



2026



MARCH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council



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PHOTO ALBUM MARCH 2026

Credit Union Night Run - Civil
Defence



Official Opening of the newly renovated Gorey Fire Station



HOUSING

Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must build a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery, which includes new built and leasing, is contained in the diagram below. (1,190 below includes leasing)

Housing For All 2022-2026						
1,190 Target	- (1,148 Units Delivered	+	389 Units Projected	=	1,537 Delivery Pipeline
)				=	347 Shortfall /Over

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

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

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	7 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Delivered December 2025	29
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2027	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt 6 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed 4 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2026	14
		Total Turnkey Units	57
Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 & 4	2 x 2-bed	Q1 2026	2
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	2 x 2-bed	Delivered June & December 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q2 2026	8

Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	6 x 3 bed 1 x 3-bed apt 1 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2026	8
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q1 2026	2
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	1
Millquarter, Knockmullen	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Q1 2026	12
Fermoyle Manor, Kilanerin	1 X 3 bed hse	Q1 2026	1
Ramsbrook, Ramstown Lower	10 X 3 bed hse	Delivering on a phased basis from Q3 2026	10
Dun Greine, Coolgreany	1 X 3 bed	Q2 2026	1
		Total Part V	47
Project Address (AHB)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 x 1-bed apt	Delivered December 2025	6
		Total AHB	92
Overall Total			196

Rosslare Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Carrig-on-Bannow (TURNKEY)	5 x 1 bed 5 x 2 bed	5 Delivered Dec 2025 5 due in Q1 2026	10
Carrig-on-Bannow (PART V)	2 x 3 bed	Delivered Dec 2025	2
Murrintown Upper (PART V)	3 x 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	3
Seaview, Rosslare Harbour (AHB)	20 x 2 bed apt 8 x 3 bed hse	Q1 2026	28
Overall Total			43

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 2-bed	Delivered December 2025	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	4 Delivered December 2025. 10 due in 2026	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	7 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q3 2025. 4 delivered Q4	7
		Total Turnkey	26
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy (Part V)	4 x 2-bed	2 Delivered December 2025. 2 delivered Q3 2025	4
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy (Part V)	5 x 3-bed	Delivered December 2025	5
Holly-Close, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy (Part V)	2 X 2 bed hse 1 X 3 bed hse	Q1 2026	3
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy (Part V)	16 x 3 bed hse 2 x 2 bed hse 16 x 1 bed apt	9 Delivered December 2025. 4 delivered Q1 2026	34
		Total Part V	46
Milehouse, Phase 2, Enniscorthy (AHB)	7 x 1 bed hse 26 x 2 bed hse	19 delivered. Remainder to be delivered Q1 2026	33
Castle Street, Enniscorthy (AHB)	5 x 1 bed apts	Delivered December 2025	5
		Total AHB	38
Overall Total			110

New Ross Municipal District

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

Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard Uisce, Wexford (PART V)	8 x 2-bed	2 Delivered Q2 2 Delivered Q3 2 Delivered Q4	8
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge (PART V)	1 x 3 bed	Delivered December 2025	1
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge (PART V)	2 x 3 bed	Q1 2026	2
Turners Way, Coolcotts (PART V)	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q2 2026	4

Borough District of Wexford cont'd

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Clos na Pairce, Park	3 X 2 bed 3 X 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	6
The Paddocks, Coolcots	7 X 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	7
Manor Grove, Roxborough	1 X 2 bed	Q2 2026	1
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed, 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed, 1 x 4-bed	Q2 2026	50
Whiterock Hill, Wexford (AHB)	6 x 2 bed 26 x 3 bed	8 Delivered April 2025 17 Delivered August 2025 15 Delivered December 2025	15
Overall Total			94

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

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

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme 2026 is the sixth year of a new 10-year Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme to retrofit local authority housing stock. The new programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided. The table below outlines the targets and number of properties delivered and funded to date, under this programme.

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	No of Properties Allocated	No Delivered & Funding Received
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118
2025	120	120
2026	Awaiting Allocation	20*
Total	409	441

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

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

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

There were 238 calls to the HSSU up to 28th February 2026, the following is the breakdown of same:-	
186 (78%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
25 (11%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
21 (9%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
6 (2%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



‘Launching April 2026’ – Limited number of properties available ‘Rams Brooke’ Gorey, Co Wexford.



Wexford County Council is delighted to announce the upcoming launch of new affordable homes at ‘Rams Brooke’, Gorey, Co. Wexford, partnering with Redmond Construction to provide a limited number of new homes for sale under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme.

This new scheme of A Rated dwellings, a range of 3-bedroom units, will see six homes 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 starts from €290,000, with buyers able to get support through the Government’s Help to Buy Scheme.

Application Process

Applications for the 6 units, will only be accepted online via a dedicated application portal which will be hosted on Wexford County Councils website, scheduled to launch April 15th 2026 at 12.00 pm for a minimum three-week period. All applications received will be initially prioritised in order of date and time received.



Applicant Information Events –

In advance of the portal launch, Wexford County Council are hosting in-person/online events to assist applicants through the application process including,

- Information Launch Event – **24th March 2026, 7.00pm, Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**
- Application Webinar – **Online Event, 08th April 2026, 7.00pm**

To register to attend any of these events please email rsvp@wexfordcoco.ie

Register of Interest -

Wexford County Council has launched an online 'Register of Interest' for people who feel they may be eligible to acquire or rent an affordable home from the council.

Details are available on the council website, interested applicants are asked to register their interest on the online application, alternatively by emailing affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie

Choice Based Letting - 48 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2026 to 28/02/26. Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table below:-

Municipal District	No. of Properties Advertised	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4/5-bed
Enniscorthy	17	1	9	6	1
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	16	0	5	10	1
New Ross	8	1	6	1	0
Rosslare	1	0	1	0	0
Wexford	6	0	3	3	0
TOTAL	48	2	24	20	2

Housing Tenancies 2026 - From the 1st January to 26th February 2026 there were 79 new tenancies.

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	4	4	14	0	0	22
New Ross	4	0	0	0	0	4
Enniscorthy	2	1	10	16	0	29
Wexford	4	1	0	6	1	12
Rosslare	3	0	2	7	0	12
TOTAL	17	6	26	29	1	79

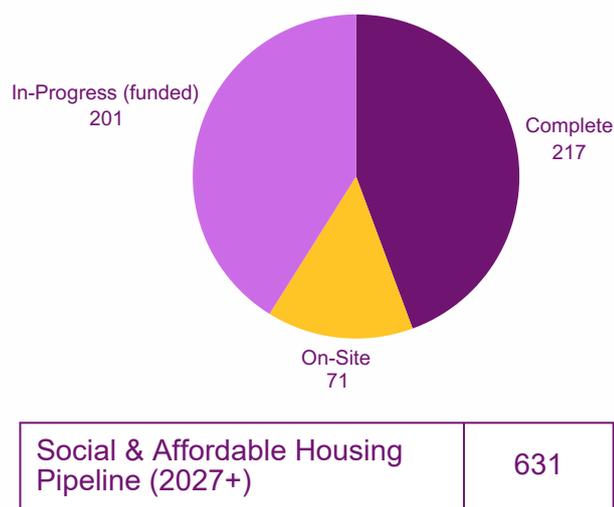
Estate Management Cases – Logged between 01/01/2026 and 28/02/2026

Complaint	Enniscorthy	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Rosslare	Wexford
Abandonment	0	0	1	0	0
Breach of Tenancy	0	6	2	3	7
Damage to Property	0	1	0	0	1
Estate Management	11	11	7	2	2
End of Tenancy	0	0	1	0	0
Unauthorised Occupants	1	3	0	0	1
Verbal Abuse/ Violence/ Harassment/Drugs	1	10	7	1	5
TOTAL	13	31	18	6	16

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION –CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

Construction Status

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



Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2026

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

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

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening economic opportunities with China

Wexford County Council in partnership with the Chinese Embassy in Ireland and the Irish Chinese Cultural Exchange Society (South East Region) marked the Chinese New Year of the Horse Celebrations 2026 in Ireland with a special performance of the internationally renowned Zhejiang Wu Opera Troupe in the National Opera House. This cultural event builds on previous collaborations with China.



Wexford County Council has previously welcomed delegations from both Hubei and Jiangxi provinces in China, signing letters of intent to establish strategic linkages and collaboration, exploring the increasing mutually beneficial economic, cultural and educational opportunities between County Wexford and the Chinese Regions.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE - 2026 Enterprise Ireland Funding Allocation

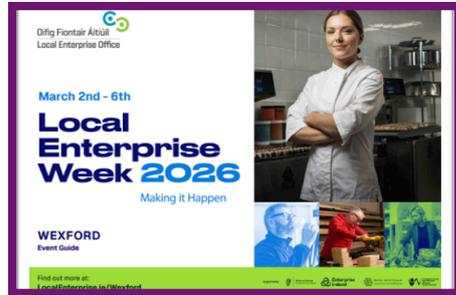
LEO Wexford have been approved a total budget of €1,719,025 to support the development of small and medium enterprises in County Wexford. Funding is targeted at supporting businesses in building capabilities through training and mentoring in addition to assisting businesses achieve operational efficiency through lean manufacturing, sustainability and digitalisation supports. This complements the financial supports offered to manufacturing and internationally traded businesses for startup and business expansion. The focus for 2026 mirrors that of 2025 with an added emphasis on assisting businesses in management development and supports for businesses with over 10 employees in order to foster strategic growth, through increased levels of export activity.

Local Enterprise Week 2026

Small businesses and emerging entrepreneurs had an opportunity to attend a range of events designed to support business start-up and growth during this year's Local Enterprise Week in Wexford. The initiative, led by the Local Enterprise Offices and supported by Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities, ran from 2nd to 6th March 2026, with an additional sustainability-focused event taking place on 12th March. This year's programme places a strong emphasis on helping businesses enhance competitiveness by integrating digital tools, adopting lean processes and identifying opportunities to reduce energy costs.

On Monday, 2nd March, the Hatch Lab in Gorey hosted Let's Talk Digital, a training session exploring how businesses of all sizes can incorporate software solutions to streamline operations and improve cost efficiency. The digital theme continued into Tuesday with AI Works for Ireland, an event in Google HQ, Dublin, tailored specifically for LEO clients.

Start-ups took centre stage on Wednesday and Thursday with a Start Your Own Business course and one-to-one Business Advice Clinics. On Thursday afternoon, attention turned to fostering young entrepreneurship with the Wexford County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme.



The Ferrycarrig Hotel will host the Local Enterprise Office's celebration of International Women's Day. This year's theme, Give to Gain, highlights the value of sharing expertise, building connections and strengthening business networks. TV personality Anna Daly will MC the event and deliver the keynote address, while four LEO panel experts will present TED-style talks on Strategy, Digitalisation, AI and Innovation.

The focus then returns to business competitiveness with a Lean in Practice training session hosted by Adman Steel, a local leader in lean implementation. Local Enterprise Week activities in Wexford will extend to 12th March, giving businesses the opportunity to learn about supports available from the LEO, SEAI and other.



In November 2025, a new marketing campaign which is aligned to the Wexford Destination Development Plan (DEDP) took place in collaboration with Visit Wexford and Tourism Ireland, to target Great Britain visitors. The campaign operated on the "KAYAK" online travel agent network and ran for three months. This marketing campaign was targeted at visitors aged 35+, with a strong engagement from 55+ audience who have the time and the spending power for short breaks and cultural getaways. The campaign performed very well and based on KAYAK benchmarks (which are calculated using similar campaigns that ran in 2025 in the UK):

- The KAYAK+ Social achieved a Click Through Rate (CTR) that was 43% higher than their benchmark
- The Display Banners achieved a CTR that was 6% above the benchmark
- The email marketing saw a rate that was 27% above benchmark

All placements delivered in full, with just over 901k ad impressions delivered and over 8K click outs from the media placements. The email achieved over 308k sends, with 257k opens, resulting in a strong open rate of 83%. There were 1,357 click outs from the email to the external links.

