pathfinder Programme. Stage 2 Documents now being prepared to go to consultants.
- WCC have committed to SPARK Initiative (Smart Performance Automation for Renovation an KPI-Tracking - an SEAI led Research and Development project call. Approx. €100k in grant funding available to the SE region towards an energy monitoring and targeting reporting framework for selected Pathfinder Program projects.
- Energy Management Team recurring quarterly meetings for each WCC Significant Energy User and top 10 Energy User being organised. The library's first meeting is arranged for the end of July.
- Our Transport and Thermal emissions are of major concern for the 2030 targets with little movement on last year's figures. A major step-change in carbon emissions is required to meet the 2030 targets.

#### **Biodiversity**

The second meeting of the Wexford Biodiversity Working Group took place to discuss the findings of the pre draft submissions to an online biodiversity survey and issues paper. The submissions will be used to help inform the draft Biodiversity Action Plan for the County which will be prepared by year end. Below is a list of the main issues which arose during the pre draft consultation period: -

Wetlands deterioration	Pesticides use reduction by Council /Herbicide free county	Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland (BoCCI) habitat enhancement	Biodiversity training for public	Wildlife crime	Biodiversity awareness by staff
Hedgerows	LIBS added to next Co Development Plan	Hedgerows, native woodlands and grasslands	Branding 'Wild Wexford'	Pollution	Guide for developers/one off <u>houses -</u> 30% for biodiversity
Sea grass mapping	Native plants of local provenance	Habitat fragmentation and loss	Farming for nature Champion	Cutting hedgerows and removing trees out of season	School grounds enhancement for biodiversity
Rare plant survey of the County	Enforcement of conditions on planning applications	Wetlands restoration	Garden centres awareness raising campaign about selling invasive plants/ wildflower seed	Cutting, ploughing spraying, of verges on agricultural land	Wildlife in old buildings
Barn Owl survey	Biodiversity in Public Parks – devise site specific plans where necessary	Biodiversity on abandoned quarries	Guide for developers/one off houses 30% for biodiversity	Support Coillte to eradicate invasive species such as Cherry laurel	Recreational trails in sensitive areas
Swift survey	Green corridors /ecological networks	Lady's Island	Debunk myths about bees and bee hives	Discharges into rivers	Bridges and bats
Invasive species	Hedgecutting contracts/ Verge management	Bats and habitat	Farming for nature champion	Infilling of wetlands and lagoons	Artificial lighting Dark Skies Reserve
Sea level and erosion	Reduced mowing in public places	Oyster reef restoration project	Community champion	Invasives 'task force'	Nature based solutions
Semi natural grasslands	Coastal zone management plan – Waterford estuary	Water quality – actions for land <u>and</u> sea. Skm nautical miles <u>off shore</u>	Raise awareness of impact of domestic pets on wildlife	Compliance with legislation	Sustainable Drainage

The group came up with the following 'Vision' for County Wexford's Biodiversity plan which will depend on funding and partner organisations to implement successfully.

Connecting and collectively caring for County Wexford's nature on land, sea and in fresh water. This will ensure that our unique biodiversity is restored, protected and celebrated by our many communities. Whilst also safeguarding it for its own intrinsic value and protecting it for us now and future generations.

# **LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS**

#### **COMMUNITY AND CULTURE**

#### Cruinniu na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people. Cruinniú na nÓg is delivered in partnership with the 31 Local Authorities and supported by RTÉ. All branches of Wexford Library Service held events for Cruinnú na nÓg. Activities were wide ranging including art, crafts, drama, singing, Irish language, STEM and science workshops.



Wonderous Weaving in Wexford Branch for Cruinniu na nÓg

#### **SUMMER STARS 2025**

Summer Stars is a free national reading programme for children which takes place in all public libraries every summer and will run from the 1st June to the end of August 2025. Children are invited to join the adventure to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer months. Children are encouraged to join the library if not already a member, they read and receive incentives along the way, including a Summer Stars activity book, reading card, stickers, stamps, seeds and bookmarks. There is also a range of library events and a chance to enter competitions along the way. Library staff were extremely busy over June promoting Summer Stars by visiting schools and ELC's and welcoming school groups into library branches. To date 1,554 children have signed up to Summer Stars throughout the county.



Summer Stars New Ross Library

**Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025 -** Plans are advancing for a diverse programme of free cultural events in Wexford Library during the week of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. This will include cultural lectures, recitals, cd launches and exhibitions. Free activities will also be held for children and a sensory space will be available during the week.

# LEARNING AND INFORMATION

**Fostering Awareness Month -** As part of National Fostering Awareness Month, Tusla Fostering, Ireland's national fostering agency and experts in foster care, hosted an information session in Bunclody Library to provide information for anyone who may be interested in learning more about fostering , 51 attended. A Fostering Information Sharing Stand was held in New Ross Library, 5 attended. Gorey Library held All About Families, a storytime and craft session to mark Fostering Awareness Month, 12 attended.



**National Fostering Month** 



Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme

**Affordable Housing Application Clinic -** Wexford County Council, in association with Wexford Low Energy Homes, has announced the upcoming launch of homes available under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme. An information session for members of the public, on completing applications was held in June in Enniscorthy Library.

#### INTEGRATION

**English Classes with Wexford Local Development** continued Mondays and Fridays from 4:00pm in Gorey Library. There were 5 classes held this month.

**Emergent Readers Book Club.** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 3.00pm. New Ross Library is now running a book club for people with English as a second language and for adults with unmet literacy needs. A library staff member runs the group and uses NALA approved materials such as the book Voices and other resources available from NALA.

**New Adult Reading Circle** launched in June in Wexford Branch for people wishing to improve their reading skills by reading together and learning from each other. Facilitated by library staff member.

**Consultation evening with the Local Area Integration Team** was held in Gorey Library in June.

Happy to Chat Conversation Group These conversation groups in branches are open to everyone who just wants a chat or the opportunity to practice their English fluency.

Wexford Branch held a Family Afternoon for Refugee Week in June. Artist Fernanda Ferrari provided a performance that was a mix of storytelling, different puppet techniques and playtime. Library staff provided library tours and activities.

# HERITAGE

#### History of the Bow and Arrow: an illustrated archery talk.

New Ross Library hosted a talk on Archery. The talk was given by Marcin Malek and Andrew Wayland from The Irish Field Archery Monthly (TIFAM), two archers and enthusiasts in the field, and they told us about the origins of bows around the world, their uses, and how vital they were in warfare and hunting, from ancient times right up to present day, 25 attended



Marcin Malek and Andrew Wavland from The Irish Field Archery Monthly (TIFAM)

'Commemorations' Bursary Award - An open call was held for two Artist Bursaries focused on the themes of commemoration funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. These artist bursaries will support new work developed by a professional artist across different art forms addressing the theme commemoration in relation to Wexford in the post-civil war period. Bursaries of €4,000 each were awarded to visual artist John Busher and Crannog Media who will develop a visual art exhibition and film related to the themes, working with local communities.

Local History - Wexford library had 17 genealogy enquiries and 21 local studies enquiries in June.

#### **HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

Breathwork Workshop - Wexford Branch continued the series of four Breathwork Workshops with Bernadette Murphy from Sundara Self Care. It was fully booked). Part of the Skills for Life Programme (National Public Libraries Strategy).

#### AGE FRIENDLY LIBRARIES

**Digital Ambassador appointments -** Staff offered 1 to 1 appointments, to members of the public who wished to learn about the range of online resources accessible through Wexford Libraries and helped them become more confident using their device. An Age Friendly initiative by Enniscorthy Library.

Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly classes for the over-55s facilitated by WWETB continued in June in New Ross Library. Wexford Branch held Age Action Age Equality 1 to 1 Digital Skills sessions in June. 50

#### **IT LITERACY**

**Digital Skills Group -** The 15-week digital skills classes with WWETB in Enniscorthy Branch concluded for the summer in June. Gorey Library held Digital Skills with WWETB for 12 weeks. Wexford Branch held New Adult Basic Digital Skills for Everyday Life Free digital learning classes in association with WWETB in June.