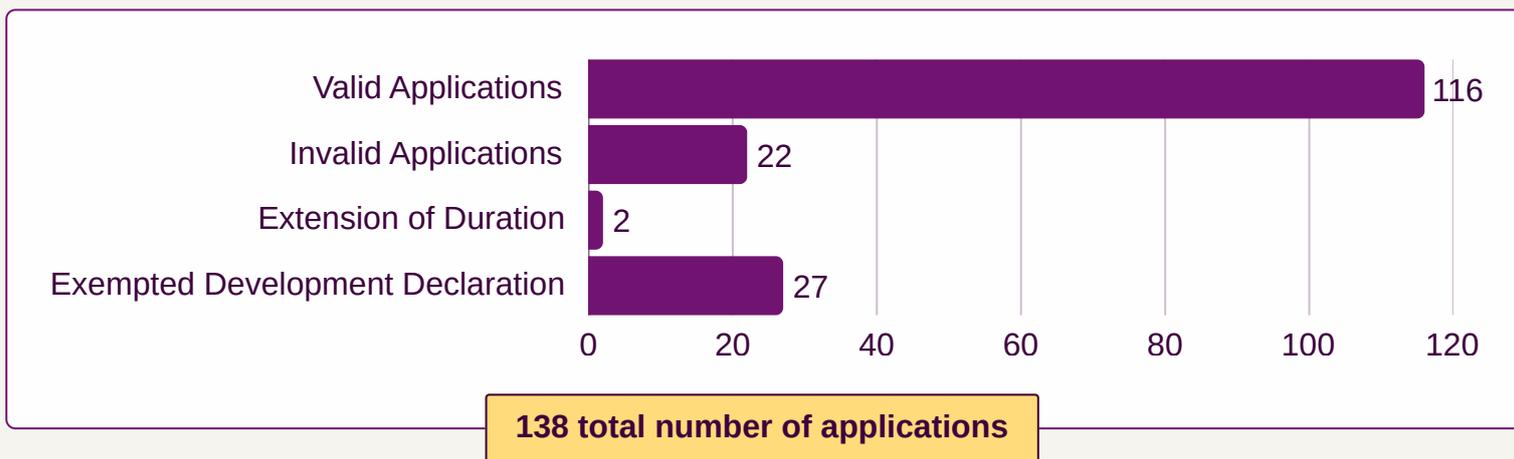
While the Visit Wexford content was live on the Tourism Ireland landing page, there were 28,972 views of the page, with a reach of 19,281 unique users with 106 total clicks out from the Visit Wexford landing page section to the external links. This marketing campaign raised the profile of County Wexford in one of our key international markets, with a strong digital push focused on driving concrete bookings.

Abbey - The Destination Experts

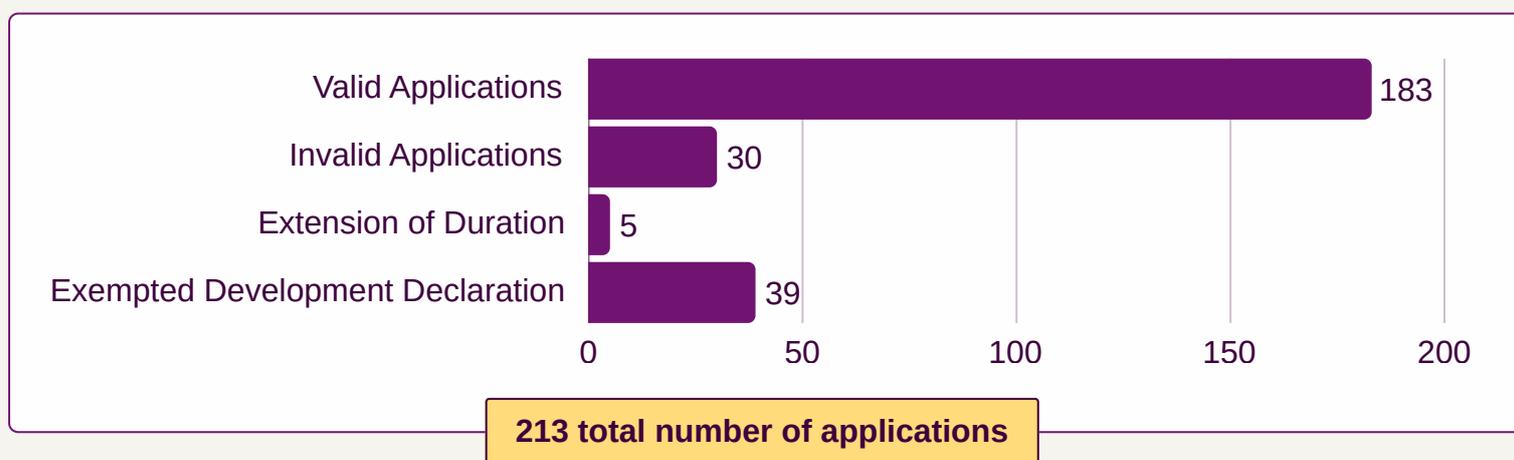
A meeting with the Tourism Development Officer, representatives from Wexford attractions, hotels and Visit Wexford was arranged with Abbey Group - The Destination Experts, to showcase the offering that County Wexford has for international visitors. Abbey - The Destination Experts is an award-winning destination management company with offices in Edinburgh, London and Dublin. They provide a full range of group travel services and individual travel services in the U.K. and Ireland. The meeting was highly informative, and Abbey are confident that they will see more clients visiting Wexford as a result.

PLANNING

Planning applications received 26th January - 22nd February 2026



Planning applications received 1st January to 22nd February 2026



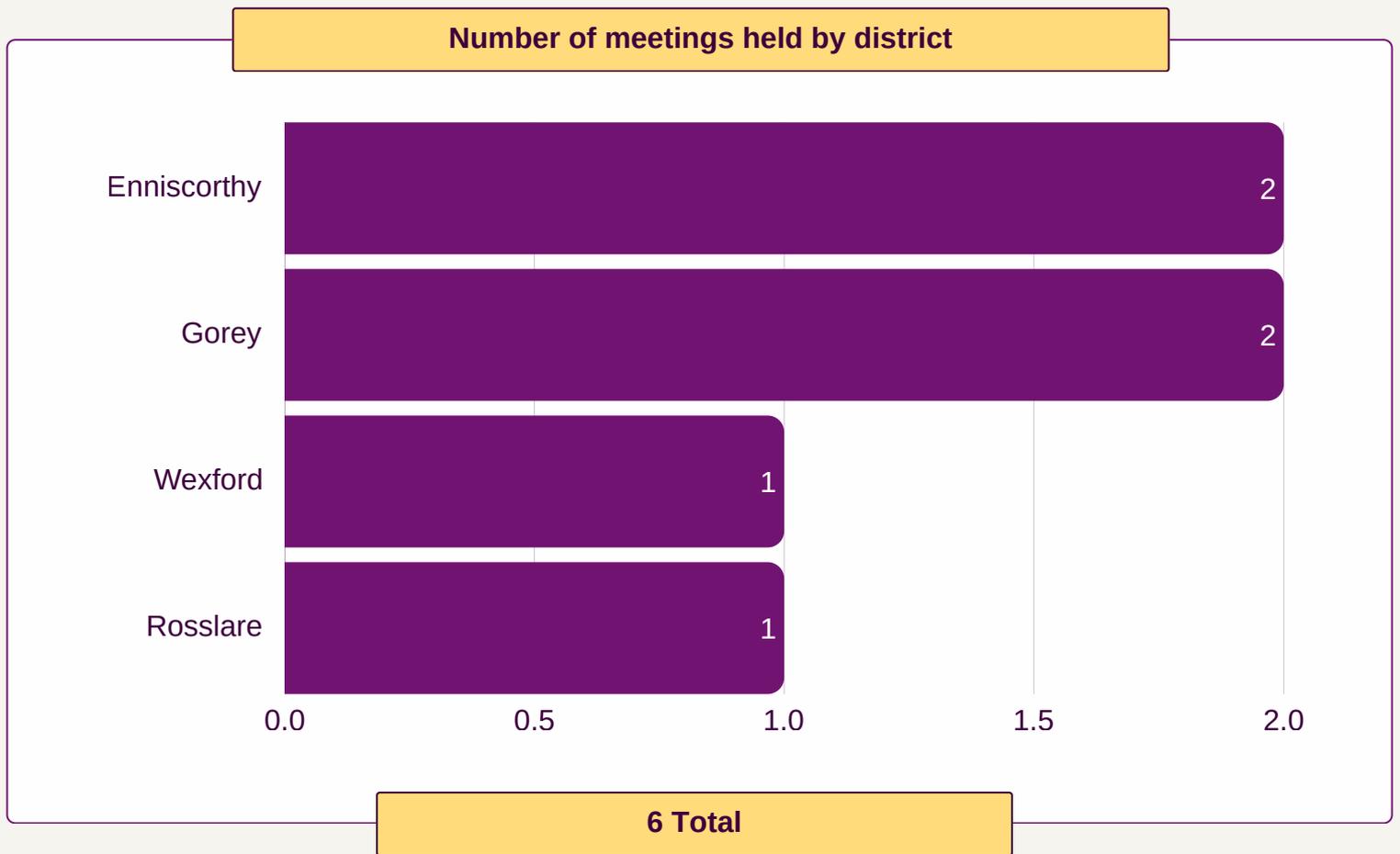
Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 22nd February 2026

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	16	5	7
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	21	14	19
New Ross MD	26	5	7
Rosslare MD	25	4	1
Wexford BD	13	2	5
Total	101	30	39

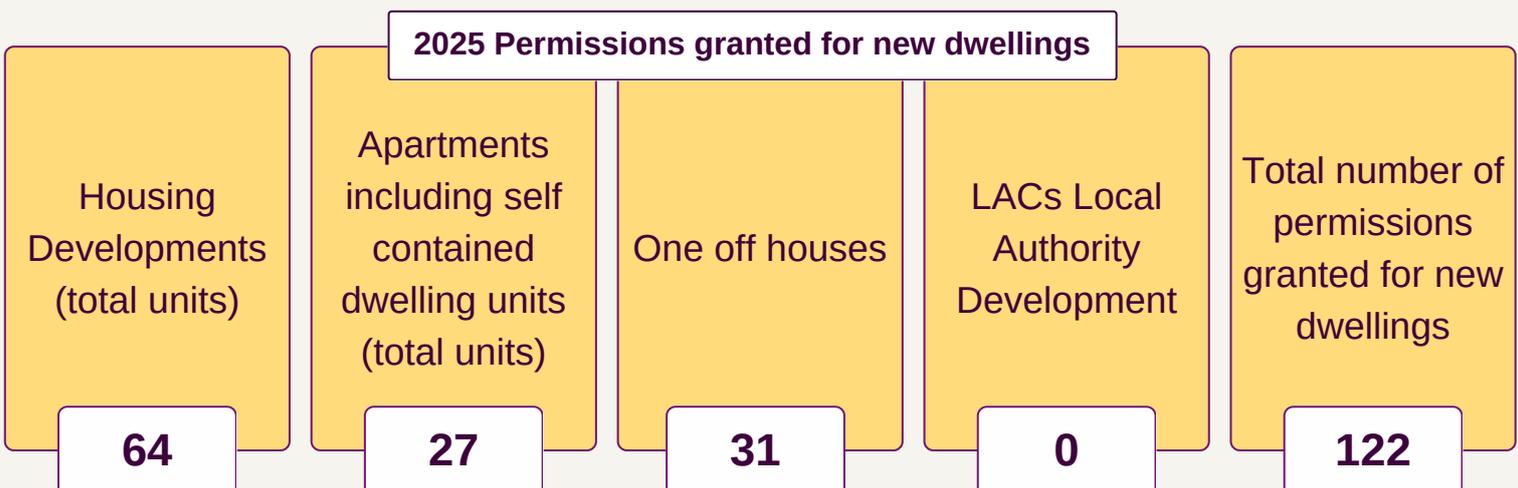
Average days to pre-planning meeting is 25

PLANNING CONT.

Major Pre-Planning - Year to date to the 31st January 2026



Planning CSO Returns - year to date to the 31st January 2026



Forward Planning

Variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan

The National Planning Framework – First Revision, which issued in April 2025, identified a need to provide 50,000 housing units per annum in the state. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage subsequently issued Section 28 Guidelines to implement this target. The Guidelines identify Housing Growth Requirements (HGR) for each County. County Wexford has been allocated the fifth highest percentage increase nationally under the new HGR with an increase from 1,072 units to 1,622 units per annum for the period 2025-2034. To implement the revised Housing Growth Requirements (HGR) arising out of revised National Planning Framework, Wexford County Council have initiated the statutory process for Variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan. Variation No. 1 amends the Core Strategy and land use zoning and objectives for Enniscorthy and New Ross to replace expire plans. The public display period for Variation No. 1 will run for a 4-week period from 11th of February 2026 to 12th March 2026, where submission and observations can be made on the proposed land use zonings and core strategy. A series of additional variations are to commence in the coming months, with additional zoning for Rosslare Harbour, Kilrane and Bunclody to follow shortly, in further response to the National Planning Framework – First Revision.