**Environment and Climate Action -** Wexford Science Café presented Communicating Climate Change through Arts a Conversation with artist Nina McGowan, project manager Mary Colclough, of Trinity College Dublin, and Nollaig Healy, project manager for ACT Waterford creative climate action.

Summer Stars free seeds for children

#### ARCHIVE

**Collections Management -** In addition to 37 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 9 researchers visited the Archive during June. Topics included genealogical research through the St Iberius Club archive, and cemetery records for O'Reilly ancestors (1870-1940s); references to the Corvan surname in property deeds and in extant archives for the Tate School, Wexford (1880s-1920s); family history research through a lace workers' wages book from the Mount Carmel convent, New Ross (1912-14); research through council minute books and Civil Defence archives for a forthcoming publication/exhibition to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Civil Defence in WCC; research in burial records for Wexford town cemeteries for the surnames Clowery and Lawlor (1881-1935).

**Acquisition -** In advance of the commencement of building works in the Adoration Convent, Wexford, several historically important artefacts were transferred into the temporary custodianship of the Archive for safeguarding and cataloguing. Similarly, archival material from the former council chamber in Gorey Market House was transferred to the Archive in mid-June.

**County Heritage Forum -** The Archivist was recently invited to sit on the newly established County Heritage Forum and attended its first meeting in June. This was an invaluable opportunity to discuss heritage issues in general and more specifically with local heritage agencies and community representatives.

#### ARTS

**'Timelines': Exhibition County Hall -** Timelines: Growth and Catastrophe Tapestry Exhibition is taking place in County Hall. This captivating exhibition, jointly funded through Creative Ireland, which has toured nationwide, showcases the third collaborative work from the Timelines Tapestry Group, a talented collective of 12 weavers and tapestry artists nationwide. Ran in Wexford County Council until 11th July 2025. There was a free guided tour with Terry Dunne, the weaver, open to the public in July.

**Gorey School of Art – Artists Workshop Programme (June- Nov 2025) -** Wexford Arts office is partnering with Gorey School of Art on a series of professional development workshops for artists taking place Summer/Autumn 2025. The programme was launched in June and GSA are currently accepting applications. Hosted by GSA the workshops are free and open to any art form. The focus on writing about your arts practice, funding applications, photographing work and one to one mentoring session with tutor and art critic James Merrigan and artists Ciara Roche, Emma Roche and Mark Swords.

**Normandy: EU Year of the Normans Programme 2027** - The Arts Office is collaborating with Tourism and Economic Development in WCC and the Cherbourg/ Normandy region on arts and cultural activities leading into the EU year of the Normans 2027. These initiatives will including visual arts, literature and music programmes. Following a research trip by the Arts Officer to Paris and Cherbourg in March 2025, funded by the French Ministry of Culture, she attended the National Year of the Norman's stakeholder meeting in Dublin Castle on 18th June and working lunch with the French delegation on 19th June along with Cathaoirleach Cllr Pip Breen and Director of Service Eamon Hore.

**Emergence Award- Visual Arts -** Wexford Arts Department and Wexford Arts Centre in partnership with SETU and the Arts Council opened a call for applications for the EMERGENCE Visual Art Award 2025. Submissions closed on 12th June 2025. Selection will take place and be announced in Early July. This award is presented biannually to one visual artist based in Ireland. It has a monetary value of €15,000 and includes an additional €2,000 for mentorship support over the two-year timeframe. In addition, the award includes a solo exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre in September 2027 working with Curator Catherine Bowe.

**'Living Arts in Schools' 2025-26 -** Wexford Arts Office in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre held an Open call in Spring from which eight artists and four primary schools were selected to take part in this programme for 2025 – 2026. Eight Wexford-based artists have been selected and partnered with four Primary schools to create a body of work over the academic year. Curracloe NS, Scoil Mhaodhoig, Polfour, Clonroche NS and Castlebridge NS were the selected schools.