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

485

Live cases

48

Cases opened
year to date

38

Cases closed
year to date

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

48

Validated
commencement
notices

86

Building control
inspections

28

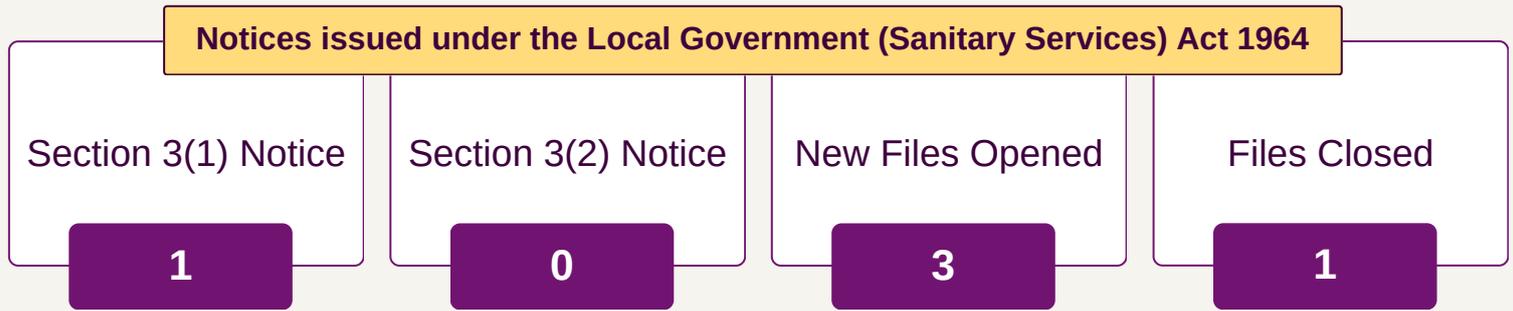
Validated cert. of
compliance on
completion

1

Taking in charge
reports sent to
districts

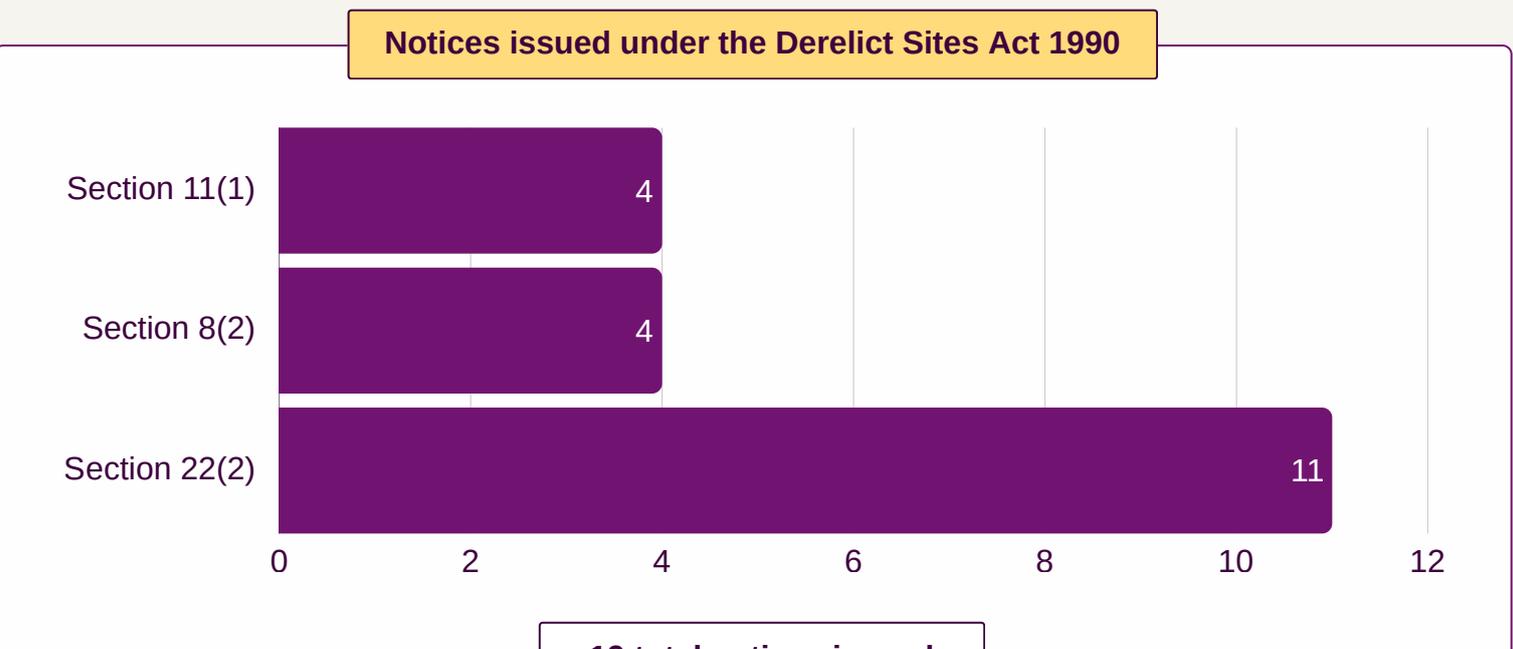
PLANNING CONT.

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



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

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



19 total notices issued



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

PLANNING CONT.

URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund

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

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



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

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	5	0	2	3	0
Gorey	3	0	1	2	0
New Ross	10	0	8	1	1
Wexford	6	4	1	1	0
Rosslare	2	0	1	1	0
Totals	26	4	13	8	1

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

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

31

LAC/PLAC/LRD and
General Planning Applications

1

Major pre-planning event days

Access Items

Update on Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030

The Access Section is currently working on drafting processes for applying locally the Commitments as outlined in the First Programme Plan as published in December for the Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030. In order to do so it has been necessary to seek guidance from the CCMA.

Below is an example of some of the items identified:

12.2.2. Establishment of a dedicated implementation committee with representation across the sector co-ordinated through the relevant CCMA Committee (Q1 2026).

12.3.1. Develop and roll out a survey to the sector across the spectrum of services to people with disabilities encompassing Corporate, Housing, Community, Sports, Arts, Libraries, LEOs, Age Friendly, and other relevant areas. (Q2 2026)

12.3.2. Emanating from the results of the survey, develop an action plan for consideration by the CCMA on behalf of the sector (Q2 2025)

12.3.3. Establish a mechanism for the implementation and review of the actions identified and agreed in Q2 (Q3 2026)

12.5.1. Governance Framework to be established through the CCMA Committee structure to review engagement and progress. (Q1 2026)

While awaiting guidance the Access Section have been working on items in anticipation of aligning them locally and in keeping with the overarching commitments as informed in the First Programme Plan of Actions for the Strategy. Information or direction from CCMA is necessary to ensure we are on track and aligned to any future monitoring surveys which might be forthcoming.

In relation to monitoring surveys, it is evident that an emphasis has been placed on providing statistical data for services from recent surveys which were completed. This not only interdepartmental collation of reporting but possibly a different format/process for recording in order to fully inform and not under report on achievements.

Update on proposals for Accessible Awareness Events

The Access Section is proposing to create and support a calendar which recognises specific Disability Awareness Days. It is hoped this will raise awareness among staff of the wide range of Disability, our obligations for accessible services and information of WCC supports and resources available.

(approx. 4 each year based on the disability sectors own calendar awareness events)

Access Items cont.

Internal Consultation for obligations under the Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030

Discussions have taken place with:

Local Sports Plan Steering Group

Pillar 3 Commitment 8, Priority Actions Sports 8.1 and 8.5.

It has been agreed that Accessibility the Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030 will be included on the Agendas for meetings going forward.

Town Centre First

Pillar 3 Commitment 12 Priority Actions 12.4.1 12.4.2, 12.4.3.

It has been agreed that Accessibility (or provisions) under Human Rights Strategy 2025-2030 will be included as an agenda item for the Town Centre First meetings going forward.

Environment, ICT, Access

We are currently working on the pilot for updating and revision of Imaping services with the objective of the walking trails base line data feeding into other mapping services such as the accessible trails and storyboard data, accessible WC data. This supports update and review of data and Pillar 3 participation in social and cultural life.

Health and Safety Department

Pillar 3 Commitment 8.9 specifically in relation to Events – and participation for disabled audiences and creators in arts and cultural events, with initial consideration for reviewing the online form.

Update on Submissions – Surveys/Reports Completed

The Access Section supported the completion of 3 surveys reports two of which were requested by the CCMA the Autism Survey and the survey Participation in Community Life for Persons with Disability. The third was for the LECP February Report.

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund

The government announced a new €1 billion fund aimed at supporting direct investment in infrastructure needed to unlock the delivery of housing. The first call 1 is focused on Local Authority projects that can commence construction in 2026 or 2027 with projects substantially completed by 2028. There will be a second call this year for projects where land is owned by developers.

Infrastructure that is eligible for funding includes:

- Transport Infrastructure
- Water infrastructure
- Electricity Infrastructure
- Other Infrastructure – needed to develop housing identified in the relevant statutory development plan

PLANNING CONT.

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund cont.

Wexford County Council established a multi disciplinary Housing Activation Team. The closing date for applications was Friday 27th February 2026 and below is a summary of the projects totalling €43.1 million with an estimated delivery of 12,000 housing units through direct build and the multiplier effect of benefitting private lands.

Summary Projects Wexford County Council

Project Name	Funding Requested (€)	Housing Potential (units) Benefiting Lands	Housing Potential (units) Multiplier Effect
Ballynagee	11.6M	1950	1715
Ballytegan	1.6M	600	1750
Clonard	2.02M	560	725
Clonhaston	0.25M	500	2044
Milehouse to Moyne	1.25M	1600	1100
New Ross Town Cluster	3.98M	731	417
St John's/Munster Hill	0.3M	1500	750
St Waleran's Strategic Transport Link	19.09M	820	1428
Turret Rocks	3.09M	424	2300

Totals

€43.1M

8,685

12,229

REGENERATION UNIT

Vacant Homes

Work is continuing on vacant homes with €413,740 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks and €810,000 of initial approvals granted in this time period which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

There is strong interest in the recently announced “Vacant above the Shop Grant” and we expect full details of this scheme to issue from the Dept shortly and for it to be operational by April 2026.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 25-02-26			
Applications Received	586	Awaiting Approval	0
Inspections Required (First)	2	Applications Rejected	6
Inspections Required (Final)	3	Applications Approved In Principle	2
Applications Info Requested	130	Withdrawn By Applicant	14
Applications Approved	436	Funding Issued	179
Total Funding Paid to Date		€9,813,694.40	
Total Funding Approved in Principle		€25,067,852.00	

WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caim Tank – Works complete. • Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment. Recouped from Dept. • Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q2 2026.
MARWP 2024-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding approval – €1.2 million for the upgrade of 3.9km Watermain for Blackstairs GWS. • Topographical Survey carried out • Detail design ongoing • Site Investigations contract preparation underway • Notification from DHLGH received stating that Kilanerin funding for nitrate treatment not approved. • Notification from DHLGH received stating that Blackstairs funding for treatment tank and plant upgrade works not approved.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	Individual Well Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 23 new well grant applications were registered in February 2026. • 30 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €62,094.76. • 52 inspections to date carried out to date in February 2026.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme

Group Water Scheme Subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy A Reminder letters being sent to GWSs to apply for this year's subsidy. Applications due in by 30th June 2026. • Subsidy B (payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&M costs associated with “bona fide” DBO contracts for GWS's – Payments to schemes for Quarter 4 2025 have been processed this month totalling € 97,629.04. • Applications for Grant towards Capital Replacement Costs of the DBO GWSs now under review for Blackstairs, Borrmount and Mullawn GWSs .
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsgrange – €8.1 Million funding approved to Wexford County Council • Wexford County Council met with Uisce Eireann and DHLGH on 27th February, 2026 to discuss responsibilities and delivery.
Lead Remediation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 applications received to date on revised grant, 8 paid, 2 approved but have yet to submit claim for works complete.
Compliance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 168 private supplies on register for compliance monitoring. • Compliance testing has begun for 2026 as per schedule

DPI Resolution Project

	Name	Townland	Expecting Costings	75% Funding Provided	Project Completion/ Programme
DPI Resolution Programme 2019-2021	Cois Cuan	Arthurstown	€152,475	€114,356	Q2 2026
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q2 2026
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q4 2026
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2027
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q2 2026
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q2 2026
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2027

- **Cois Cuan, Farrin Carraig & Beach View** – Planning process complete, tender package ready to be circulated to contractors. Awaiting Uisce Eireann engagement.
- **Stonebrook** submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval
- **Kyle Close** submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval.
- **Critical Path** - Awaiting substantial engagement from Uisce Eireann regarding DPI Resolution and connection agreements

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour - The Project is in Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

- Project design is progressing, with additional work underway to address Service Area requirements, Active Travel provisions, and Biodiversity considerations.
- Preliminary design of the River Slaney Bridge and the associated Railway Protection Structure (RPS) at the river crossing has commenced. Preparation of the Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) and Maritime Area Consent (MAC) applications are ongoing.
- Updates to the traffic modelling are nearing completion, and environmental surveys remain ongoing.
- Consultation with directly affected landowners is continuing.
- A Real Estate Valuation of the proposed alignment is underway.
- Work on the Environmental, Planning, Design, and other supporting reports is also progressing.
- The 2026 TII budget allocation for the project has now been confirmed.

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

- Negotiations between real estate valuers and landowners regarding Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) compensation are ongoing.
- Procurement documents for the appointment of Technical Advisors for Phases 6 and 7 have been published on 23rd January 2026, with the return date of 3rd March 2026.
- Procurement documents for the appointment of the Main Construction Contractor have been completed, and a request to publish the tender has been submitted to TII for formal approval. TII approval is currently pending.
- On-site works under the Archaeological Services (Stages I–IV) contract have been completed. Reporting on the findings is currently underway. The 2026 TII budget allocation for the project has now been confirmed.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

SAFETY SCHEMES

National Road	Progress update
N25 Tagoat	Detailed design drawings are being finalised.
N30 Leeches Bend West of Clonroche	Works are substantially complete
N25 Larkins Cross	Safety audit is complete, design drawings are being updated with feedback, awaiting the Appropriate Assessment screening and Environmental Impact Assessment.

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

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

2025 Road Safety Inspection

N25 Lot 2C RSIs P3A – N25 (Wexford)	Detailed design drawings are being finalised. Road safety inspection under review.
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2026 Pavement Schemes - 2026 allocation is pending.

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2026

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

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

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2025

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

- N11 Oylegate to Scurlocksbush Roundabout. 1.7km – contractors appointed, Civils works are mostly complete, pavement works are dependent on temperature

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

Storm Chandra, Tuesday 27th January 2026 - The county was significantly affected by flooding as a result of Storm Chandra. The severe wet weather has affected many roads around the county.

Wexford County Council continues to assess the damage to roads infrastructure. To date, we identified 157 items including roads and roads infrastructure such as bridges and embankments – over a total length of approx. 140km.

The estimated repair cost is in the region of €20m and we have applied to the Department of Transport to fund the repairs.

Restoration Improvement €12,837,500

Road strengthening works started in Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD.



Completed strengthening works at Ballintlea, Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD

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

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

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

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

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

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

Specific Improvement Grant

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

Winter Maintenance - The Winter Service Plan came into effect on Monday 13th October 2025 and continues to Thursday 30th April 2026. Salting was carried out in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 34 days this season to date (out of 135 days).

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Pathfinder projects	
Project & Location	Project Update
Newtown Road Phase 1	Newtown Phase 1 – Project is now complete. All snag works were recently complete by contractor.
Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3	Project is at tender phase.
Hospital Junction Newtown Road	Hospital Junction currently in detail design stage. Advance works to SW boundary. A new boundary wall shall be constructed shortly.
Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme	All the Part XI Planning Application documents have been submitted to Planning on Friday 20th Feb 2026. being compiled for NTA approval prior to lodging an application including Arborist report and Part XI Planning Report by RPS, scheme drawings and Appropriate assessment screening report.
Roxborough Cycle Scheme	CCTV survey of existing services completed. Site Investigations due to be commenced shortly. Planning Part 8 to be completed this year.

Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy Town & Wexford Town - Reports will be presented to Councillors in Q2.

Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRS)

The following sites are due to be reviewed and designed as part of 2026 SRTS. SRTS 2026 below:

No.	School	Roll No.	Eircode
1	Kennedy College , New Ross	71660T	<u>Y34 YW08</u>
2	St. Fintan's NS. Taghmon	17443F	<u>Y35 NP27</u>
3	St . Anne's NS Rathangan	19317K	<u>Y35KT65</u>

Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme - Active Travel has identified a preliminary schedule of bus stops for improvement under the Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme 2026 (circa 30 locations). The schedule was formulated from usage metrics. A site suitability survey of each location is underway.

Active Travel Newsletter - We have launched our “Active Travel Newsletter” to promote all things active travel in County Wexford. This quarterly newsletter will include the latest updates on active travel schemes, public consultations, hints & tips, safety campaigns, etc. Sign up at: <https://seu2.cleverreach.com/f/431449-420566/>

Adapted Bikes Sessions on the Greenway - Adapted bike taster sessions will commence on 13th March, running on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, through to October. The aim of the programme is to support people with disabilities and additional mobility needs to access and enjoy cycling on the Southeast Greenway in a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment. Delivered by WWETB Outdoor Education Training Centre in association with Sports Active Wexford and Active Travel.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

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

Scheme	Current Position	Detail to Progress
Saltmills Village	ESB connection applied for awaiting completion of installation	Civil work to be completed next week, ESB connection awaited.
Ballycullane Village	Prices returned and contractor appointed	Contractor appointed, installation to commence February.
Auburn Avenue, New Ross	Awaiting ESB connection	Installation completed by contractor, awaiting ESB connection
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	ESB application submitted.	Contractor appointed, works to commence March.
Kilhile Arthurstown	Design returned, awaiting pricing	Further information sought from contractors on design.
Glentire Heights to the Ballagh Village	Works Ongoing	Works 90% completed.
Kiltealy Village	Works Ongoing	Works 80% completed.
Kilrane Manor, Kilrane	All lights replaced with LED lanterns.	Complete
Sean O Byrne Park, Gorey	Installation complete, awaiting ESB connection.	Complete
Clonattin Road, Gorey	Installation completed, ESB connected	Complete
South Quay, New Ross	Out for design and pricing	Assess tenders for replacement of old decorative lighting
Midletown, Riverchapel	ESB connection made in December.	Operational
Carnew Road, Gorey	Works completed, awaiting ESB connection.	Connected
Oylegate Community Centre	Works completed.	Awaiting ESB connection
Kilrane Road Infill	Works completed.	Awaiting ESB connection.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Projects at Planning Stages

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Ballast Office- a)Essential repair Work	Tender Stage	Construction scheduled to commence February 2026. Completion is expected in May.
b)Refurbishment	Planning Stage	Initial investigations are being carried out into the potential suitability of the building for use as the Borough District of Wexford Offices.
Ballynagee Link Road	Design Stage	Fencing to secure the site is due to be completed in Q1 2026. Surveys and Ground investigation works are anticipated to commence in Q1 2026.
Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building	Planning Stage	No update
Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme	Planning Stage	It has been agreed to include a LIDO (salt water pool) into the scheme. Submission to ACP will follow receipt of an MAC from MARA, expected towards the end of 2026.
Dunbrody Centre and Extension	Detail Design	Awaiting outcome of site investigations to inform the cost p;an, so that the design can be confirmed.
Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme		No update
Phase 1-New River Slaney Bridge Project	Design Phase	The preferred option for the new road bridge and the pedestrian bridge has been selected. A meeting is to be scheduled with Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to discuss the in river works for the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge.
Phase 2		The consultant's brief is currently being peer reviewed by the OPW and will be advertised in the coming week.
Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2 420827	Design stage	The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for Stage (i) to (v) design services. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. It is anticipated the tender for construction works will be published in Q1 2026.
Enniscorthy Technical Park IDA Tech Building 420847	Design stage	The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for an architect-led design team to prepare a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park. Planning application was submitted in December 2025. Decision of final grant is anticipated in Q1 2026
Enniscorthy- (A) Town Centre & Tourism Project	Preliminary Design stage	Planning stage design is also now complete and Part 8 application for the Castle Quarter project commenced on 11th February 2026. Consultants for detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Templeshannon scheme. Consultants will be procured using a two-stage process. Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify, will be advertised in March 2026.
(B) Templeshannon Regeneration Project.		Consultants for preliminary design, planning, detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Market Square scheme. A consultant framework agreement is to be established on foot of this contract award for use in future Public Realm projects. Consultants will be procured using a two-stage process. Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify, will be advertised in March 2026.

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Esmonde Street, Gorey	Tender Stage	Construction works on-site are expected to commence in March 2026. Tender assessment is now complete. WCC & CIE Licence Agreement now in place. Uisce Eireann & CIE Licence Agreement imminent. Construction works on-site are expected to commence in Q1 2026.
Gorey Market House	Design Stage	Surveys to inform the detailed design are largely complete. Stage 1 (prequalification) of main works tender has been completed with 5no. Contractors shortlisted. It is anticipated the main works tender package will be issued to the shortlisted contractors in March 2026.
Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)	Design Stage	It anticipated the full scheme will progress through the "major pre-planning" process in Q1 2026 and be submitted for development consent sought via Part 8 in April 2026. Irish Rail approvals process requires an Irish Rail Pre-Project Assessment to be completed. The application for this was submitted in February 2026.
John Street Grain Store, New Ross	Planning	A completed planning pack to facilitate an application for development consents for a new public realm to the rear of the property is expected to be submitted to An Coimisiun Pleanála in Q1 2026.
Riverchapel Community Centre	Design stage	No Update
Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenways	Route Options Stage	Options Selection Report Peer review completed. Preferred Route Corridor agreed for Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour section. A public Consultation event is planned for 4/3/26. Additional flood modelling is currently ongoing prior to finalising the preferred route corridor for Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand.
Wexfordia		
Irish National Heritage Park	Preliminary Design	A design for a new Visitor Centre to support service requirements at the INHP and to mitigate against future flood events- is now complete. It is planned to submit a planning application for the entire project to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Q3 2026, subject to the receipt of a Marine Area Consent from MARA.
Hook Lighthouse	Preliminary Design	A Public Consultation event with display of the most up to date designs for the local community will be held in the existing visitor centre at Hook Lighthouse in Q2 2026.
New Ross Tourism Project:	Preliminary Design	An application for additional funding for completion of the centre was forwarded to the DCRDG in December 2025. The Norman centre will be an important element in the European wide celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of the birth of William the Conqueror, the first Norman King of England. Bright Ireland are the Interpretive designers for the Norman Themed Visitor Centre with preliminary design complete and detailed design progressing well. The Stage 1 (prequalification) advert for the main works contract was published in Q4 2025 and assessment is now complete. The Stage 2 tender documents were circulated to these suppliers in Q4 2025 with works proposed to start in Q1 2026.

Projects Under Construction

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Adoration Convent	Construction Stage	Works are progressing well onsite & completion is scheduled for January 2027.
Enniscorthy Sports Hub 420330	Construction Stage	Works are progressing & currently on programme for completion in Sept. 2026

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: March 2026
Ferndale Gymnasium	Construction Stage	Works are currently expected to be complete in Q1 2026. The completion of the Project is contingent on the ESB and Uisce Eireann connections.
Mechanics Institute	Renovation stage	Work ongoing. To be completed at the end of March 2026.
SouthEast Greenway		
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3	Complete	No Update
Rosbercon Trailhead	Preliminary Design	Part 8 process commenced in February 2026.
Lot 4	Detailed Design	Tender for the main works contract is due to be advertised in Mar. 2026
Lot 4a	Preliminary Design	No Update
Lot 5a	Under construction	Lot 2 and 5a Works now substantially complete. We await completion and handover of an access ramp on the North Quays Project to enable us open this section of greenway. Our latest information is that this will happen in mid-April 2026.
Lot 5b ,Lot 6,Lot 7	Detailed Design	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 Q1 2027.
Lot 8	Preliminary Design	No update
Lot 9	Detailed Design	No update
Trinity Wharf	Detailed Design Stage	Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing pending the licence agreement confirmation. The revised Stage 1 pre-qualification for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) closed on the 6th of February 2026. The submissions are currently being reviewed by the Consultant Quantity Surveyors. As per the licence agreements with Irish Rail a new temporary security fence was erected to allow Irish Rail to undertake their works on the Trinity Wharf site.
Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Design Stage	The Scheme is currently in optioneering. The consultant has presented the long list of options to the Steering Group which is under review.
Funding & Development Schemes		
Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025	n/a	The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD announced on Monday, 22 December 2025 funding of €26 million for 116 projects in rural communities across the country.
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	n/a	<p>These projects have a 24mth timeframe for delivery and will be delivered in collaboration with the local community groups.</p> <p>The following are the successful projects in Wexford:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct roadside trail Coolgreany village to Ballyfad Wood-€197,416 • Construct roadside path from Lobster Pot to Carne completing the link from Our Lady`s Island to Carne- €500,000. • Construction of 1km trail between Wellingtonbridge village and Little Sea Viewing area-€200,000. <p>Wexford Total: €897,416</p>
Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)	n/a	RRDF (Cat 2) funding approval for Europe's Gateway to Ireland - Rosslare's Sustainable Tourism Experience was announced by Dara Calleary, T.D., Minister for Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht on 10th Oct 2025. Coastal Destination Courtown Project was not successful in this round of funding

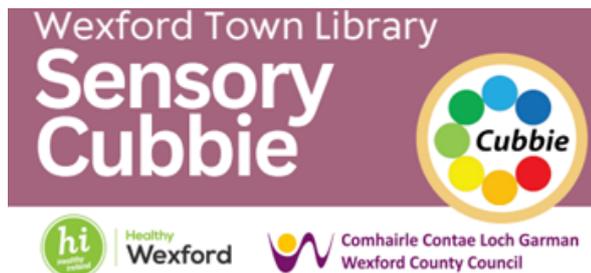
COMMUNITY

HEALTHY WEXFORD



Sensory Cubbie

The Healthy Ireland Funded Sensory Cubbie formally launches in early March and is currently available at Wexford Town Library. The Cubbie is a pod designed to help with regulating sensory experiences where you can create a calming or stimulating environment, depending on what you need.