**MAKE/Curate Visual Arts Programme -** A solo exhibition opening took place at Wexford Arts Centre on the 14th of June of 'Sync Shift' by Órla Bates. This exhibition was developed through the Make/Curate Programme in partnership with Wexford Arts Department, Blackbird Culture Lab and Wexford Arts Centre. The exhibition will remain open until 26th July 2025.

**Small arts festivals: Jazz at Johnstown Festival -** With funding from the Arts Office Small Arts Festival fund, the fifth annual Jazz at Johnstown, the South East's largest jazz festival took place at Johnstown Castle. This three-day celebration features over 30 of Ireland's finest jazz musicians.

**Rooted Utopias: Our Future at Play – Exhibition Opportunity Open Call for Artists -** Wex-Arts annual exhibition is to take place from 11th October – 1st November 2025 at the Westgate Heritage Centre. The show will be curated by Wexford based curator Karla Sanchez. An open call took place in June for artists based in the Southeast with a focus on Wexford artists. The deadline for applications is Monday July 14<sup>th</sup>. Wex-Arts is supported by Wexford Arts Department.

#### **Cultural Companions Summer Meet Up**

Cultural Companions met in Clayton Whites Hotel to decide on events that the group would attend in July, August and September. The Companions attended the Outspoken Poetry evening in Red Books in and a Bat walk at Johnstown Castle in June.

#### **CREATIVE PLACES ENNISCORTHY (CPE)**

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

## The Night Belongs to YOUth (TNBY) for Cruinniú na nÓg

A collaboration with Creative Ireland for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 this event took place at Vinegar Hill. The mission of TNBY is to provide an opportunity for young people and their community to engage with the arts and artists, learn new skills and experience seeing their community lit up with creativity, vitality and colour. Organised by Creative Places Enniscorthy in collaboration with Youth Participants: FDYS, Roma Community, St Patrick's Special School, Ukrainian Community, The Traveller Girls, CPE, To the Power of Three, Sounds of our Town Project, The Yellow Bellows singing group and local youth. 120 people and young people took part in the evening.



The Night Belongs to Youth on Vinegar Hill for Cruinniu na nOg

#### 'To the Power of Three' Creative Ireland - Shared Island

To the Power of Three, which is led by Tallaght Community Arts, is a creative exchange between 60 young participants, 20 each from Derry/Londonderry (FUSE Arts and Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership), Wexford (Creative Places Enniscorthy) and Dublin (Creative Places Mac Uíllíam). Workshops took place from the 26th of June to the 4th of July with 18 participants in Enniscorthy Presentation Arts Centre. These were led by Enniscorthy based artists Anita Petry and Fintan Kelly. A trip to Donegal and Derry for all groups from Enniscorthy, Tallaght and Derry took place in June, 60 young people took part.

#### MUSIC GENERATION (MG)



This is 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.

**Macky Music - Early Years Music at Westgate Music Rehearsal Space -** was a 10-week early years programme for parents, infants and toddlers. Its aim was for parents and their children to learn music, singing and rhythm. Led by Musician Educators Pete and Aileen McCamley,

**Yellow Bellows and Yellow Bellógs - Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Festival -** Music Generation Wexford's youth singing group Yellow Bellows and new trainee youth singing group Yellow Bellógs performed for the first time together on June 1st at the Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Festival. 15 young people performed in total to a local audience including friends and family. They were led by Musician Educators Anita Mahon and Diarmuid Comerford.