By providing the Cubbie, based in the library, Healthy Wexford aims to make, not only the library, but the broader urban area and its events and activities more inclusive and accessible to all. With the knowledge that the Cubbie is available for sensory breaks, should it be needed, this allows families or groups to socially connect in their communities supported by the provision of the space – which can tailor to the sensory needs of individual users.



Binse Comhrá

As part of the Health Wexford ‘Happy to Chat’ initiative a Binse Comhrá has been installed in St. Peter’s Square in Wexford town where people are happy to chat as Gaeilge.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME AND LOCAL RECOGNITION FUND

LEP 2026

Wexford was allocated €253,226.56 from DRCDG for its Local Enhancement Programme Fund 2026. The closing date for applications was the 27th of February 2026.

Local Recognition Fund 2023

CRF23 Progress to date	
Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date (86%)	€1,291,978.69 <i>(incl. WCC Admin)</i>
Works complete (24no. of 27no. projects)	89%
Works in progress (0no. projects)	0%
Projects to be started (2no. projects – DRCD granted extensions to April 2026)	7%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilmuckridge Playground, (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD) – April 2026 <i>new extension</i> Riverchapel Community Complex, (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD) – April 2026 <i>new extension</i> 	
Projects cancelled by Community Group (1no. funding decommitted)	4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fethard Community Development Assoc. (New Ross MD) 	
Total of fund claimed to Q4 2025 from Dept.	€1,099,751.90 (73%)

CRF24 Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,703,377.00
Total fund expenditure to date (70%)	€1,192,276.78 <i>(incl. WCC Admin)</i>
Works complete (9no. of 22no. projects)	41%
Works in progress (8no.)	36%
Projects to be started (5no. projects)	23%
Total of fund claimed to Q4 2025 from Dept.	€1,077,692.24 (63%)

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

SICAP Progress Annual Report 2025 and Annual Plan for 2026

Both documents were approved by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) at a meeting held in the Council Chamber on the 26th of February.

INDEPENDENT LIVING MOVEMENT IRELAND - VOICE PROJECT 2026

The Annual Plan and Budget for this Programme was approved by the LDC at their meeting held on the 26th of February.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

Accommodation

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

<i>Pledge Type</i>	<i>Number of Properties</i>	<i>Number of People Placed</i>
Offer a Home	286	845
Irish Red Cross	31	98

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

All six Refurbishment Programme properties are now open and operational.

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Centre	56	68
Unity Court, Wexford	41	57
Michael Street, Wexford	13	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	5	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	6	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	13	21

SPORTS ACTIVE

The Sports Active Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030, **A Roadmap to Excellence and Innovation**, was launched on 28th January in the County Hall, and was attended by our Partners, Tutors, Steering Committee, Sport Ireland delegates, Wexford County Council members and programme participants.

Sports Active Activities	
Table Tennis Ireland Roadshow	Table Tennis Ireland delivered their Primary Schools Roadshow. St. Iberius NS, Barntown NS, Adamstown NS, Coolgreaney, Riverchapel NS, Ballyoughter NS, Camolin NS, Scoil Naomh Maadhóg Ferns, and Crossabeg NS participated in this Roadshow.
Special Olympics New 2 Tri	Special Olympics Wexford group completed a 6-week 'New 2 Tri' programme in collaboration with Triathlon Ireland. 8 participants completed the programme: 6 females and 2 males.
Tri Captains	31 Students (12 Girls & 20 Boys) from Coláiste An Átha completed their 6-week Tri Captains programme with a splash and dash event at both Enniscorthy Sports Hub and the Waterfront Pool & Leisure Centre.
COPD Support Group Taster Session	Sports Active Wexford delivered a Go for Life Games taster session with 14 participants from the Wexford town Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) support group in Clonard Community Centre. 4 males and 10 females.

GARDA YOUTH AWARDS

Launch of the Garda Youth Awards 2026

The Wexford Garda Youth Awards were launched in County Hall on 25th February. The Garda Youth Awards celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age and recognise the good work being done by young people through Wexford's communities. The awards acknowledge the young people who make their communities and society in general a better place to live. They also acknowledge the endeavours of young people who have faced and overcome challenges in their lives. An Garda Síochána administer the Garda Youth Awards in association with Wexford County Council.



Nominations can be made online [Garda Youth Awards 2026 | Wexford County Council](#)

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 25th March at 4pm.

BURIAL GROUNDS

Bunclody Burial Ground Resurfacing and Clearance Works

- Significant progress was made this month to resolve uneven pathways in Bunclody Calvary Burial Ground. These pathways posed a risk to visitors and have now been resurfaced with a gully installed at the lower end to prevent water accumulation and ensure the area remains accessible during periods of heavy rain.
- Furthermore, work is continuing to remove topsoil and rubble to the rear of the burial ground, with completion expected upon improvement of weather conditions. This will increase the capacity, allowing for additional plots to meet the increasing demand.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRES

Government Funded Generators for Local Authorities

- The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht are providing funding for each local authority to be provided with 4 generators which can be deployed to community support centres during extreme weather or other type of emergencies. The generators are stored by the LA and deployed to local community centres which have committed to being community support centres. Funding is provided to install changeover switches in these community centres so generators can be used by them.
- The current work being undertaken in Community Department is the identification of an initial group of 20 community centres for this project. Visits to these centres have started and the response to this government programme has been extremely positive with communities committing to providing an essential hub in emergencies.

AGE FRIENDLY

Afternoon Tea Dance at the IFA Centre in Enniscorthy

WCC and Age Friendly held an afternoon tea dance at the IFA Centre in Enniscorthy on Tuesday the 2nd of February. People travelled from across the county including Wexford Town, New Ross, Gorey, Piercestown and Castlebridge. The event demonstrated the importance of Age Friendly initiatives in supporting social connection, wellbeing, and active ageing within the county.



LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Wexford Local Community Safety Partnership met on the 29th Jan 2026. The Partnership agreed the Steering Group's recommendation on a consultation and media strategy.

A Public Consultation on Community Safety was launched on the 25th Feb until the 25th March 2026 on the Councils consultation portal. This was advertised on the Council's social media platforms, local newspapers, South East Radio, and circulated to key stakeholders and community networks. This will be followed by Town Hall public meetings throughout the County in April/May. A workshop will be held for members on the 25th June 2026 to assess the findings of the public consultation and decide on what priorities will be included in the Safety Plan.



**COMMUNITY SAFETY
PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Wexford Local Community Safety partnership wants to hear from you. Do you feel safe in your community? What could make it safer?

Our online portal is now open, and we are asking people across Co. Wexford to share their views on community safety. Your feedback will help shape our 3-year Community Safety Plan.

Open now until the 25th March 2026. Please see link below or scan the QR code

<https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/content/community-safety-survey>

 Carraigíní Centre
Lackanearney
Wexford
County Council

 Wexford
LOCAL COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP





The Partnership also established the following:

1. A Working Group to support awareness initiatives on preventative measures on Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence
2. Nominations to a Subgroup to be established in June 2026 to begin work on developing a draft of the 3-Year Community Safety Plan.

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)

Remeberence Day – 4 years since the Ukrainian war 24th of February

The team attended Remeberence day on the Wexford Quay front to show solidarity and support to the Ukrainian community. Wexford local development and Ukrainian sunflower hub alongside with the local community joined to remember 4 years since Ukrainian war began. It gave an opportunity for the Ukrainian community in Wexford to reflect and remember those who have sadly lost their lives in the war.



Ramadan Celebration in Cedar Lodge - The LAIT celebrated the beginning of Ramadan in the Cedar Lodge accommodation centre, showing support to all the families who will be fasting for Ramadan. Representatives from other organisations were also present to show their support. The event provided a valuable opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about diverse cultures while sharing traditional Arabic food and tea.

National Integration Event - The LAIT participated in the National Integration Event in the Department of Justice, Home affairs and Migration on the 26th of February. The Department of Justice and the LGMA provided us with updates on the EU Migrant pact that will begin on the 12th of June 2026. The LAIT heard from other organisations and how collaboration with stakeholders is a key piece in integrating migrants into communities. The importance of groundwork was highlighted in the panel discussion.



The International Refugee Resettlement Programme - In February the IRPP welcomed two new families to the County and are working to support them to settle into their new communities. The programme is now supporting 15 families.

LAIT clinics - The Integration team continue to support those living in County Wexford under International Protection. The team carried out 19 clinics in the community in February supporting over 80 individuals.

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

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

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

Kilpatrick Awaiting AA Screening Report, Hydraulic & Survey reports from consultant.

Killmannock Drainage works: Hedge Wayleave application is being progressed to access drainage works area.

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

Rosslare CRFRS: Ongoing, no date fixed for 2nd Public Participation Day yet, likely to be Q2 2026.

Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement: Preliminary drawing and ecology reports prepared, OPW Funding for 190m, additional application to be submitted to OPW to extend works resulting from recent storm events and erosion. Second Public Information evening planned for end March 2026. Drawings currently being updated and site is now marked out. Works planned Q3 2026.

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

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

Applications for 2026 DAFM project funding are currently being prepared for submission.

MARA response with screening determination that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required for the Barrow pre dredging surveys. A mind to determination notice will be issued in due course.

Explosive bye laws was sent for Minister approval 05/02/2026.

Public Conveniences

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

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2026	January – 3 received	2026 – Total €0.00	1 on hold for documentation
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No of Verification Inspections

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

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

Ongoing Inspections

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

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

Discharge Licences

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

No. of Monitoring Submission Returns for January 2026	3
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Low Smoke Fuel Areas

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

Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

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

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

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

Agriculture

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

Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council’s target has remained at 271 GAP Initial inspections for 2026 concentrating in catchments such as Heathpark, Begerin, Owenduff, Boro, Lady’s Island Lake, Aughboy, Mangan and the Lask. A team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role led by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section. The team will undertake other agricultural inspections such as sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up inspections. A total of 71 inspections have been carried out in 2026 to date with 22 of these been initial GAP inspections and 31 GAP follow up inspections.

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

A total of 23 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been assessed in 2026 highlighting the continued investment in Wexford Agriculture and maintaining compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Waste/Litter Management

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	%Increase/ Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/ Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
Jan to Dec 2025	2441	Up 3%	981	Down 4%
1-31 Jan 2026	197			

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

	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2025	1-31 Jan 2026
Incidents	3896	4235	4195	4419	379
Closed	3720	4007	3936	4051	301
Closure Rate	95%	95%	94%	92%	79%

Members Portal

	Jan to Dec 2025	1 Jan to 24 Feb 2026
Incidents	180	29
Closed	179	22

Total Calls logged 1 Jan to 24 Feb 2026

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council		Total Calls																																																												
Customer Services Environmental Cases		653																																																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Issue Type</th> <th>January</th> <th>February</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Abandoned Vehicle</td> <td>15</td> <td>11</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Air Pollution</td> <td>10</td> <td>7</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bring Banks</td> <td>11</td> <td>1</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Cleanup</td> <td>72</td> <td>72</td> <td>144</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog complaint</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fines</td> <td>15</td> <td>8</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Litter</td> <td>201</td> <td>139</td> <td>340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noise Pollution</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oil Pollution</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste Pollution</td> <td>23</td> <td>14</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water Pollution</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work Request</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>380</td> <td>273</td> <td>653</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Issue Type	January	February	Total	Abandoned Vehicle	15	11	26	Air Pollution	10	7	17	Bring Banks	11	1	12	Coastal	3	5	8	Community Cleanup	72	72	144	Dog complaint	3	2	5	Fines	15	8	23	Litter	201	139	340	Noise Pollution	9	5	14	Oil Pollution	2		2	Waste Pollution	23	14	37	Water Pollution	9	4	13	Work Request	7	5	12	Total	380	273	653
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Court Overview

Month	Heard	Outcome	Litter	Waste	Water	Air	Noise	Dogs
Jan	3	Total fines	€800	€0	NA	NA	NA	€0
		Total costs	€750	€0	NA	NA	NA	€0

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

Feb 2026			
Fixed payment Notices issued	4	Successful prosecutions	3
Litter fines issued	21	Legal proceedings in	25
Fines paid litter	7	Amount collected in fines	€1080 litter, €0 dogs, €75 FPN
FPN paid	1	Dog fines issued	2

Mattress Amnesty:

As part of the anti-dumping initiative, Wexford County Council held 4 mattress collections points across the county in September. The initiative was well used by households with over 2,000 old mattresses collected. The mattresses will be sent to a recycle center where the springs will be removed for metal recovery and the fabric will be shredded and re-used for packing.

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

Control of dogs	2024	2025	Jan 2026
Dogs collected	564	546	44
Dogs reclaimed	147	149	15
Dogs re-homed/transferred	442	386	27
Dogs put to sleep	31	10	3
Dog Fines	11	12	3

Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites Jan 2026	Recycling out Jan 2025	Recycling out Jan 2026
Glass bottles		349.29	339.9
Aluminium Cans		2.8	2.36
Total	108	352.09	342.26

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGOR Y	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan 2026 (t)	Recycling out Jan 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan 2026 (t)	Recycling out Jan 2025(t)	Recycling out Jan 2026 (t)	Recycling out Jan 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan 2026 (t)
Total Recycling out	67	55	65	61	61	70	49	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	249	265	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Jan	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	85	85	132	121	159	162	83	83

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

Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	223	283
Gorey *		33
Enniscorthy *		124
Wexford *		68
New Ross*		37
Rosslare		21
Total Bring Site Inspections	853	860

Environment Education and Awareness

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

Green Schools: 3 schools have applied for their first flag; Court NS; Kilnamanagh NS and Galbally NS. Assessment visits are being arranged for first green flags and all schools due to renew their flag before 20th March. Contact with all green schools is ongoing.

School Workshops:

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



Picker Pals Statistics 2020 – 2024	
Participants (children)	4,400
Total participants (family members & participating child)	11,000
Waste removed (2.5kg per person/adventure)	27,500kgs +

Rubbish Film Festival: 7 secondary schools participated in the Rubbish Film Festival. Each participating school received an intensive 2-day workshop on-site in their school from Createschool to help them gain and/or develop the skills to create their own short ONE MINUTE film or films that will create awareness among their peers on their selected issue. The Rubbish Film Festival is a really unique opportunity for Transition Year Students to showcase their creative talents, create awareness on Environmental Issues such as Climate Action and learn some new digital storytelling skills in the process. The County Awards will be held on Monday 10th March at 10 am in County Hall. Best Film, Best Runner Up Film and a Best Poster will be selected from participating schools and go forward to the National Competition.

National Tree Week: National Tree Week is taking place from Sunday 8th March to Sunday 15th March and the theme this year is 'Growing a Greener Future Together'. National Tree Week, Ireland's largest annual tree celebration, is proudly organised by the Tree Council of Ireland in partnership with Coillte. This special week invites communities across the nation to come together to appreciate the beauty and crucial importance of Ireland's trees. To support this initiative, Coillte is supplying 600 saplings for distribution to our local schools. All schools have been notified, and 21 schools will avail of the saplings. Each school will receive approximately 30 saplings a mixture of Birch, Silver Birch, Rowan, Hazel and Whitethorn.

Local Waste Prevention Grant / Local Circular Economy Grant 2026: Applications which open in early March are now invited from tidy towns groups, community groups and other voluntary groups for the waste prevention / local circular grant scheme. This scheme aims to support communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas. Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm, Thursday 26th of March 2026.

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National Spring Clean: Registrations are now open for all groups to register for An Taisce’s National Spring Clean Programme. Registrations and support for WCC’s Community Clean Up programme is ongoing.

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

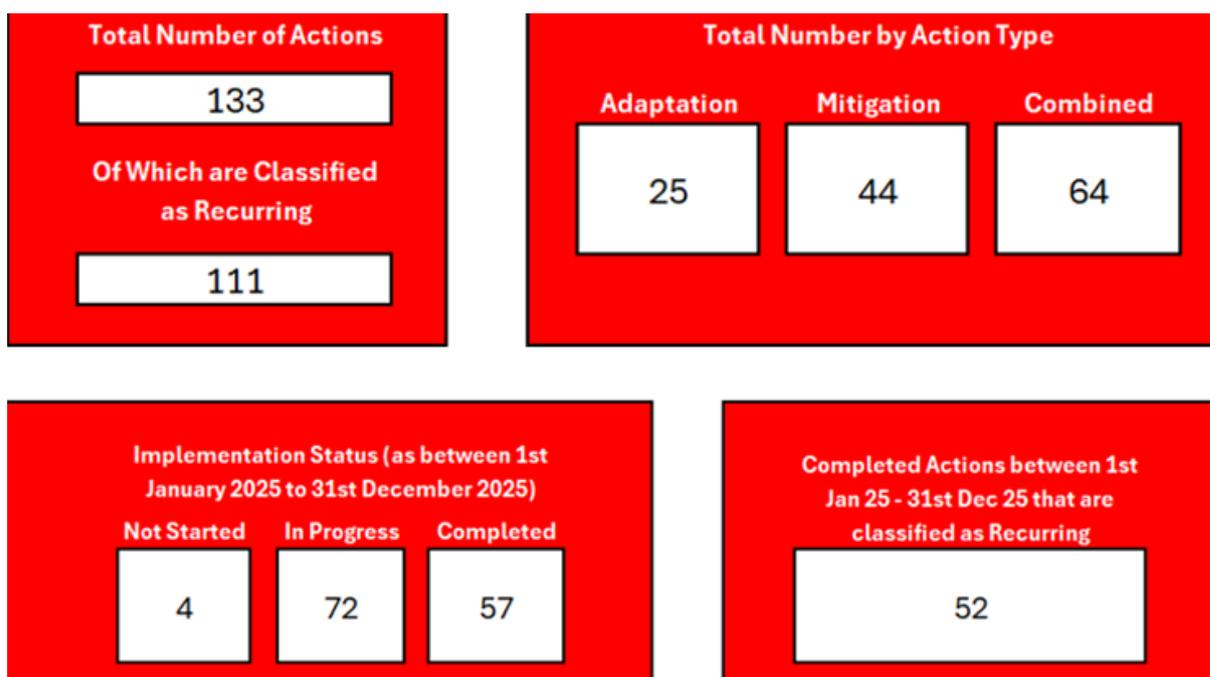
Date	No. of community Clean Ups
01/01//2026 – 31/01/2026	72
01/01/2026 - 25/02/2026	151

CLIMATE ACTION

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

1. The Climate Action team submitted a number of reports to the LGMA on Climate Action Key Performance Indicators and progress on the 133 actions in the LACAP for 2025

- Data on 10 specific KPI for 2025 was submitted which included Climate Resourcing and Climate Working Group meetings along with information on severe weather events
- Report on the Progress of the 133 actions in the LACAP for 2025 was as follows



Over 50 staff members are involved in updating the progress of actions which contributed to the above data.

2. An Implementation report for the elected members on the Climate Plan is currently being prepared. It is proposed that an overview of the report be provided at the April meeting of the elected members. This is an annual requirement.

3. The Over 55s 6-week Climate Course started in the Enniscorthy Library on Wed Feb 25th with over 30 people in attendance. The Climate Action Officer and Jacinta Barrins course provider were guests on South East Radios morning mix show on 5th Feb to promote this event, The course was also promoted through social media by video produce by Climate Team and a flyer detailing the course.

4. ECO Driving – Eighteen drivers of Wexford County Council vehicles completed the theory and practical training the aim of which is to improve the efficiency of the fleet.

5. WCC was invited to participate in Green Flag trial with 5 other LAs. 1st Workshop took place end January. The main aim of this workshop was to discuss what 'Scope' is the most appropriate for a Green Flag award in a LA and what 'Themes' should be evaluated for a Green Flag award in a LA. The 2nd workshop focused on the process involved in achieving the Green Flag and the stakeholders who should be involved in the Internal Green teams.

6. Pathfinder Retrofit Programme Update

a) The contract for a 1.6 million energy retrofit of the Apex Leisure centre, New Ross was officially signed on Dec 16th in Wexford County Council. This ambitious retrofit project funded through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Pathfinder Programme grant, match funded by Wexford County Council, aims to decarbonise the leisure centres heating systems, improve the buildings overall energy efficiency while reducing its operational running cost. This exciting project will be the first building in Wexford County Councils SEAI funded Pathfinder Programme.

b) Ferrybank Leisure Centre – Emergency Enabling Works (Air Handling Unit Replacement) SEAI have approved match funding (50%) for the Ferrybank LC emergency air handling unit replacement works awarded to Mechanical Contractor Aircon Mech Ltd.

7. The Walking and Cycling Officer and the Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer from the Severe Weather Emergency Response Team both presented at the February CASG meeting.

- 4.3 million allocated to Wexford for 2026 Active Travel Projects

8. The following events and training were held in February

- Green Public Procurement Training
- KIMO Coastal event was held in Ferrycarrig Hotel on 5th February. The Climate Action Officer and members of the Climate Action Steering Group were in attendance
- SEROC Quarterly Meeting was held in Thomastown 19th Feb
- ZEVl Stakeholder Forum was held in the Aviva on 26th Feb with the Climate Action Coordinator in attendance
- South East Energy Agency Local Authorities Energy and Climate Seminar has been rescheduled to 22nd April. [Link to register](#). Elected members were invited to attend this event and have been informed of change of date Register – Local Authority Energy & Climate Action Information Seminar – Waterford County & City Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford

9. The Economic Development Section invited the Climate Action & Planning sections of WCC to meet with a High Potential Start Up company (Enterprise Ireland client) who have chosen to locate in Co Wexford. The market is high-margin added-value by-products. Proposal is based on a production model that uses new processes, technologies, radical innovation theories and renewables to deliver a manufacturing facility that gets as close to zero in waste, energy and carbon footprint as possible. The initial site will be a pilot site, and they hope to further push new technologies and renewables to take these learnings to a new supersite in the county.

10. Webinar session for the CoRe-ACTS project, part of the ScienceUs funding programme was held on 16th February which focused on Smart Pebbles and Citizen science for coastal erosion and beach resilience. CoRe-ACTS uses innovative, low-cost “smart pebbles” with embedded RFID tags to track sediment movement and better understand how beaches change over time. Members of the CASG attended.

11. Wexford Town SEC hosts Energy Events on Thursday, 12 March 2026 at St. Joseph's Community Centre, Wexford

- Event No. 1: 11 – 12 noon Business Energy Event (aimed at business owners)
- Event No. 2: 12.30 – 5pm SEAI Home Energy Upgrade Event

The event is free but registration is required.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME (CCAP)

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

The CCCAP Phase 1 projects are still progressing with 11 of the 16 projects fully completed.

Biodiversity

The actions developed during the making of the Wexford Draft Biodiversity Action Plan have been screened for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The screening determined that the actions set out in the draft plan are not likely to have significant negative effects on the environment and the plan can now proceed to public consultation. The final edits are currently underway, and work is also under way for the translation of the plan into Irish.

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

There were over 124 collections of trees and hedgerow species from Holmestown facility on 21st Feb under the Hare's Corner initiative through the Burren Beo Trust and supported by the Biodiversity office. Inspired by the term 'The Hare's Corner' - an old farming expression for an awkward section of a field which wasn't intensively farmed and so was 'left to nature', the aim of this project is to help create habitats that have proven benefits for biodiversity, climate-action as well as the wellbeing of participants.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND ARTS

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Wexford Libraries announced as Regional Finalist for Library of the Year Award

Wexford Reading Circles for emergent readers, running in several Wexford Libraries Branches, has been selected as an Island of Ireland Regional and Country Finalist for the Library of the Year at the British Book Awards. The British Book Awards - aka The Nibbies - is a celebration of books, the people who make them and the people who bring them to readers.

The reading circles provide a supportive space for anyone who wants to improve their English and build their reading skills. This project was selected as one of three finalists in the 'Island of Ireland' region. The country winner will be announced on March 12th 2026.



Staff member Linda in Wexford Library

Ireland Reads: A National Celebration of Reading

All Libraries across the country took part in "Ireland Reads Day" on Saturday 28th February 2026. The purpose of the campaign was to promote reading as a beneficial, accessible, and enjoyable activity for all, and to highlight the role of libraries in supporting literacy, well-being, and community connection.