#### **Selection of School Concerts - Music Generation Wexford Primary Schools**

**Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts** - Family, teachers, Musician Educators Louise Malone and Jenna Larsen, students, principal Karina McKiernan, and MDO Katherine Atkinson were in attendance. Performances ranged from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class (Trombone, Trumpet French Horn, Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute, Percussion, Recorder, Singing) and included the school band

*Riverchapel NS* had their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert. Audience included family, teachers, Musician Educator Karen Dunbar, principal Martina Prendergast and MDO Katherine Atkinson. Performances ranged from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4th Class (ukulele)

*Kilmore NS* - Family, teachers, Musician Educators Geraldine Mahon, Emily Furlong, James Warren, MDO Katherine Atkinson, Administrator Síle Maguire, students and Principal Mícheál Martin were in attendance. Performances ranged from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6th Class (Singing, Violin, Cello, Saxophone, Recorder, Clarinet, Flute, Ukulele, percussion) including the school orchestra.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Bunclody** - Family, teachers, students, Musician Educator Anita Mahon, and Principal Tómás Moriarty were in attendance. Performances ranged from Snr Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (Singing)

**The Bunclody Music Hub - End of Year Showcase -** took place in St. Aidan's Hall, Bunclody. There were two concerts held. The aim of the concert was for the students of the after-school hub to share their performance skills and showcase what they had been learning throughout the year to friends and family. 43 students performed in total with an audience approximation of 85 (inclusive of both concerts). Performances were also given by Musician Educators Emily Furlong, Gayle Murphy, Anita Mahon, Lorna Maher, Tomas O'Donoghue, Simóne Louw and MDO Katherine Atkinson.



#### Multisensory Music Education Programme - Newbawn National School

Musician and composer George Higgs led a performance by young deaf pupils of Sacred Heart National School, Newbawn. George has been leading the Multisensory Music Education Programme in Newbawn as part of Music Generation Wexford's Schools Programme teaching deaf young people to play and experience music and sound. The aims of the performance were to showcase the culmination of learning throughout the year featuring vibrations, sign language and words. The performance consisted of approximately 12 young deaf musicians and an audience consisting of the rest of the school, teachers, SNAs, and Principal Lisa Crowe. Also in attendance was National Director of Music Generation Rosaleen Molloy, Arts Officer Liz Burns, MDO Carlow Gavin Barr, MDO Wexford Katherine Atkinson, WWETB Business Development Manager Paul O'Brien, Mary Petrie, Music Teacher St. Patrick's School Enniscorthy, Lisa Molloy Musician Educator, Gorey Hill and MGWEX administrators Darina Gleeson and Síle Maguire.

#### SCREEN WEXFORD

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

**Screen Wexford / Film Savannah Initiative -** Screen Wexford is currently partnering with Film Savannah USA on a short film to be commissioned, which charts Wexford and Savannah Georgia connections from its historical origins to the present day, and the work of Howard Keeley USA in driving it forward. This will be a co production between Film Savannah and Screen Wexford and involve commissioned film directors in Wexford and Savannah.

**Crew Networking Morning -** Crew Networking Coffee Morning took place on Friday 27th June at Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy with 10 to 15 participants. Local film, TV, and creative crew met to chat through upcoming opportunities and training.

#### **CREATIVE IRELAND WEXFORD**

Cruinniú na nÓg – a National Day of Creativity for young minds - took place across the county on 7<sup>th</sup> of June. A major aim this year was to develop engagement with seldom heard groups, and a series of targeted, artist led workshops were held at Cedar Lodge and Slaney Manor Direct Provision Centres; Wexford Women's Refuge; Gorey Youth Needs LGBTQ+ group; CAHMS Enniscorthy, and Ramsgrange and Adamstown FRCs (children at risk of rural isolation).

**Shared Island Project:** 20 young people from Wexford and Belfast took part in a Shared Island project, visiting each location in April and May, and sharing their experiences of each other's hometowns through a Virtual Reality video experience and exhibition at Wexford Arts Centre and The MAC, Belfast.

Over 200 people engaged with the exhibition on the day of Cruinniú. Creative Places Enniscorthy led the Night Time Economy Event on Vinegar Hill, entitled the Night Belongs to Youth. Over 50 general access workshops were held for young people aged 0-18 including drama, creative writing, coding, sketching, storytelling at Wexford's five libraries and FRCs.