Every Wexford Library Branch held events to promote reading for both adults and children. They included an author visit from Cat Hogan, a poetry evening with poet Dónal Smyth and an illustrated talk on book cover art with Emma Byrne of O'Brien Press. The invitation was, as always to get lost in a good book!

LEARNING AND INFORMATION

Skills for Life - Wexford Library hosted a talk on Financial Literacy – '4 Sides of a Coin' where participants learned how to set realistic short and long-term financial goals, manage money with confidence and plan for upcoming events.

CoMUniversity Collaboration 2026 - A collaboration between, Maynooth University, South East Technical University, Wexford Local Development and Enniscorthy Library. These classes continued in February. The purpose of this collaboration is to establish a collaborative framework for delivering the ComMUniversity Programme, a Personal and Community Development initiative designed to build confidence, foster learning, and provide accessible pathways into higher education for socially excluded groups. Over twenty weeks a series of lectures will take place, subjects include Adult Education, Local History, Social Care, Sociology, Politics, Psychology, and other disciplines requested by the community.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals and others - Wexford Town Friends of Refugees have weekly group meetings in Wexford Library and an English language class facilitated by volunteer tutors. They also provide a monthly Drop-in Information Service for new residents of Wexford.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION



Beekeeping Talk & Demonstration with New Ross Beekeepers Association

The New Ross Beekeepers Association held an informative talk and demonstration on bees and beekeeping in New Ross Library during the month. The group brought in an unused hive and entertained with their knowledge.

Tim & Joey from the New Ross Beekeepers Association in New Ross Library

Climate Action Course

Wexford County Councils' Climate Action Team supported by Age Friendly commenced a six week, six step climate action course in Enniscorthy Library for the over 55's. The course aims to demystify climate change and highlight helpful actions. The training is provided by Jacinta Barrins a retired UN official who completed her masters in University of Galway.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Active Adults Tai Chi with Sports Active Wexford

Enniscorthy Library concluded this four week course in adult Tai-Chi. The exercises allow participants to ground, connect and engage their whole body through a series of slow gentle movements and physical postures.

Adults Tai Chi in Enniscorthy Library



Sound and Breathing Workshop with Bernadette of Sundara Self Care

In this workshop, held in Bunclody Library, Bernadette prepared and guided participants through and back out of a complete breathwork session. Breathwork induces calmness into body and mind.

Information Talk on the Healthy Homes Scheme with Deirdre Mullally

Local Wexford Co-ordinator for the Healthy Homes Scheme, Deirdre Mullally spoke in New Ross Library about the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. The programme is aimed at supporting older people to live in their home for as long as possible. Information was provided on accessing home adaptation grants, information on assisted technology, SEAI and the warmer homes scheme, information on finances, and information on local community services.

Science

Wexford Science Café held their February meeting in Wexford Library with a 'Discussion on Drugs in Sport' with speakers including sports science lecturer Bruce Wardrop .

HERITAGE AND LOCAL HISTORY

The History of Hook Lighthouse

A talk on the 800 Years of History with Hook Lighthouse Experts was held in New Ross Library where attendees learned the rich history, legends, and incredible craftsmanship behind one of Ireland's most iconic landmarks.

The Palatines in County Wexford in collaboration with Uí Cinsealaigh Historical Society

Enniscorthy Library and Uí Cinsealaigh Historical Society invited members of the public, to a talk 'The Palatines in County Wexford' with Bernard Browne. Bernard Browne is the author of number of books on aspects of County Wexford history, the most recent being Mayglass Holy Tower published in 2025. Wexford Library had 29 local studies queries and 13 genealogy queries in February.

READING AND LITERACY: RIGHT TO READ AT YOUR LIBRARY

In Conversation with David Looby

Debut author and former local journalist David Lobby launched his book in New Ross Library on Ireland Reads Day. Local author Tina Callaghan and local historian Liam Ryan discussed the book and the writing process with David, there was also a Q&A session from the audience.

Book Launches

Gorey Library held two book launches during the month 'Warrior Woman, Truth Teller' by Regina Redmond and 'The Natural Storyteller' by Mick O'Callaghan.

Children's Services

Wexford Libraries continue to offer rhymetime and storytime sessions, lego free play, craft sessions and a weekly sensory hour in all their Branches.



Staff member Beata in Enniscorthy Library

Schools

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

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 47 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, eleven researchers undertook research in the reading room in Ardavan during February. Topics included an examination of extant plans, sections and elevations of Crossabeg church (1912-14); research on the proposed landing strip/airfield on the grounds of Johnstown Castle (1960-68); research through extant programmes, photographs and recordings of 3 operas that were performed in Wexford Festival Opera in 1968 (L'equivoco stravagant), 1973 (The Gambler) and in 1995 (Iris) which will be re-produced this year for the 75th anniversary of the opera festival; images of the destruction of Taylorstown viaduct (1922); Wexford Grand Jury records for the 1840s; research on the massacre at Newtownbarry (1831).

Outreach - Following on from the launch in November last year of the exhibition, 'Plucky Ladies' – female representation in local elections in County Wexford, 1899-2024, the Archivist delivered an illustrated talk on the exhibition on 24 February in New Ross library. A series of talks on the exhibition will ensue during this year, both in branch libraries across the county and in other local venues. It is an invaluable means of commemorating and celebrating those women from all walks of life who proactively put themselves forward as candidates to make a difference in their local communities across County Wexford.

ARTS

Spring connects Bursary Open Call 2026 - Wexford Arts Office, with The ISACS Network and SpringMoves Dance Festival and La Brèche Pôle National des Arts du Cirque de Normandie, has announced a new artistic residency exchange between Wexford and Le Breche in Normandy. There is an opportunity for 2 artists working as a duo/ partnership/ collaborators during 2026. Deadline passed.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Award 2026 - Two Wexford based artists have been selected to spend one week at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a one-week period, studio and a stipend towards expenses. Following an open call, artists Rosie O'Gorman and Norah O'Leary were announced as recipients.

Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme 2026 - Wexford Arts Office are offering two places for the Irish Writers Centre's National Mentoring Programme (NMP). This programme offers two Wexford writers the opportunity to receive sustained creative and professional support from an established Irish writer of their choosing. An open call recently closed and recipients will be announced shortly.

Cowhouse Parenting Residency Programme 2026 - Wexford Arts office with Cow House Studios is pleased to offer a two-week residency designed specifically for parenting artists. The Parenting Artist Residency makes it possible for two artists to dedicate time to their work by offering childcare and supports during the residency. An open call recently closed and recipients will be announced shortly.

Drama League of Ireland Scholarship 2026 - Two scholarships have been awarded to two Wexford based creatives for the Drama League of Ireland Residential Summer School which takes place at the University of Limerick (1st–8th August 2026). This opportunity is for professional and amateur theatre companies and/or groups. Elaine Jordan, Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group, and Kate Breen, Enniscorthy Theatre Co/Kilrush Drama/Tinahely, were selected in February.

Performing Arts Forum Belfast Gathering Applications - Wexford Arts Office is working with the Performing Arts Forum to offer two bursaries for arts practitioners based in County Wexford to attend the Performing Arts Forum Gathering in Belfast on 26/27th May 2026. Each Artist Bursary will cover a ticket to the Performing Arts Forum Belfast Gathering which includes all day sessions and contribution towards expenses. Deadline passed.

ArtLinks Bursary Award 2026 – Record number of Applications received - Wexford Arts Office's Professional and Emerging ArtLinks Bursary Awards 2026 were open for applications in December. These Awards are designed to support artists to develop their practice by providing artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and critically engage with their art. Wexford Arts Office partners with Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford local authorities. The deadline was 19th January and Wexford received a record high number of applications with 71 applicants. Recipients to be announced in the coming weeks.

Fáilte Ireland Smalls Arts Festival - Cool Hand Ukes Festival - The second Cool Hand Ukes Festival took place from 6th–8th February across venues in Wexford town. The festival was part-funded by Fáilte Ireland under the Small Arts Festival Grant scheme in partnership with Wexford County Council.

Wexford Arts and Cultural Festivals/Events Call Out - Expressions of Interest to the EU Presidency Culture Programme – 24 applications received - Wexford Arts office announced an invitation for expressions of interest from Arts and Cultural Festivals/Events taking place in Wexford between July and December 2026, to participate in a cultural programme marking Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which will take place during the second half of 2026. Festivals may be awarded funding between €2,000 to €6,000 per festival/ event. Expressions of Interest deadline was Tuesday 3rd February and 24 applications were received. Twelve applications were selected to go forward in a countywide application for funding which was submitted.

Artist in the Community Open call for 2026 – 2027 - This programme went live for applications on 14th January 2026 via an online application portal on the Wexford County Council website. This programme is for all Wexford community groups to apply to work on an arts project with an artist from the Artist in the Community Artist panel. The maximum award is €3,000 in match-funding. A further strand is available which supports a max of one collaboration between two or more artists on the Artist in the Community Panel for up to a maximum fund of €5,000. The deadline has passed.

Cultural Companions - Cultural Companions provides opportunities for adults across County Wexford to attend arts and cultural events together. February events included the Lions Club Exhibition and a guided tour of Gvozdene Kapije (The Iron Gates) by Barbara Knezevic, both at Wexford Arts Centre.

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

Crew Networking Morning - A Crew Networking Coffee Morning took place on Friday 20th February at The Hatch Lab, Gorey with 15 participants. Local film, TV, and creative crew joined to chat through upcoming opportunities and training.

Screen Wexford – Women in Film & TV International Summit - Screen Wexford attended the Women in Film & Television International Summit in Adare, Co. Limerick in February. The summit provided valuable international networking opportunities and reinforced Screen Wexford's commitment to supporting gender equality and collaboration within the screen sector.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Open Calls

Millenium: 2027 European Year of the Normans Visual Art Open Call - Wexford County Council's Arts Office, in partnership with Creative Ireland, invites applications from visual artists to develop a new body of work which explores Wexford's Anglo-Norman heritage and legacy. The art commission is socially engaged in nature and will involve the artist undergoing research and working with local communities in County Wexford in the development of the work over a 16-month period (May 2026-August 2027). The final artwork will be presented as part of a major group exhibition taking place across Wexford County Hall and Wexford Arts Centre in October 2027, as part of a Contemporary Arts Trail to coincide with 'Millenium: 2027 European Year of the Normans'. The deadline for applications is Thursday 2nd April, 2026.

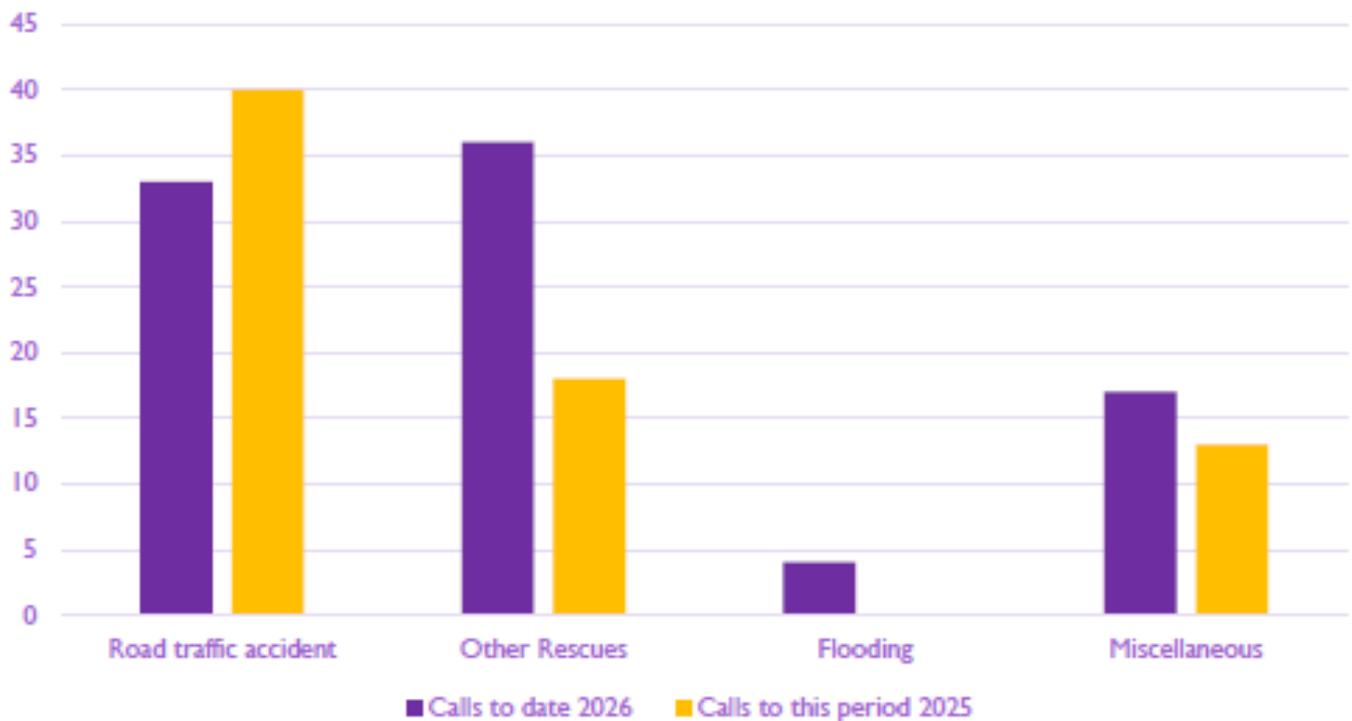
Creative Residency at the Gorey Hatch Lab - Terence White, Wexford film maker was selected following open call in late January for a creative residency scheme which will be running until December 2026.