Former Mayor Catherine Biddy Walsh visits the Shared Island VR experience at Wexford Arts Centre 55

#### **IRISH LANGUAGE PROJECTS**

In 2025 Creative Ireland Wexford has invested in six Irish Language projects to meet our strategic priority to 'promote the love and use of the Irish language in our community'.

**Imeartas Focal (Word Play)** – Imeartas Focal explores the Irish language through the creative concept of playing with words. Four iterations of bespoke creative workshops have taken place in Askamore Community Centre, where participants were supported to speak Irish, while engaging with multiple artistic genres. A presentation of poems written by the group took place in Askamore in June.

**Ag Giolcaireacht** (Twittering) – Focusing on the theme of Irish birds, this biodiversity project sees the Tomhaggard Women's Shed form a choral ensemble. Workshops led by singer Melanie O'Reilly are underway. Exploring the themes of birds and nature, the group will learn several traditional and contemporary songs in the Irish language that deepen their understanding of the contribution birds make to the biodiversity of the area. A final performance will take place in Tomhaggard on 16th August.



Tomhaggard Women's Shed working together for the Ag Giolcaireacht project

**Subh, Dubh agus Cnuasach na Tíre (Jam, Black and the Fat of the Land)** - This series of foraging and cooking workshops offers engagement with the Irish language by exploring the traditions, stories and lore of picking and preserving local wild fruits such as the elderflower, bilberry, and blackberry. Workshops in Ballythomas began in June. A presentation of learning will be shared at the Gap Arts Festival in August.

**Aistear (Odyssey, Progression, Journey)** - Working with a group of Wexford-based artists from different disciplines, Aistear focuses on developing the group's understanding of the Irish language in relation to their artform. Workshops are underway and have been led by high profile artists such as Rónán Ó Snódaigh. The group will present their work at a final performance for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in August.

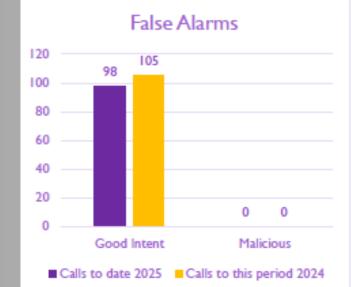
#### **Rural Connections**

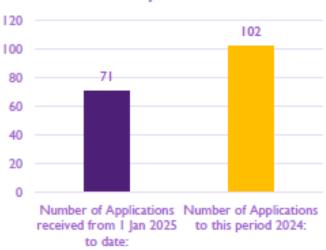
Creative Ireland Wexford is investing in 5 rural community venues (one from each Municipal District) including Campile Community Hall, Marshalstown Community Hall, The Bank, Rosslare, Castlebridge Community Hall, and Ballyfad Community Hall. Artists will work with each community to understand how creativity can animate these venues and develop their function for the locality. A small amount of seed funding will be offered to take ideas forward.

**WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES JUNE 2025** 



Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service





Fire Safety Certificates

# **CORPORATE SERVICES**

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – JUNE 2025**

Task	June 2025	
Phone Calls	3,011	
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,730	

#### **TOP 5 CSU PHONE QUERIES**

(22%) Housing	(12%) Environment	(7%) Housing	(7%) Housing	(6%) Road
Maintenance	Reports	Grants	Applicants	lssues.

#### FOI OFFICE REQUESTS JUNE 2025

Туре	Number
Freedom of Information	8
Customer Complaint	23
Ombudsman Complaint	0
Access to Information on the Environment	2
Data Access Request	0
Total	33

# FINANCE

#### Audit of Accounts 2024

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, it is expected that the Local Government Auditor will formally commence the Audit of Wexford County Council Accounts for 2024 shortly.

#### Audit Committee

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is due to take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. This was rescheduled from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

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

# COMMUNICATIONS

# **Celebrating Your Council Day 2025**





FRAGE

Wexford County Council continues to hosts a series of Fringe Fleadh events across the county in the lead-up to Fleadh Cheoil 2025

> Eddie Taaffe Chief Executive