This residency has been established to strengthen The Hatch Lab's capacity for creative thinking in business, while also providing opportunities for the residency holder to expand their creative practices and professional development within the business environment of the Hatch Lab. The residency holder will have access to training opportunities and all tenants facilities at Gorey Hatch Lab on a part-time basis.

Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service



Special Services - Wexford Fire Service



False Alarms



Fire Safety Certificates



CORPORATE SERVICES

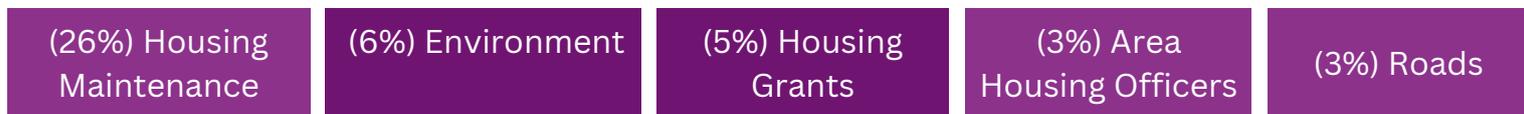
Flood Response – Emergency Phone Line

As part of the emergency response to the severe flooding across the County in February, a direct phone line to handle emergency calls and liaise with outdoor staff on the ground was active for two nights and one morning outside of normal operating hours. In total, 37 calls were received and callers were followed up with the following day to assess if further supports were needed.

CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – FEBRUARY 2026

Task	February 2026
Phone Calls	3083
Emails received and sent	3281

TOP 5 CSU PHONE QUERIES



FOI OFFICE REQUESTS FEBRUARY 2026

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	23
Customer Complaint	46
Ombudsman Complaint	2
Access to Information on the Environment	2
Data Access Request	5
Total	78

FINANCE

Annual Financial Statement 2025 - Work is on-going on the preparation of the 2025 Accounts and it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

Audit Committee/Audit - The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 9th March 2026.

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

ICT SECURITY UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2026

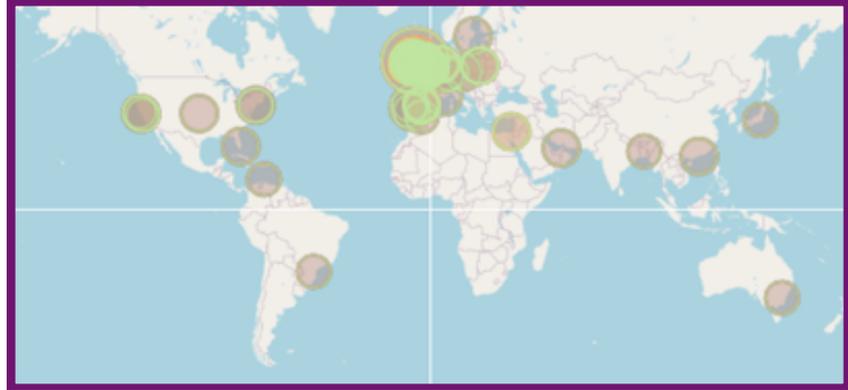
Notable Incidents in Wexford County Council

A Bank of Ireland impersonation email exploited the high email trust score of a popular financial tech platform, Intuit, to target over 70 users. The account was set up to look like a genuine 'do not reply' automatic mailer, with the email contents prompting users to click a malicious link or open an attachment in order to update their bank details.

Incoming Mail

- **624k** emails in total
(*WexfordCoCo tenant*)
- **527.3k** stopped from malicious IPs
- **168** stopped with malicious links/attachments
- **10,993** emails in total (Cllr tenant)

Foreign Login Attempts



In the News

- Clawd-bot, an AI agent that can integrate with some messaging platforms, was revealed to have 900+ unauthenticated instances, exposing credentials and chat histories to the Internet.
- Following January's report, the acting chief of CISA has since been reassigned as Director of Strategic Implementation and a new acting chief appointed.

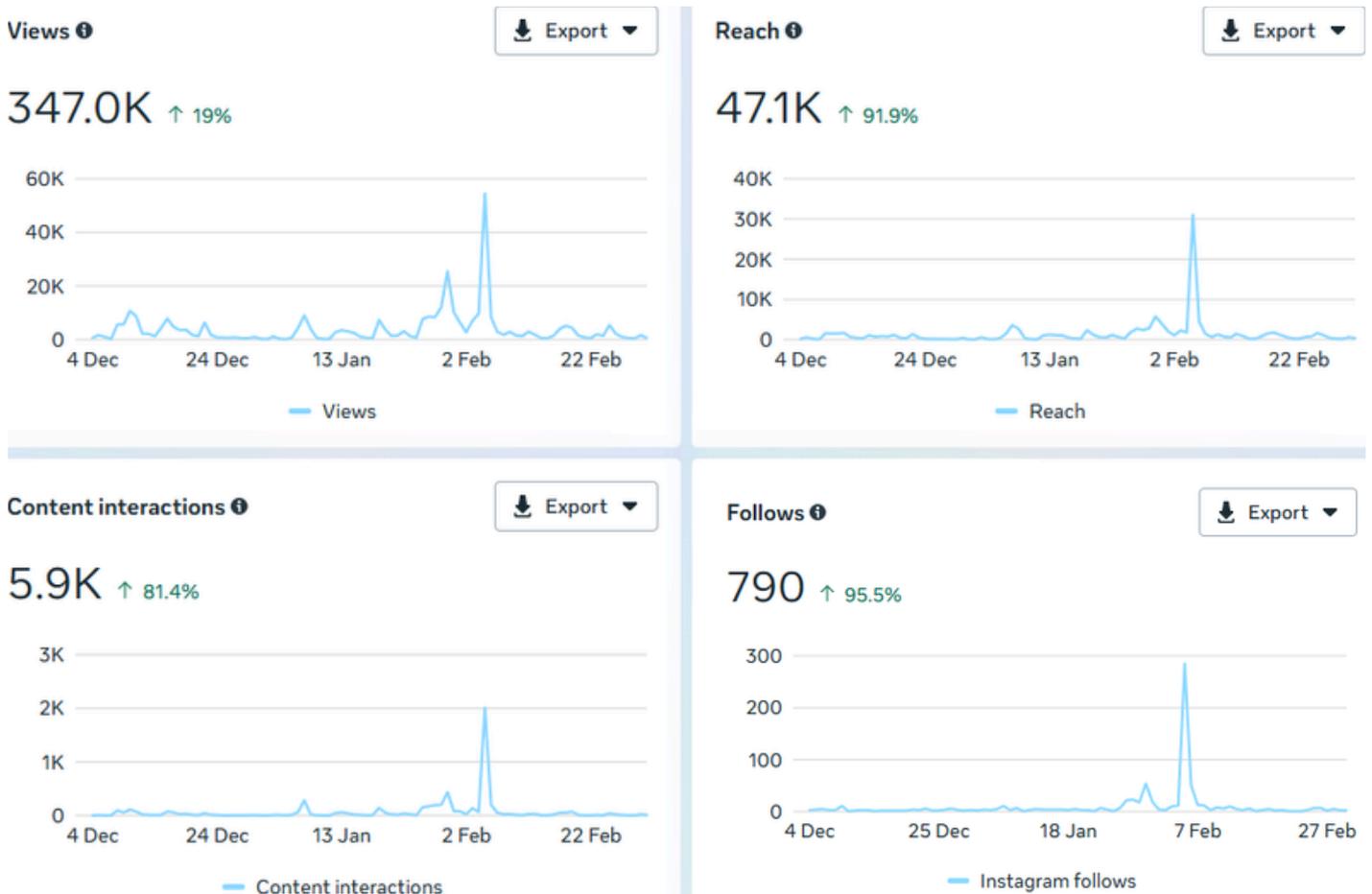
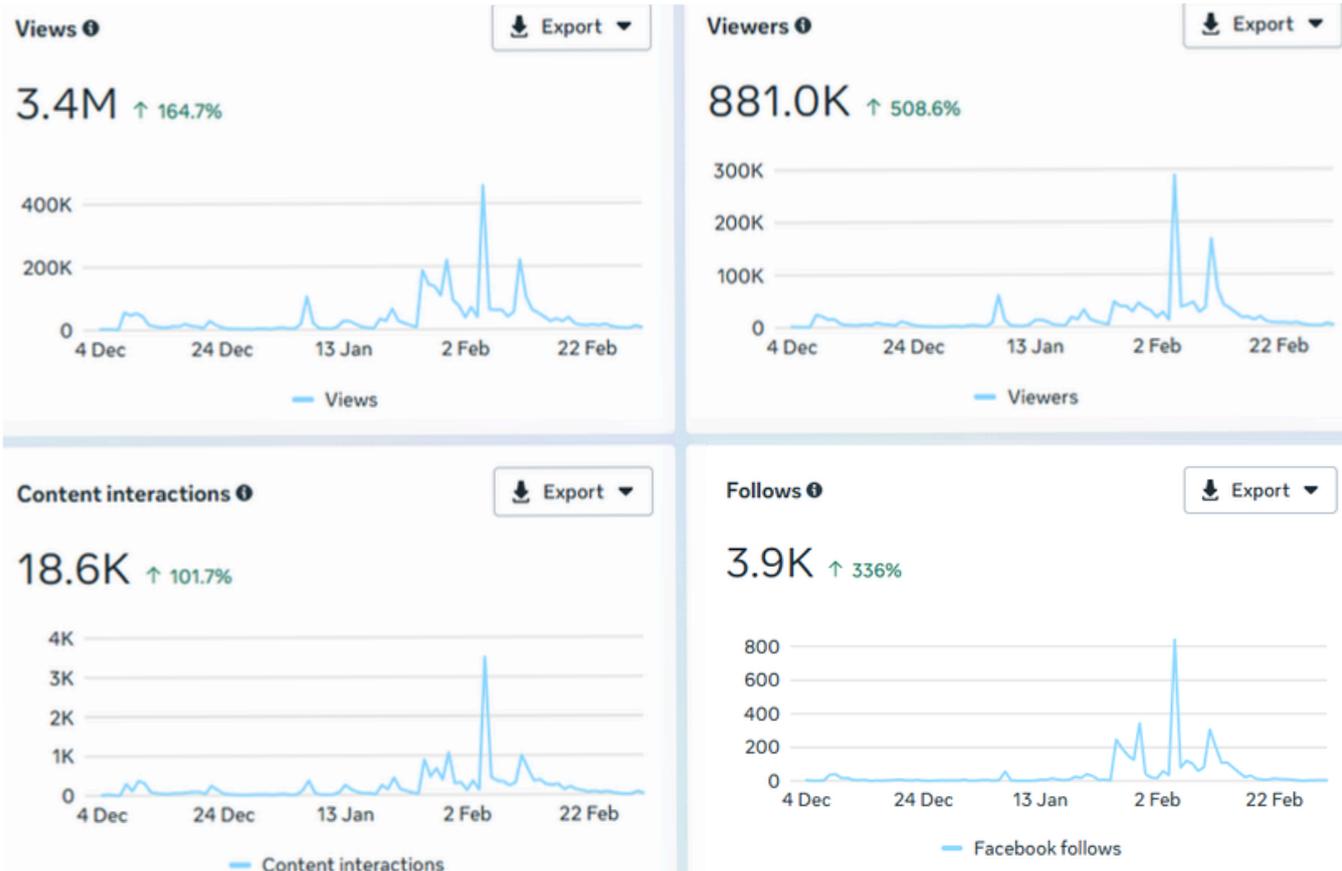


ithelpdesk@wexfordcoco.ie



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The extreme weather and flooding dominated Social Media in February 2026. Followers were up in FB & Insta by almost 5k.





A special performance of the internationally renowned Zhejiang Wu Opera Troupe in the National Opera House.

Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive