



# 2026



## MAY

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# CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council



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# PHOTO ALBUM MAY 2026



**Duncannon Fort Official Reopening**



**Wexford Women Together & See Her Elected**



# HOUSING

## Housing Strategy & Services

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

Housing For All 2022-2026						
1,190 Target	- (	1,170 Units Delivered	+	322 Units Projected	=	1,492 Delivery Pipeline
	)				=	<b>302 Shortfall/ Over</b>

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 26<sup>th</sup> February. **A new Expression of Interest will open on 15th April and run until the 28th May, 2026.** All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

### Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2027	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt, 6 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed, 4 x 2-bed apt	Q1 2026	14
Sunset Avenue, Ballinatray Upper, Ardamine	2 x 2 Bed, 3 x 3 bed	Q1 2027	<b>5</b>
		<b>Total Turnkey Units</b>	<b>33</b>

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

## Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Millquarter, Knockmullen	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Q2 2026	12
Fermoyle Manor, Kilanerin	1 X 3 bed hse	Q2 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
		<b>Total Part V</b>	<b>45</b>
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey (AHB)	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>164</b>

## 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 Q4 2026	10
Murrintown Upper (PART V)	3 x 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	3
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>13</b>

## Enniscorthy Municipal District

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

## 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
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>48</b>

## Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard Uisce, Wexford	8 x 2-bed	Delivered 2 in Q2, 2 in Q3, 2 in Q4	8
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge	2 x 3 bed	Q2 2026	2
Turners Way, Coolcotts	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q2 2026	4
Clos na Pairce, Park	3 x 2 bed, 3 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	6
The Paddocks, Coolcotts	7 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	7
Manor Grove, Roxborough	1 x 2 bed	Q2 2026	1
Roxborough, Wexford	23 x 2 bed apt	Q4 2026	23
Carrig Mor & Meadow Av.	1 x 2 bed & 2 x bed	Q3 2026	3
Kerlogue, Coolballow Road	8 x 2 bed	Delivering from Q4 2026	8
		<b>Total Part V</b>	<b>62</b>
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed, 23 x 2-bed, 1 x 3-bed, 1 x 4-bed	Q2 2026	50
<b>Overall Total</b>			<b>112</b>

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	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

## HOMELESS SERVICES AND SUPPORT UNIT (HSSU)

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

There were 1442 calls to the HSSU up to 31st December 2025, breakdown of same:-	
352 (79%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
39 (9%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
43 (10%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
7 (2%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.
<b>3</b>	

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>421</b>
Status Update April 2026		
Units completed to date		51*
Works in progress		24
Contract Awarded		21
In tender process		11
Survey/Tender Doc Prep		43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150 No.</b>
	<b>2026 allocation</b>	<b>130 No.</b>

**Notes:** \* 17 units completed in 2025

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Rams Brooke Information Evening – Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey



Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council joined Cathaoirleach of Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District, Cllr. Donal Kenny and fellow district members.

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

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

**\*Figures to be updated in next report**

**Housing Tenancies 2026** - From the 1st January to 1st May, 2026 there were 113 new tenancies.

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	5	5	16	1	0	27
New Ross	9	0	1	0	0	10
Enniscorthy	7	1	14	17	1	40
Wexford	5	3	2	8	2	20
Rosslare	6	2	1	7	0	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>113</b>

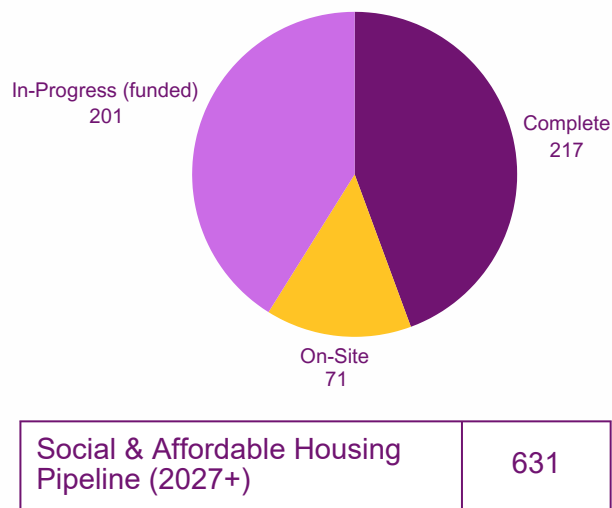
**Estate Management Cases – Logged between 01/01/2026 and 01/05/2026**

Complaint	Enniscorthy	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Rosslare	Wexford
Abandonment	0	4	5	0	0
Breach of Tenancy	0	6	5	3	8
Damage to Property	0	3	2	0	2
Estate Management	26	22	21	4	4
End of Tenancy	0	0	1	0	0
Unauthorised Occupants	2	3	5	1	3
Verbal Abuse/ Violence/ Harassment/Drugs	2	23	12	1	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b> 5

# 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	<b>Total 71</b>
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
<b>Total 201</b>					

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
<b>Total 631</b>			

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Wexford County Council and Wexford Food Producers Network sign three-year Funding Agreement.



Wexford County Council and the Wexford Food Producers Network signed a three-year Heads of Agreement for the period 2026-2028. This forms the basis of an approved funding contribution from Wexford County Council to support co-ordination and projects/capability building for Wexford food and beverage producers adding value to our economic programme and objectives under the corporate plan.

Wexford Food Producers Network CLG, established in July 2016, is a member led organisation that supports food and beverage producers throughout County Wexford. The network which includes about 50 local and drink producers is committed to support the development of a sustainable food industry that contributes to the local economy and the national food market.



The funding period coincides with the launch of the new Wexford Food Producers strategy 'Scaling Wexford food and drink - driving operational growth and brand recognition 2026-2028'. A comprehensive 'Food in Tourism' Strategy is currently being developed as part of the broader Wexford Destination and Experience Plan, developing Wexford food-in-tourism experiences to build on the heritage of food production and agriculture in the county.

### Supporting Business, Driving Growth

As part of a strategic drive to inform County Wexford businesses of the broad range of supports provided by Wexford County Council for new and existing businesses, a new brochure 'Supporting Business, Driving Growth' has been produced by Economic Development Department and launched at the recent Wexford County Council business support roadshows in each of the Municipal Districts.

By combining financial incentives, expert mentorship, consultancy and strategic urban planning, Wexford County Council is building a vibrant economic landscape that rewards vision and creates lasting opportunity.



# TOURISM

## Year of the Normans 2027 – Municipal District Funding Allocation



In preparation for the delivery of the Year of the Normans Programme 2027, the Economic Development Department has progressed initial implementation measures through the allocation of funding to each Municipal District.

The second meeting of the MILLENIUM – 2027 European Year of the Normans will take place in Caen, in early July. Wexford County Council is promoting its Norman Heritage through a diverse programme of economic, tourism, cultural and heritage projects.

To date the Normandy Committee has approved 27 projects submitted across the country which will be presented at the European meeting. The Norman Heritage Forum will meet with the next few weeks to review projects.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

### Local Enterprise Office Sponsors Start Up Award at Wexford Business Awards

The Local Enterprise Office sponsored the County Wexford Start-Up Business of the Year Award 2026 as part of the overall Annual Wexford Business Awards. The gala awards evening will be held in Clayton Whites hotel on Friday 22nd May. The event and the associated media provides a platform to businesses to highlight their products and services and to get recognition for their achievements from their peers and support agencies.

### B2B Roundtable Networking Morning

On April 23rd, LEO Wexford participated in the County Wexford Chamber B2B Roundtable Networking Morning held in the Ashdown Park Hotel in Gorey. Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Breege Cosgrave, provided information and advice on the wide range of supports available from the LEO to help Wexford based businesses to take the next step forward. The event attracted over 50 businesses.

### National Enterprise Awards



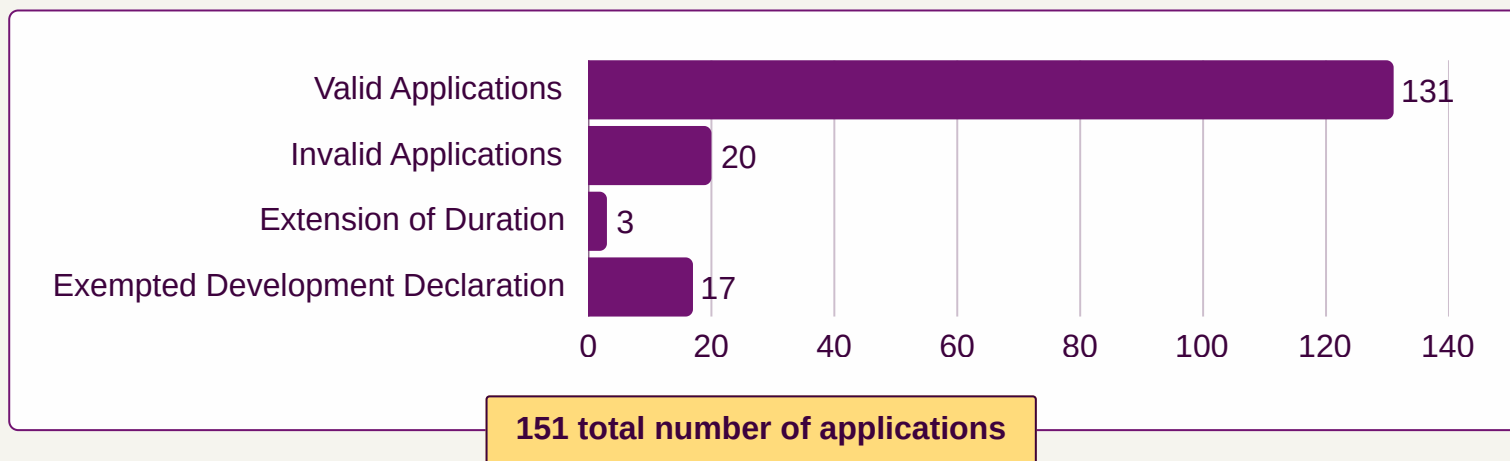
Kate Doyle of Econkinly will represent Wexford at the Final of the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House in Dublin in June. These awards celebrate the best in entrepreneurship, small business and Irish enterprise. Every county in Ireland will nominate a representative for the finals across 5 categories, and an overall national winner, category winners and regional winners will be chosen. Kate participated in the judging process in Adare Co. Limerick in April, presenting an overview of her business plan and outlining the success of her company to date.

### LEO Participation in National Events.

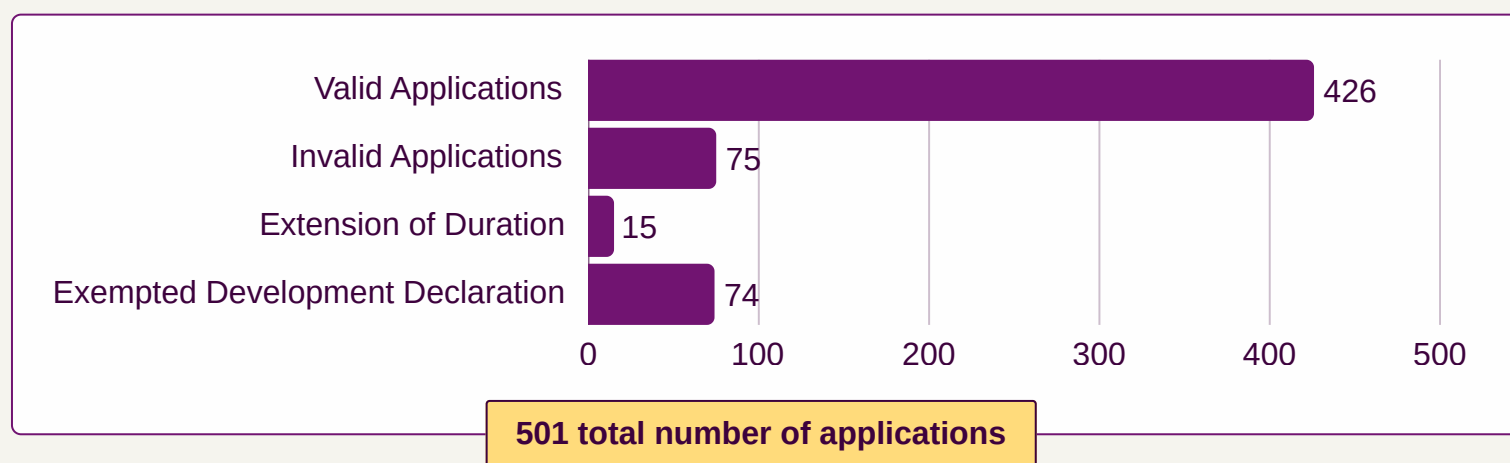
Expressions of Interest are currently being sought from businesses to participate in National LEO sponsored events including The National Ploughing Championships in September, Blas na h'Eireann in October and Showcase which will take place in January 2027. These National events provided a heavily subsidised opportunity for LEO Clients to Showcase their products to a national and international audience, building their profile and facilitating sales leads.

## PLANNING

### Planning applications received 23rd March 2026 to the 26th April 2026



### Planning applications received 1st January to 26th April 2026



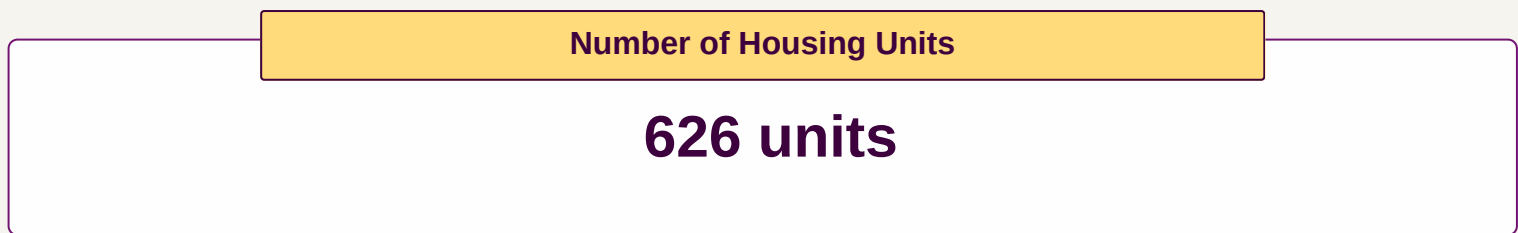
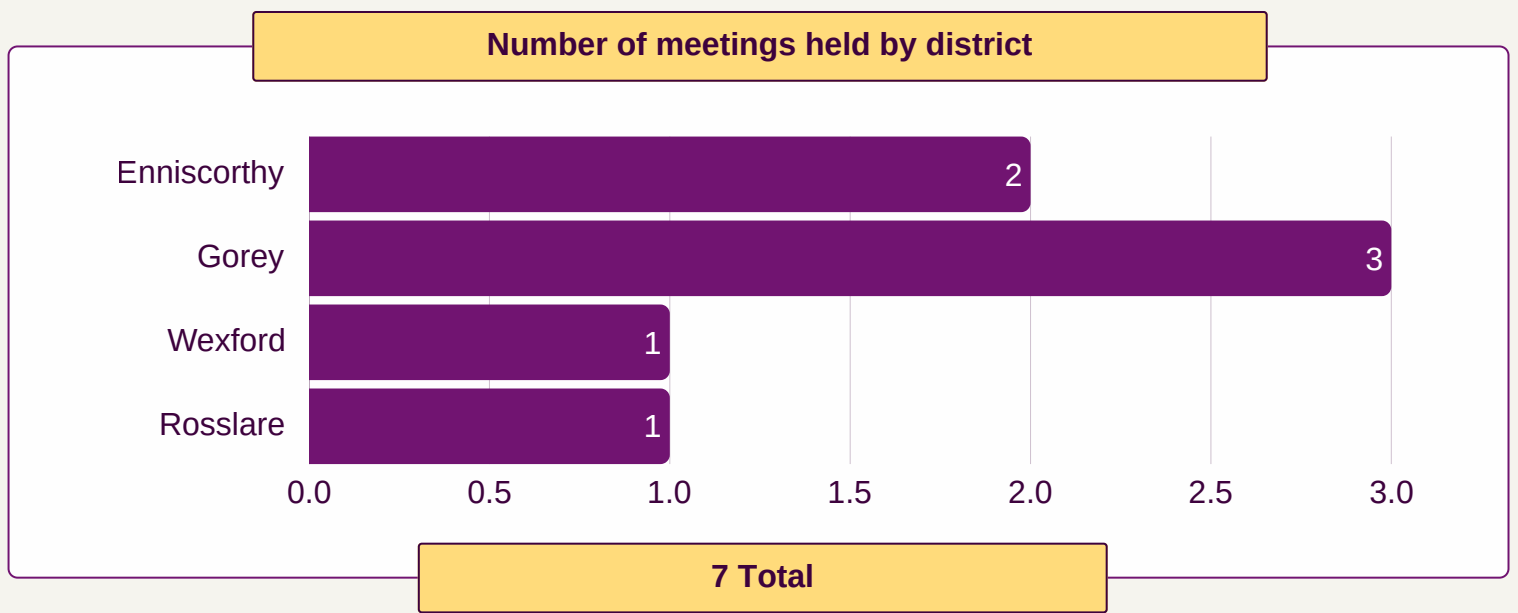
### Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 26th April 2026

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	35	25	9
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	53	53	23
New Ross MD	36	34	2
Rosslare MD	40	33	3
Wexford BD	35	26	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>50</b>

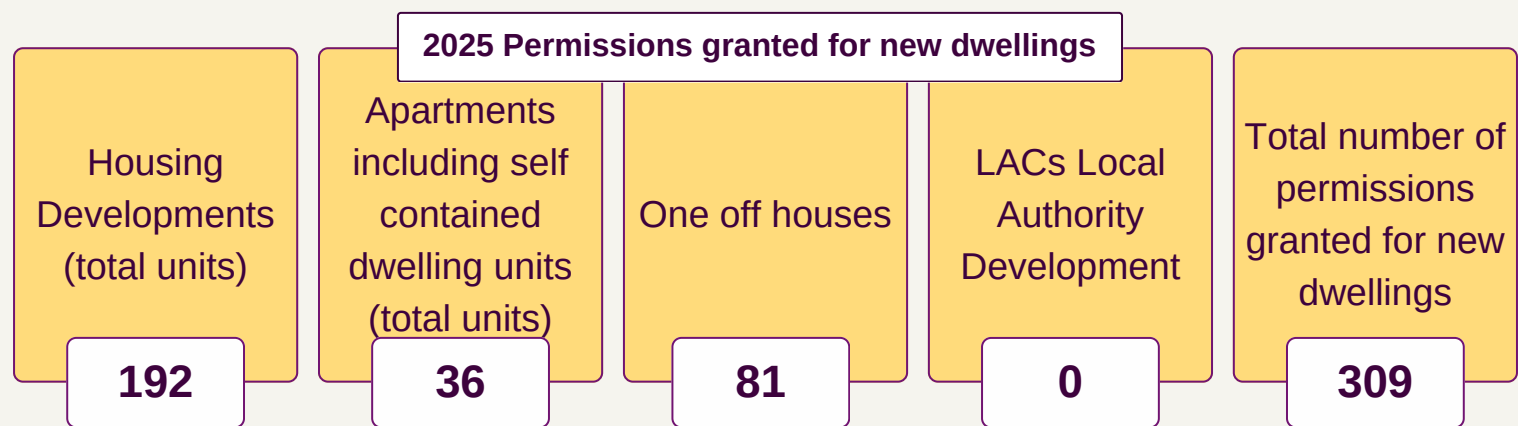
Average days to pre-planning meeting is 24

## PLANNING CONT.

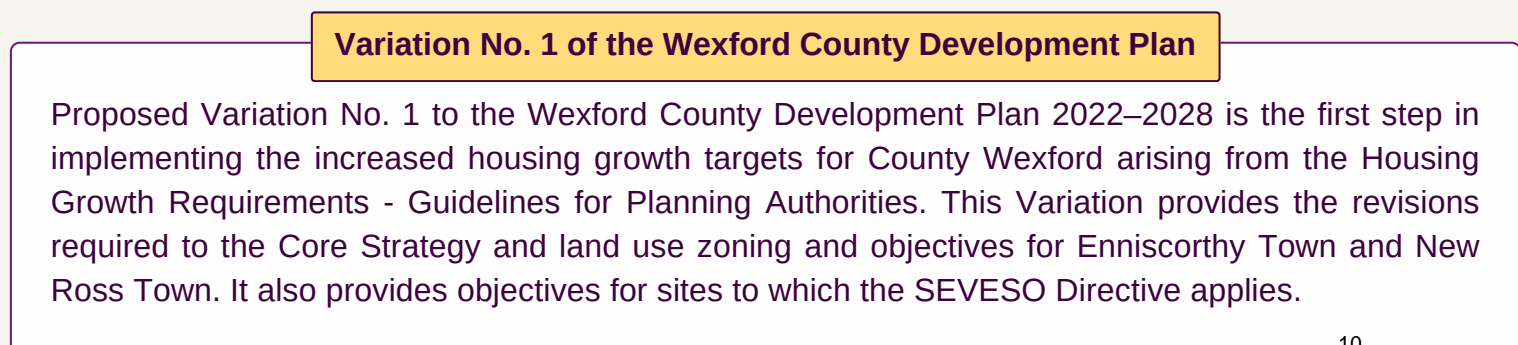
### Major Pre-Planning - Year to date to the 22nd March 2026



### Planning CSO Returns - year to date to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026



### Forward Planning



## PLANNING CONT.

### Variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan cont.

The Proposed Variation was placed on public display from 11 February 2026 to 12 March 2026 inclusive. A total of 64 submissions were received during this period. The Chief Executive prepared a report summarising the submissions received, providing responses to those submissions and recommending Proposed Material Alteration to the Proposed Variation. The report was submitted to the Members on the 2 of April and considered by the Members of New Ross MD at a workshop on 14 of April 2026 and the by the Members of Enniscorthy MD at a workshop on 16 of April 2026. The Report was further considered at a Special Meeting of the Council on 20 April and the Members agreed to make 45 no. Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation.

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation will go on public display from the 29 of April 2026 until **5pm on 28 of May 2026** during which time submissions relating to the Proposed Material Alterations may be made. The Chief Executive will then prepare a report summarising the submissions received during the public consultation period and making recommendations with regard to the submissions and the Proposed Material Alterations. The Members will consider the Proposed Material Alterations and the Chief Executive's

Report and shall, no later than four weeks after the Chief Executive's Report has been furnished to them, by resolution i) make the Variation as originally proposed by the planning authority, ii) make the Variation with the Proposed Material Alterations, or iii) refuse to make the Variation.

### Variation Number 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No. 2 is to implementing the revised Housing Growth Targets for Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane and Bunclody. Work is progressing well on the Proposed Variation.

Workshops will be held to discuss the Proposed Variation with the Members of the Rosslare MD on 6 of May 2026 and the Members of Rosslare MD on 11 of May 2026.

### Proposed Variation Number 3 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No. 3 is to the implement the revised Housing Growth Targets for Wexford Town and to introduce a new land use plan for the Town. Work has recommenced on the plan and is progressing well.

### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Southern Regional Assembly has commenced the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES). The new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for 2027-2040 will set out the statutory framework for planning and economic development of the Southern Region, providing a strategy for growth, key policy objectives, and a plan for implementation and monitoring. The Regional Assembly have issued a series of four issues papers to assist input from the public and other stakeholders to the pre-draft consultation process which takes place from 26th March 2026 to 22 May 2026.

Staff from the Planning Department and across the Local Authority have contributed to workshops with the Southern Regional Assembly over the last few weeks which will assist them in the formulation of the final Strategy. The Forward Planning team are currently in the process of preparing a submission on behalf of Wexford County Council outlining key priority areas, which will contribute to the strategic planning and economic policy framework for the development of the Southern Region into the future.

## PLANNING CONT.

### Heritage

#### Historic Structures Fund

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has offered an allocation of **€270,000** in total with an allocation of **€90,000** each to the three structures listed below under the Historic Structures Fund 2026.

- The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Laurence O'Toole, Rathangan
- Saint Michael's Theatre, New Ross
- Saundercourt Gate Lodges

All applicants have accepted the grant offers.

The Heritage section will help to progress these works and ensure they are carried out in line with the conditions of the grant and best practice conservation principles.

#### National Monuments Service's Community Monuments Fund

In April the Heritage Section was successful in securing **€482,536** in funding for eight medieval structures in county Wexford under the National Monuments Service's Community Monuments Fund (see table). These conservation works will ensure the survival of these important historic structures and will help build resilience in the face of future climate change.



Project	Amount Awarded	Prupose of Grant
Ballyvaldon church, Blackwater	130,000	Conservation repairs
Taghmon castle	100,000	Conservation repairs
Ballycogley castle	116,000	Conservation repairs
Ballybrennan Church, Bree	30,000	Conservation repairs
Lady's Island Castle	29,908	Conservation repairs
St. Mary's church, New Ross	29,520	Conservation Management Plan
St. Patrick's church and graveyard, Wexford	26,629	Conservation Management Plan
Mayglass church and graveyard	20,479	Conservation Management Plan

**Total: €482,536**

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

**488**

Live cases

**83**

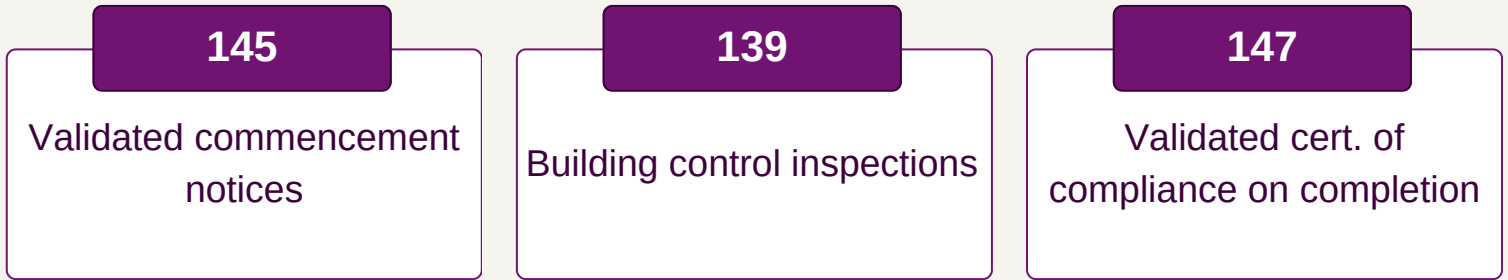
Cases opened  
year to date

**70**

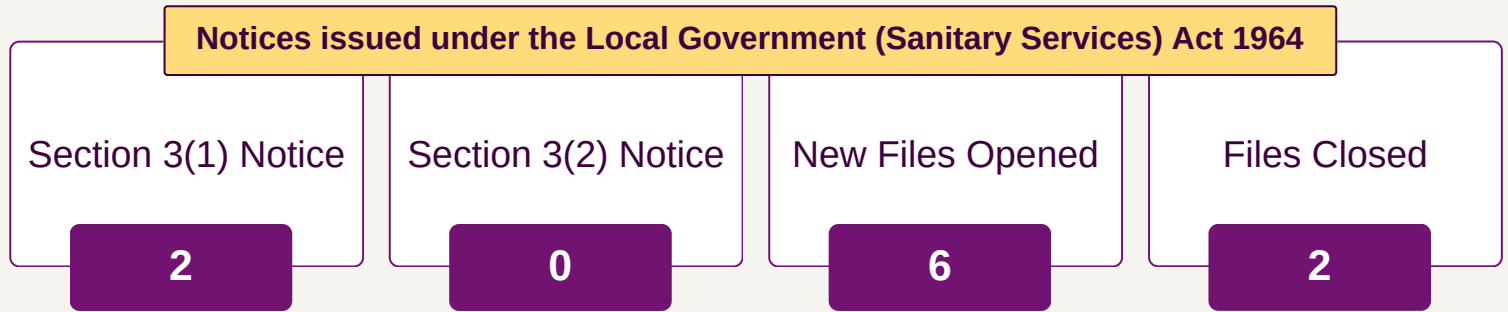
Cases closed  
year to date

## PLANNING CONT.

### Building Control - Year to date up to the 26th April 2026

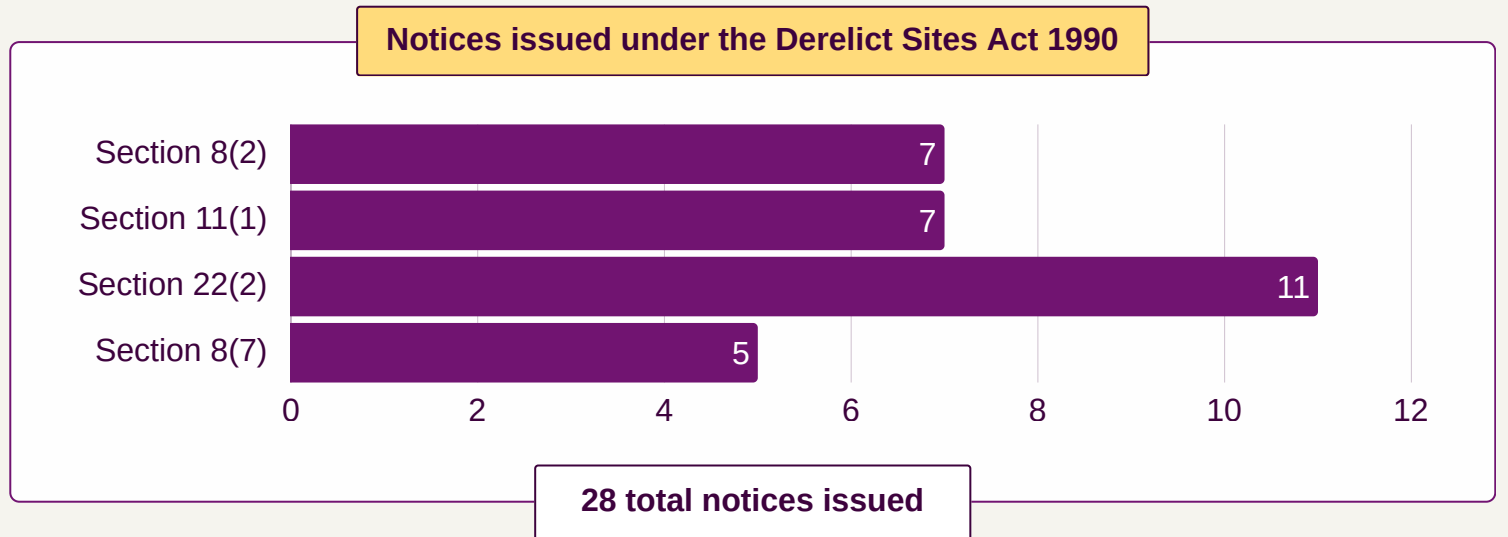


### Dangerous Structures and Places - Year to date up to the 26th April 2026

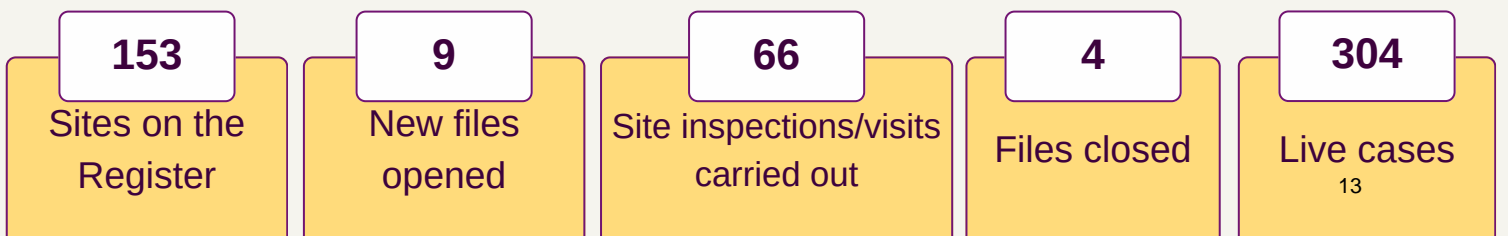


- **Section 3(1) Notice** instructs the owner to carry out works to make the site safe within a timeframe
- **Section 3(2) Notice** the Local Authority carries out the works to make the site safe. The owner is charged the cost of works.

### Derelict Sites - year to date up to 26th April 2026



- **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 26th April 2026



### Disability Access Certificates (DACs) Year to date up to the 26th April 2026

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	7	0	2	5	0
Gorey	5	1	0	4	0
New Ross	11	0	1	9	1
Wexford	7	0	5	2	0
Rosslare	4	0	1	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>

### Disability proofing - year to date up to the 26th April 2026

71

LAC/PLAC/LRD and  
General Planning  
Applications

3

Major pre-planning event  
days

1

Event Licences

# PLANNING CONT.

## Access Items

### World Autism Awareness Day

The World Autism Awareness Day event on 2nd April successfully engaged staff, elected members, and the wider community in raising awareness and understanding of autism. Hosted on the street and supported by strong social media promotion, the event featured valuable contributions from The Cottage Autism Network (CAN), whose information stand provided resources and meaningful engagement with attendees. The initiative was well received, creating a positive and informative atmosphere, while also highlighting CAN's future plans, including a dedicated local base and sensory van. The building's illumination in rainbow colours and follow-up social media coverage further reinforced visibility and support for the cause, making the event a meaningful and impactful community engagement.



Title	Date published	Status	Reach	Likes and reactions	Comments	Shares	View
Photo: Wexford County Council	7 April 10:03	Boost					
Last Thursday, Wexford County Council wa... Photo: wexfordoco	7 April 12:15	Boost	593	19	0	0	1K
Last Thursday, Wexford County Council wa... Photo: Wexford County Council	7 April 12:15	Boost	3.7K	23	0		5K

### Update on Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030

A presentation was delivered by the Access Officer to the Planning and Building Control Strategic Policy Committee in April outlining Wexford County Councils approach to the above strategy. The presentation focused on the relevant pillars 2, 3 and 5, Employment, Independent living and active participation in society, and Transport and Mobility, it emphasised the need for a coordinated, whole-organisation response, underpinned by universal design, cross-departmental collaboration and the development of measurable KPI tracking and reporting.

### Access Items cont.

#### Update on Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030 cont.

##### Examples of some current collaborations:

##### **Pillar 2 – Employment**

Organised the WAM Wide Framework information event with the Executive Team for 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

##### **Pillar 3 - Independent Living and Active Participation in Society**

- 11.3 Advance the delivery of appropriate housing for the purposes of specialist disability residential services. The Access Section engaged with Housing to disability proof and provide feedback on the Age Friendly Universal House Design Guidance document of the Housing Department.
- 8.9 Provide for an increased and richer participation of disabled audiences and creators in arts and cultural events nationwide.
- The Access Section in collaboration with Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District proposal to pilot a project for Accessible Events.
- 8.6 Have regard to Universal Design and accessibility principles for capital schemes across wider rural development investment programmes.

The Access Office has initiated contact with relevant Departments and Sections to ensure KPI for all projects, funds, and programmes operated or administered by Wexford County Council, Rural Regeneration, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, and Town Centre First, will incorporate clear accessibility considerations. This process will be ongoing for the next number of months.

##### **Update on collaborations between Departments**

The access section has completed its collaboration with the Environment Section (Walking Trails) and IT to update mapping and information on the Wexford County Council Website. Accessibility related details are now incorporated for each trail, and this information is live on the iMaps section of the website. The next update will focus on improvements to the information on the public conveniences including the accessible facilities across the County.

#### Make Way Day

Make Way Day will take place on **29<sup>th</sup> May** this year, with the theme “Hey, this blocks my way”, highlighting the everyday barriers that impact accessibility for people with disabilities. The Access Section is collaborating with Rosslare Municipal District this year to support and promote the initiative locally. This year’s event will focus on an area in Rosslare Strand and raise awareness of obstructions in public spaces – such as footpath parking, signage, and street clutter and the impact these have on mobility and independence. Engagement activities are planned as part of the event to encourage greater understanding, promote services of WCC and raise awareness to create more inclusive and accessible environments across the county.

# REGENERATION UNIT

## Town Centre First

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

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

## Town Centre First Teams Review

*Wexford*- The Town Team met in March to progress the TCF Strategy which will be incorporated into the LAP. Work on the draft TCF Strategy is ongoing.

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

*New Ross* – Had a meeting in April. Developing a 2026 programme for Town Team. The National Town Centre First Office along with all of the Town Regeneration Officers around the Country are due to come to New Ross in May or June and look at the public realm enhancements in the Town and see what can be achieved

*Courtown/Riverchapel* - Meeting Bimonthly with a focus currently on funding streams for Project Interventions on TCF Plan. The May meeting focused on Vacancy and Dereliction in Courtown/Riverchapel. Town Team along with WCC officials carried out a Vacancy/Dereliction review of the Town Centre area.

*Castlebridge* – Meeting regularly with specific attention around TVRS Grant of €500k for Castlebridge House gardens and potential funding for Castlebridge Grain store. The Town Team are also working through the RRDF €5m grant application for Castlebridge House with WCC officials.

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

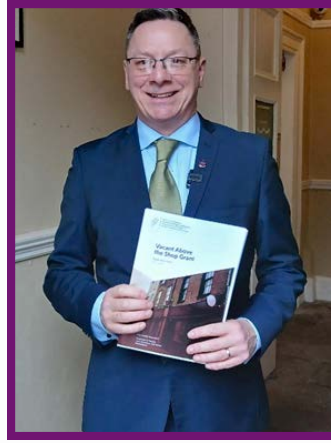
*Taghmon* – Meeting Bimonthly. Current focus on local traffic and development issues outlined in TCF Health check and there is a review of Town Team membership.

## Vacant Homes

A series of **Roadshows were held in each Municipal District** around the County to promote the new Vacant Property refurbishment Grants and to provide further assistance of the exiting Croi Conaithe Scheme. The roadshows were well attended and generated a significant number of strong expressions of interest.



## Roadshows across the Districts



### Existing Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Work is continuing on vacant homes with €864,025 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks and €1,280,000 of initial approvals granted in this time period which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

#### Croí Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 24-04-26

Applications Received	623	Awaiting Approval	0
Inspections Required (First)	11	Applications Rejected	12
Inspections Required (Final)	12	Applications Approved In Principle	4
Applications Info Requested	130	Withdrawn By Applicant	17
Applications Approved	463	Funding Issued	205
Total Funding Paid to Date		<b>€11,363,428.40</b>	
Total Funding Approved in Principle		26,757,852.00	

## Multi Annual Rural Water Programme

<p><b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b></p>	<p><b>Blackstairs GWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CaimTank</b> – Works complete.</li> <li>• <b>Reservoir Bypass</b> - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept.</li> <li>• Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q3 2026.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MARWP 2024-2026</b></p>	<p><b>MARWP 2024-2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding approval – €1.2 million for the upgrade of 3.9km Watermain for Blackstairs GWS.</li> <li>• Topographical Survey carried out</li> <li>• Detail design ongoing</li> <li>• Site Investigations contract preparation underway</li> <li>• Notification from DHLGH received stating that Kilanerin funding for nitrate treatment not approved.</li> <li>• Notification from DHLGH received stating that Blackstairs funding for treatment tank and plant upgrade works not approved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b></p>	<p><b>Individual Well Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of <b>33</b> new well grant applications were registered in April 2026</li> <li>• <b>13</b> Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling <b>€32,731.86</b></li> <li>• <b>49</b> inspections to date carried out in April 2026.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group Water Scheme Subsidies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subsidy A</b> Applications due in by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026. 4 subsidies paid to date totalling <b>€266,076.93</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Subsidy B</b> (payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&amp;M costs associated with “bona fide” DBO contracts for GWS’s – Validated figures for Q1 2026 sent to Group Water Scheme Managers for payment on 28<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>• Applications for Grant towards <b>Capital Replacement Costs</b> of the DBO GWSs have been reviewed and approved for Blackstairs, Borrmount and Mullawn GWSs. The Employers representative has certified that all equipment has been replaced. GWSs have been directed to pay the contractor, and this will be reimbursed on proof of receipt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Needs for Villages &amp; Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</b></p>	<p><b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsgrange – €8.1 Million funding approved to Wexford County Council</li> <li>• Wexford County Council responsible for the project management and delivery of the project.</li> <li>• Wexford County Council to procure the appointment of consultants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lead Remediation Grant</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 applications received to date on revised grant, 8 paid, 2 approved but have yet to submit claim for works complete. 1 new application.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Compliance monitoring</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 168 private supplies on register for compliance monitoring.</li> <li>• Compliance testing ongoing for 2026 as per schedule</li> </ul>

DPI Resolution Project					
	Name	Towland	Expecting Costings	75% Funding Provided	Project Completion/ Programme
<b>DPI Resolution Programme 2019-2021</b>	Cois Cuan	Arthurstown	€152,475	€114,356	Q3 2026
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q3 2026
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q2 2027
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2027
<b>DPI Resolution Programme 2023</b>	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q3 2026
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q3 2026
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2027

- Cois Cuan, Farrin Carraig & Beach View – WCC have gone out to the market for quotations for the works. Quotes to be returned by 6<sup>th</sup> May. Uisce Eireann have forwarded the required connection offers which Wexford County Council intend to sign shortly.
- Stonebrook submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval.
- Kyle Close submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval.

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

**N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour** - Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

- Project design is progressing, with additional work ongoing to address Service Area requirements, Active Travel provisions, and Biodiversity considerations.
- Preliminary design of the Active Travel facilities is ongoing.
- Preliminary design of the River Slaney Bridge has continued. The Rail Protection Structure (RP1) – Structures Options Report has been prepared and is currently awaiting TII's approval.
- Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) & Maritime Area Consent (MAC) applications - currently under review.
- Traffic modelling completed, sensitivity testing currently ongoing. Environmental surveys ongoing.
- Consultation with affected landowners is continuing.
- A Real Estate Valuation of the currently proposed alignment is due to start in the coming weeks.
- Work on the Environmental, Planning, Design, and other supporting reports is also progressing.

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

- Negotiations regarding Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) compensation are ongoing.
- The procurement process for the appointment of Technical Advisors for Phases 6 and 7 is ongoing, with tender evaluation and the tender recommendation process currently in progress.
- Pre-tender approval signed by Wexford County Council forwarded to TII on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2026
- The invitation to tender for the construction phase is expected to be issued in Q3 2026.

Archaeological Services Contract - the final report for the first phase of testing has been issued to the National Monuments Service (NMS), and Stage II archaeological works are currently underway.

## NATIONAL ROADS

- Resurfacing works are complete on the N11 north of Oylgate Village to Scurlocksbush Roundabout.
- N30 Ballymacksey: Following a tender process, a contractor has been recommended and works will commence in Q2 2026.
- N30 Rathurtin/Cloneigh: tenders will be invited for pavement improvement works during May.

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

### Restoration Improvement €12,837,500

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

**Restoration Maintenance €2,917,000** - The restoration maintenance / surface dressing programme is scheduled to start in June 2026 with 75 projects for 2026.

**Bridge Rehabilitation €690,000** - 12 bridges.

**Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works €700,000** - 19 projects. Preparation works underway.

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

**Safety Improvement Works €559,000** - 15 projects included. Design works underway.

**Strategic Rehabilitation Roads €420,000** - One road – R772-12 Gorey (former N11).

### Specific Improvement Grant €570,000

- Wexford, Edermine and Kildavin (Murntown) Bridge Remediation Project €270,000. Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are appointed. The works involve bridge inspections, overseeing site investigations and undertaking necessary designs for remediation works. Feasibility & Options Report is being compiled for necessary works on all 3 bridge structures to inform requirement for statutory consents and funding.
- Kildavin Bridge requires stabilisation support measures; The work has been tendered and is due to commence shortly.
- Grange Beach Coastal Erosion €150,000. Cliff stabilisation works – extension to original scope of works to protect a section of road. Contractor appointed to extend the works, commencing in May. This will take approx. 10 weeks weather dependent.

*Cliff Face 2: the new works at Grange will stabilise the section of cliff outlined in red above and further protect the section of public road.*



- R733 Safety Improvement Project €150,000. Safety improvement project including line marking, studs, junction improvements. Junction improvements completed at R733 / Redshire junction. Studs installed at a number of locations, line marking planned for a number of locations along the R733.

**Winter Maintenance** - The Winter Service Plan operated from 13 October 2025 to 30 April 2026. Salting was undertaken on 42 of 200 days representing 21% of days in the season.

## Storm Chandra, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 (DoT) to fund the repairs. We are awaiting funding approval from the DoT.
- The Office of Public Works confirmed funding for interim flood defence measures in Bridgetown, Bunclody, Enniscorthy and Wexford totalling €2.124m (ex VAT) to be implemented this year.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Pathfinder projects	
Project & Location	Project Update
Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3	Tender awarded to successful contractor. Construction expected to start in Aug 2026
Hospital Junction Newtown Road	Hospital Junction currently in detail design stage. Advance works to SW boundary involving the construction of a new boundary wall are underway.
Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme	Part XI Planning Application lodged. Submissions to be reviewed and discussed with Planning.
Roxborough Cycle Scheme	CCTV survey of existing services completed. Site Investigations due to be commenced shortly. Planning Part XI to be submitted in Q3 2026.

## Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Enniscorthy Town & Wexford Town – both draft Local Transport Plans are being reviewed by NTA. Zoning maps to be discussed with Planning.

## Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRTS)

Three schools have been selected for works in 2026:

- Kennedy College, New Ross
- St Fintan's National School, Taghmon
- St Anne's National School, Rathangan

Assessment of existing drop-off and collection arrangements have been completed, with preliminary concept designs to be discussed with each school principal.

Works are ongoing on the Enniscorthy Community College scheme.

**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.



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

### **ZEVI- EV Car Charging - Pilot Schemes**

The following are schemes are being progressed at present:

Scheme	Current Position
Enniscorthy Pilot Scheme (Urban/Residential)	This pilot is in the early stages of implementation and licence agreements and designs are being finalised.
Curracloe Pilot Scheme (Destination)	A business case for the provision of a Tourist Destination EV charging pool at Curracloe Beach has been approved to proceed in principle by ZEVI. Detailed design and implementation will commence immediately. Commissioning is expected later in 2026.

### **Draft National EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2026-2028**

Consultation closed 24th of April. It outlines a planned and phased approach to delivering a comprehensive national charging network to 2030, with detailed actions focused on the period to 2028.

### **WCC Fleet Decarbonisation**

A meeting was held inhouse with the Fleet Manager and Energy Officer regarding rationalising and reducing removing CO2 intensive vehicles from the fleet and looking at other suitable roles for the introduction of more electric vehicles.

### **Road Safety – Just 1 Life**

Over the 2025 / 2026 school year 2,300 Transition Year pupils from all 22 Secondary Schools across the County attended our 5 Just 1 Life events held in the National Operal House, Wexford. A Mayoral award was presented to Mr. Michael Brand, Rotary Club of Wexford by Mayor of Wexford Borough, Cllr Garry Laffan, to acknowledge Michael’s contribution to the Just 1 Life programme since its inception 20 years ago.



# CAPITAL PROJECTS

## Projects at Planning Stages

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: May 2026
Ballast Office- a)Essential repair Work	Tender Stage	Works ongoing. Due for completion June 2026.
b)Refurbishment	Planning Stage	No update.
Ballynagee Link Road	Design Stage	Surveys & Ground investigation works ongoing. Full scheme progressed through “major pre-planning” in Q1 2026. Submission for development consent will be sought via Part 8 in June 2026. Funding has been applied for under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund in February 2026.
Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building	Planning Stage	No update
Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme	Planning Stage	Submission to ACP will follow receipt of an MAC from MARA, expected towards the end of 2026.
Dunbrody Centre and Extension	Detail Design	Initial OMC (Order of Magnitude Costing) for the project has come in above approved project budget. A value engineering exercise is underway. It is expected that the project brief may have to be reviewed to address budgetary concerns. A meeting in May has been scheduled with the Department to discuss.
<b>Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme</b>		
Phase 1-New River Slaney Bridge Project	Design Phase	Refinement of the design of the proposed pedestrian bridge is being carried out to enhance the structure visually, to create a distinctive permanent feature in the centre of Enniscorthy. Traffic modelling is being carried for the revised road layouts and traffic management following the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the provision of the new Road Bridge.
Phase 2		Advertisement for procurement of consultants for Phase 2 - Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme went live on Etenders on 27/2/26. Submissions received are now being assessed. Preparations are ongoing for submission of the MAC application to MARA for the new road bridge, scheduled for Q2 2026.
Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2 420827	Design stage	The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for Stage (i) to (v) design services. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. The tender for construction works was published March 2026. Appointment of main works contractor is anticipated June 2026.
Enniscorthy Technical Park IDA Tech Building 420847	Design stage	The Technical Consultancy Services Contract was awarded for an architect-led design team to prepare a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park. Planning application was submitted in December 2025. Final grant was issued in March 2026.

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: May 2026
Enniscorthy- (A) Town Centre & Tourism Project	Preliminary Design stage	<p>The design of the scheme has been amended to reflect the outcome of the Part 8 process. An updated cost estimate has been prepared to reflect the changes. Planning stage design - completed. Part 8 process completed.</p> <p>The Castle nightclub - acquired, and a CPO process to acquire other adjacent lands is progressing. Consultants for detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured using a two-stage process in tandem with consultants for the Templeshannon scheme. Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify - advertised in April 2026. An application for the entire Market Square and Town Centre Regeneration Project, along with enabling and demolition works for the Castle Quarter project, will be made under the new Town and Cities Regeneration Investment fund, due 1st May.</p>
(B) Templeshannon Regeneration Project.		<p>Stage 1, invitation to pre-qualify, is advertised on eTenders. An application has been submitted for the project as part of the Category 1A Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund call seeking funding of €150,000 for project development and DT fees.</p>
Esmonde Street, Gorey	Tender Stage	<p>Construction works on-site are expected to commence in the coming weeks.</p>
Gorey Market House	Design Stage	<p>Surveys to inform the detailed design are largely complete. Stage 1 (prequalification) of main works tender is complete with 5no. contractors shortlisted</p> <p>The main works tender package was issued to the shortlisted contractors in March 2026. Appointment is anticipated May 2026.</p>
Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)	Design Stage	<p>Irish Rail approvals process requires an Irish Rail Pre-Project Assessment to be completed. Application was submitted in February 2026. The full scheme progressed through the "major pre-planning" process in Q1 2026 and was submitted for development consent sought via Part 8 in April 2026. Funding for this project was applied for under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund in February 2026.</p>
John Street Grain Store, New Ross	Planning	<p>The application for development consents for the new public realm to the rear of the property was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála on March 12th 2026. An application for the John St Grainstore Project will be made under the new Town and Cities Regeneration Investment fund, due 1st May.</p>
Riverchapel Community Centre	Design stage	<p>An integrated design team has been appointed to progress the project through the tendering and construction stages to completion. An initial OMC has been prepared, and the design proposal is being reviewed for suitability ahead of progressing to tender.</p> <p>Initial costings have been returned in excess of the original project budget. A thorough review is being carried out into the design brief as part of project value engineering. A project review was submitted to the Dept. 08.04.26 requesting additional funding. WCC is awaiting a response.</p>

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: May 2026
Wexford Town Public Space Improvements (Cornmarket to Common Quay)	Funding stage	A TCRIF (Town Centre Regeneration Reinvestment Fund) Category 1A funding application has been submitted to support the development of the project and allow for the engagement of a design team to develop the project in line with the objectives set out in the draft TCF Strategy.
Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenways		W2R -Additional flood modelling is currently ongoing . RS2RH-Options Selection Report Peer review completed. Preferred Route Corridor agreed. A public Consultation process was conducted from 4/3/26 to 1/4/26 and the associated documents are currently being revised by FTC.
<b>Wexfordia</b>		
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. Progressing through statutory consent process for marine based developments Compiling documentation for development consent process
Hook Lighthouse	Preliminary Design	A Public Consultation event displaying up to date designs for the local community will be held in the existing visitor centre at Hook Lighthouse in Q2 2026. Finalising design for the Visitor Centre and progressing through documentation for development consent process
New Ross Tourism Project:	Preliminary Design	The tender process is complete and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Finalising interpretative design phase.

## Projects Under Construction

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: May 2026
Adoration Convent	Construction Stage	Works are progressing well onsite & completion is scheduled for January 2027 which is targeted to occupy the first students from GSU.
Enniscorthy Sports Hub 420330	Construction Stage	Works are progressing & currently on programme for completion in Sept. 2026
Ferndale Gymnasium	Construction Stage	Colm Byrne Civil & Building Contractor Ltd. were appointed to undertake construction of the new Ferndale Gymnasium Facility, with works commencing onsite on 30th Sept 2024. Substantial completion and handover of the project are scheduled for early May 2026.
Mechanics Institute	Renovation stage	Work ongoing. To be completed at the end of May 2026.
<b>SouthEast Greenway</b>		
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3, 4a	Complete	
Rosbercon Trailhead	Preliminary Design	Rosbercon trailhead Part 8 process commenced in February 2026.
Lot 4	Detailed Design	It is targeted to commence works in Q3 2026. Tender for the main works contract due to be advertised in May 2026.
Lot 4a	Preliminary Design	No update

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: May 2026
Lot 5a	Under construction	Lot 2 and 5a Works now substantially complete. Awaiting completion and handover of an access ramp on the North Quays Project to enable opening this section of Greenway. Should happen in May 2026.
Lot 5b ,Lot 6, 7, 8, 9	Detailed Design	No update
Lot 8	Preliminary Design	
Trinity Wharf	Detailed Design Stage	Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing pending the licence agreement confirmation. 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. The revised Stage 1 pre-qualification for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) closed on the 6th of February 2026. Submissions are being assessed.
Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Design Stage	The Scheme is currently in optioneering. The consultant has presented the short list of options to the Steering Group which showing areas that require defence. These options will be further refined in the coming weeks to determine the type of defence (hard defence/demountable, etc) that will be required.

#### 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 funding of €26 million for 116 projects in rural communities across the country. 5 out of the 6 projects were allocated funding.
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	n/a	These projects have a 24mth timeframe for delivery in collaboration with the local community groups. The following are the successful projects in Wexford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct roadside trail Coolgreany village to Ballyfad Wood-<b>€197,416</b></li> <li>Construct roadside path from Lobster Pot to Carne completing the link from Our Lady's Island to Carne- <b>€500,000</b>.</li> <li>Construction of 1km trail between Wellingtonbridge village and Little Sea Viewing area-<b>€200,000</b>.</li> </ul> <b>Wexford Total: €897,416</b>
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 Gaeltachtin Oct 2025. Coastal Destination Courtown Project was not successful in this round of funding
CLÁR Funding		Minister for Rural and Community Development &the Gaeltacht Dara Calleary TD, has launched the 2026 CLÁR Scheme. The Community Section will lead on the EOI process. 15 District Electoral Division's (DED's) within Co. Wexford are designated CLÁR areas: Ballyhack Duncormick Kilsoran Ballyhoge Ferns Newbawn Clonleigh Kilmokea Rosslare Clonroche Kilmore St. Helen's Coolgreany Kilrush Taghmon

# COMMUNITY

## LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



### Public Consultation - Launch of Town Hall / Public Meetings & workshops

Wexford LCSP launched its Town Hall / Public Meetings and workshops as scheduled below. This is the final piece of the Public Consultation process which is well received throughout the county heading towards 1000 participants.



Date	Venue	Event
14th April	TAG Centre Taghmon	Pop-up Survey
22nd April	Courtown Hotel Courtown	Workshop IPAS
22nd April	St. Aidan's Hall Bunclody	Town Hall / Public Meeting
28th April	Wexford Arts Centre Wexford	Workshop IPAS
29th April	Amber Springs Hotel Gorey	Town Hall / Public Meeting
6th May	Brandon Hotel New Ross	Town Hall / Public Meeting
12th May	Riverside Hotel Enniscorthy	Town Hall / Public Meeting
15th May	FDYS Coolcotts	Workshop Comhairle Na nÓg
20th May	Whites Hotel Wexford	Town Hall / Public Meeting
21st May	Community and Sports Centre Rosslare	Town Hall / Public Meeting

\* 2 workshops for Ukrainian Nationals to be confirmed.

### Community safety Fund

The Community safety Fund was also launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 by the National Office for Community Safety, Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. Applications are invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice. Grants range between €20,000 – €150,000.

**Completed application forms must be returned by 5pm on 18 May 2026 to**

**[CommunitySafetyFund@justice.ie](mailto:CommunitySafetyFund@justice.ie) More information can be found at:**

**[www.gov.ie/communitysafety](http://www.gov.ie/communitysafety).**

### URAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

#### Accommodation

The Offer A Home scheme will come to an end in March 2027. The team will manage existing pledges and encourage Ukrainian families to enter private rental agreements with the homeowners. Where this is not possible, we will encourage families to find alternative long-term accommodation. *Pledge Type*

<i>No. of Properties</i>	<i>No. of People Placed</i>
Offer a Home 282	830
Irish Red Cross 30	96

## Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

All six Refurbishment Programme properties are now open and operational.

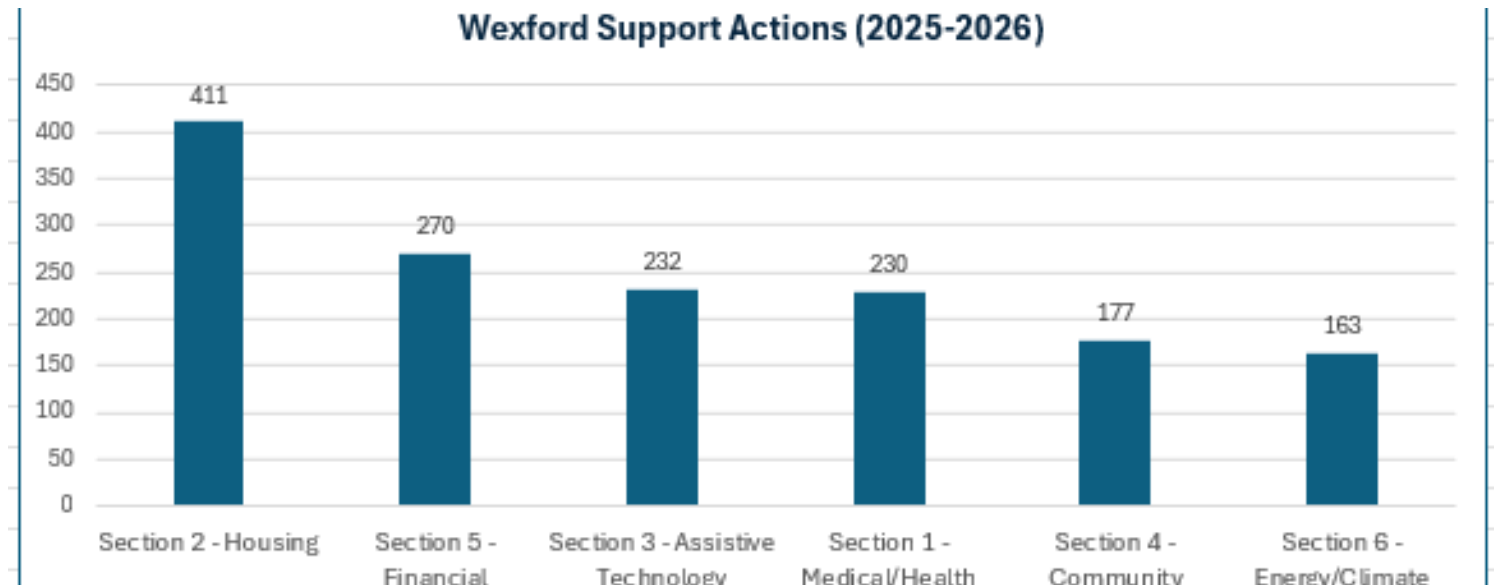
Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accom. Centre	56	68
Unity Court, Wex.	42	57
Michael Street, Wex.	13	19
Borromount Lodge, Ennisc.	18	37
Rafter Street, Ennisc.	8	15
Ryland Rd., Bunclody	13	21

## PRIDE OF PLACE

The Pride of Place Awards application date is closed. 15 applications were made. 2 applications will be chosen to go forward to the Finals in October, finalists to be announced shortly.

## AGE FRIENDLY WEXFORD

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Bi-Monthly Report from Age Friendly Ireland: Please see below the number of older people in Wexford who have been assisted to continue to live in their own homes independently, the figures relate to the period Jan 2025 to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



**Wear Red day celebration:** The LAIT and WCC Celebrated Wear Red Day by wearing red and showing their solidarity and support to anti-racism.



**Misinformation and Disinformation about migrants in Ireland workshop:** Provided by Denis Whelan to Staff from various departments.



## LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)

Twining Event: LAIT attended the twinning event of Wexford with Nizhyn in Ukraine as a demonstration of solidarity. Mr. Oleksandr Kodola, Mayor of Nizhyn and the Ambassador of Ukraine visited Wexford County Hall for the official signing ceremony.



**Healthy Woodland Walk:** The LAIT, Sports Active and Local link are collaborating for the Healthy Woodlands Trail. Starting on the 22nd of April. Participants from the local IPAS community, Ukrainian community will be attending the programme. 24 participants will be going to Tintern Abbey for the next 5 weeks and will enjoy a walk and connecting with different communities.

## BURIAL GROUNDS

The installation of **new pathways in Enniscorthy Lawn Burial Ground** has been completed. This was essential for infrastructure and the opening up of new rows in the burial ground.



**Critical Tree surgery works took place in Oylegate Burial Ground** this month. A large cypress tree was identified as a hazard due to a deep structural crack running down its center. This posed a risk to damaging headstones and public safety. The tree has now been removed, with the remaining stump getting removed once burial ground extension takes place.



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK



Wexford PPN have recently been out and about in the 5 Municipal Districts meeting our member groups and new groups interested in joining the PPN. It was an opportunity for those attending to learn more about the PPN, meet our Municipal District Representatives and meet other member groups.

## SPORTS ACTIVE



<b>AdventurHER</b>	<p>AdventurHER Ladies Hiking Programme – 2 hikes in April. 13 Women participated.</p>
<b>Go for Life Games Tasters</b>	<p>SAW Staff delivered Go for Life Games Tasters with participants from the Wexford Lion’s Club Holiday Project at the Ballyvaloo Retreat &amp; Conference Centre – 20 Participants (15 females &amp; 5 males)</p>
<b>Adapted Bikes SE Greenway</b>	<p>An adapted bike taster session occurred on the Southeast Greenway. 3 male participants attended</p>
<b>Inclusive-Multi Activity Courtown</b>	<p>A 2-day multi-activity programme (archery, orienteering and padel) took place in Active Tribe, Courtown with St. Aidan’s and KITE Services.</p>
<b>Cornmarket Women’s Group</b>	<p>Cornmarket women’s group trialled a 3-week equine assisted learning programme with Rag Tree Equine Centre. 8 females participated.</p>
<b>Her Moves Self-defence</b>	<p>Her Moves self defence programme: Approx 120 teenage girls participated in a two-day programme.</p>

# ENVIRONMENT

## COASTAL MATTERS

**Seaview Coastal Protection project** is in its final stage. Precast concrete segments for the beach access are half completed with completion planned May 2026. Additional application to OPW submitted Feb 2026, awaiting approval.

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

**Kilpatrick** Has now been submitted for Part 8 planning. Site Notices in place.

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

**Ballyhack & Passage East Car Ferry Infrastructure:** AYESA consultant appointed and project is progressing.

**Rosslare CRFRS:** Emergency works required at Rosslare strand, site visits and inspections planned to progress with OPW funding application. 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Participation Day, likely to be Q2 2026.

**Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement:** Second Public Consultation complete, Part 8 Planning application being prepared for submission. OPW Funding secured for 190m, additional application submitted to OPW to extend works in its entirety (Ch 0 to Ch 500).

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

**Operations** – MARA reconciliation of New Ross Marina and debris boom. All relevant info has been compiled and application to be submitted in the coming weeks.

MARA has issued MUL 240003 for the Barrow pre-dredging surveys to be undertaken. Commencement date for the MUL was 23/03/2026 and holds a three-year term. Updated quotes for survey work requested.

Explosive bye laws were sent for Minister approval on 05/02/2026. Awaiting return. Have had contact from Dept of Defence about first shipment once bye laws have been enforced. No further update.

Awaiting DAFM funding awards and will commence awarded projects.

### Septic Tank Inspections:

<b>NIP Grants 2026</b>	<b>January – March 13 received</b>	<b>2026 – Total €117,819.28 sent to finance</b>	<b>1 on hold for documentation</b>
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### No of Verification Inspections

<b>2025 - Verification Inspections = 91</b>	<b>2026 - Verification Inspections = 22</b>
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## Court cases

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

## Ongoing Inspections

125 cases open at the end of 2025. 20 cases closed in 2026. 123 open cases, including 2026.

- 28 new inspections have been carried out for 2026. 10 passed and 18 failed.
- 17 direct discharges to water and 10 discharges onto the surface of the ground noted in 2025.
- In 2026, 7 direct discharges to surface water and 5 discharges onto the surface of the ground were noted.
- NIP inspections will continue in 2026 in Piercetown/Murrintown, Castletown/Inch, Mount Howard & Lady's Island areas. 30 inspections were booked in for April 2026.
- Information on septic tank maintenance was available at the Bannow Rathangan Show and Climate Action nights in Clonroche and Kilanerin.

## Discharge Licences

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.

<b>No. of Monitoring Submission Returns from 1/1/2026 to 29/4/2026</b>
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<b>17</b>
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## Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The 5 stations in Bunclody, New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey have 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 are installed in Wexford Town. The TownAir Project to monitor gases NOx, SO2, CO is complete. This will be compared with 2016 levels taking during the SAFFIRE project and an update will be given once work is completed. There have been 2 inspections of premises / forecourts / shops who are all selling compliant products.

## Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

**DECO Paints:** Auto-Refinishers Q1 DECO Compliance Register was updated in March and published to Website. Site inspections are ongoing, 9 Operators re-certified since January. 1 new operator registered and certified.

**Dry Cleaners:** 5 Dry-Cleaners currently registered, All certified as compliant. 1 non-registered premises with enforcement work ongoing. Register updated and published to website in March.

**Petrol Stations - PVE emissions** Stage 1 testing & compliance: 3 Inspections in March. 2 premises re-certified in April 2026. 1 non-compliant premises - advisory letter delivered in April 2026. 2 Stations awaiting final assessment reports. Q1 PVE Register was updated and published to Website in March.

**Agriculture** - A significant number of farm inspections under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme are ongoing. Landowners are encouraged to undertake the necessary rectifications works to improve farming infrastructure and practices.

Our target has remained at 271 GAP. Initial inspections for 2026 concentrating in catchments where agriculture is not meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Catchments such as Heathpark\_010, Begerin\_010, Owenduff, Boro\_040, Lady's Island Lake, Aughboy, Mangan, Lask and Kilanerin are currently being inspected. Other agricultural inspections such as sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up inspections and ongoing. A total of 162 inspections have been carried out in 2026 to date with 73 of these been initial GAP inspections and 62 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 38 Agricultural related planning permission applications have been assessed to date in 2026. 6 applications were refused on failure to demonstrate compliance with the GAP regulations. 9 applications resulted in further information required.


### Waste/Litter Management

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	%Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
Jan to Dec 2025	2441	Up 3%	981	Down 4%
Jan-30 Apr 2026	883			

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

	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2025	Jan-Apr 2026
Incidents	3896	4235	4195	4419	1461
Closed	3721	4008	3936	4112	1154
Closure Rate	95%	95%	94%	93%	79%

### Total Calls logged 1 Jan to 30 Apr 2026



**Comhairle Contae Loch Garman**  
Wexford County Council

**Customer Services**  
**Environmental Cases**

Total Calls

# 1489

Issue Type	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	15	17	18	19		69
Air Pollution	10	8	10	11		39
Beach Bye Laws			1	2		3
Bring Banks	11	1	3	2		17
Coastal	3	6	5	5		19
Community Cleanup	72	89	114	117	1	393
Dog complaint	3	4	2			9
Fines	15	8	3	9		35
Litter	201	169	193	163	2	728
Loose Animals			2			2
Noise Pollution	9	5	4			18
Oil Pollution	2		5	1		8
Waste Pollution	23	19	18	31		91
Water Pollution	9	8	11	8		36
Work Request	7	5	3	7		22
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1489</b>

### Members Portal

	1 Jan to 30 Apr 2026
Incidents	60
Closed	50 <sub>34</sub>

## Court Overview

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

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

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

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

<u>Control of dogs</u>	2024	2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Dogs collected	564	546	117
Dogs reclaimed	147	149	29
Dogs re-homed/transferred	442	386	82
Dogs put to sleep	31	10	8
Dog Fines	11	12	3

## Recycling Services:

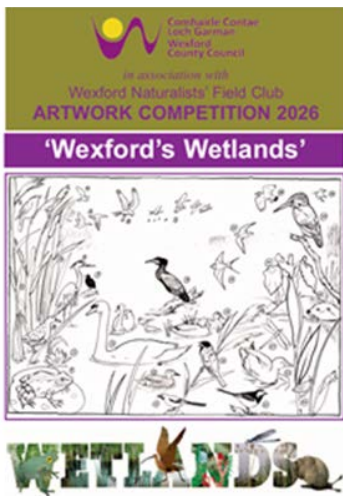
Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites Mar 2026	Recycling out Mar 2025 (t)	Recycling out Mar 2026 (t)
Glass bottles		282.97	305.54
Aluminium Cans		2.18	2.37
Total	108	285.15	307.91

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Mar 2025 (t)	Recycling out Mar 2026 (t)	Recycling out Mar 2025 (t)	Recycling out Mar 2026(t)	Recycling out Mar 2025(t)	Recycling out Mar 2026 (t)	Recycling out Mar 2026 (t)	Recycling out Mar 2026 (t)
<b>Total Recycling out</b>	49	43	52	52	75	99	49	46
<b>Total Domestic Waste in</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	303	353	N/A	N/A
<b>Daily Average Customers Jan-Mar</b>	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	71	75	114	111	143	161	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	Mar 2025	Mar 2026
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	428	221
Gorey *		45
Enniscorthy *		63
Wexford *		50
New Ross*		18
Rosslare		45
Total Bring Site Inspections	842	862



## Environment Education and Awareness

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

**Green Schools:** Kilkenny will host the awards in May for all Wexford schools who have successfully renewed their flag this academic year.

**Annual Artwork Competition:** The competition is being organised by the Environment Section and is run in conjunction with Wexford Naturalists' Field Club. The theme this year is '**Wexford's Wetlands**' and all schools have been informed.

**Rubbish Film Festival:** The National Awards for the Rubbish Film Festival were held in April at the lighthouse cinema in Smithfield Dublin. 7 secondary schools participated and the Best Film and Poster from the County Awards went forward to the national Finals. Gorey Community School represented Wexford with their film 'School of Fish' and Colaiste an Atha with their poster 'Oblivious'.

The national awards can be viewed here [link to the streamed awards](#)

The national winners can be viewed at [national winners](#)

**Relove Fashion:** Young people from all over Ireland gathered at Dublin City University (DCU) in April for the largest Relove Fashion Final in the competition's history, celebrating creativity, innovation and sustainability in fashion. The finalists aged 12-19 re imagined old clothes and other household fabrics, creating outfits from unwanted fabrics, including old umbrellas, pillowcases and shower curtains. Outfits were required to be both washable and wearable, demonstrating creativity, practicality and durability. The competition proves that style doesn't have to cost the earth - and that Ireland's young people are ready to lead the charge for a circular fashion future! 58 finalists from 29 local authority areas were chosen and there were 24 award winners. **Students from St Mary's Secondary School, New Ross scooped both the regional award and the national award for Best Evening wear. (Outfit Name: Tides in Bloom)**

**Alisha Kent, Sarah Morrissey, Grace Fallon, St. Mary's Secondary School, Wexford**



**Change Clothes Workshop:** 2 workshops took place at the Wexford Library in April. Participants were introduced to the basics of running a successful local clothes swap. They learned how to plan a swap with minimal resources, including choosing a format, managing donations, setting clear swap rules, and creating a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere. Alongside practical guidance on logistics, space setup, and stock management, participants explored common challenges, problem-solve real-world scenarios, and planning a swap tailored to their own community. The session covered promotion, accessibility, and what to do with leftover clothing.

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

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

**Local Waste Prevention Grant / Local Circular Economy Grant 2026:** 14 applications are being assessed 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.

**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.

**Snap Into Action Competition:** Registrations are now open for the Snap into Action competition – it is open to both primary schools and community groups. A community group and school could be in with a chance of winning a cash prize of €500.

### **Reusable Party Pack:**

The 10 Local authorities of the Southern Waste region launched the "Borrow, Use, Return" initiative to support circular community celebrations. This new initiative helps communities to celebrate in a more sustainable way. The initiative also helps to deliver targets set out in the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular



### **Economy**

The "Borrow, Use, Return" project is a joint project led by the environmental awareness officers of these ten Local Authorities with financial support received through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Waste Prevention Programme. The initiative provides reusable party packs to community and voluntary groups, helping to reduce single-use and promote circular living. This project supports climate action and the development of more circular communities by providing practical tools and ideas that help people embrace reuse, reduce waste, and live more sustainably.

Wexford County Council have 10 party packs for distribution during this pilot phase. Expressions of interest have been sought for these packs. The project is open to a wide range of community and voluntary groups, including tidy towns groups, community voluntary groups, parent associations, active age groups and sports clubs. Participation from primary or secondary schools, colleges and universities, family resource centres or other types of community centres or settings is also welcome. In addition to providing reusable supplies, the initiative encourages greener party planning with practical tips.

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

Date	No. of community Clean Ups
01/04//2026 – 30/04/2026	108
01/01/2026 - 30/04/2026	383

## CLIMATE ACTION

Wexford County Council is behind on our glide path for Thermal and Transport emissions. If HVO is not used for our fleet, we will not meet our CO2 target of 51% reduction by 2030. We are currently above CO2 emissions from the baseline years of 2016-2018. The pathfinder projects will address the thermal requirements, but the transport element needs to be progressed.

Participants in the Over 55s Climate Course are currently carrying out a climate action of their choosing. Talks were arranged from an ecologist, from Tidy towns, from community allotments and on the circular economy and the facilities available in Wexford Recycling centres.

### Climate Action and Biodiversity Fortnight takes place in May

Some of the events scheduled include

- Kilmore Quay Biodiversity Walk & Talk with ecologist Jim Hurley
- Tintern Walk followed by underwater photography display with Wexford Sub Aqua diver Ivan Donoghue
- EV information event - what to look for when buying an Electric Vehicle with talks from Done Deal and three current EV drivers.
- Bike Week also coincides and there are many bike events scheduled over the 1<sup>st</sup> week
- Presentation on the draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan in the libraries as part of public consultation process
- There are a number of events in all the libraries.

Training was provided on Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for Surface Water Management to staff through the Local Authority Waters Programme in association with LASNTG. This course will support Wexford County Council in the practical delivery of Nature-based solutions in public spaces/realm, streetscapes, public parks, footpaths, public carparks and other public spaces to protect water quality, reduce pluvial flood risk, increase climate resilience and enhance placemaking.

The Climate Team attended the South East Energy Agency Local Authorities Energy and Climate Seminar where progress on energy and climate was outlined.

The team also attended the Local Authority Climate Action Teams Conference Event in Athlone in April. The keynote address was given by Mary Robinson and there were speakers from DCCE, CCMA, Regional Assemblies along with Climate experiences from other LAs. Tours to climate action sites in the midlands area were arranged including Athlone Flood Defence Scheme, Cycle up Textiles, Strokestown House Forrest Restoration and Lough Ree Access for All.

## Pathfinder Retrofit Programme Update

a) The Apex Leisure centre, New Ross is at stage one of the design process which is due for completion in Q2. 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 emergency air handling unit replacement works awarded to Mechanical Contractor Aircon Mech Ltd and is due to start in Q2.

c) Co Hall Lighting – Mini Tender will be published in Q2.

## 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 in the coming weeks.

Phase 1 of the CCAP concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> April; final reports and drawdowns are being compiled for the DCEE. 14 projects were fully completed and two projects were incomplete.

## Biodiversity

The draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan public consultation period is 1<sup>st</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June with information events scheduled around the county. Further information is on the website and the portal is now open for submissions and observations - [Draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan | Wexford County Council Online Consultation Portal](#)

**SPRING CLEAN WEXFORD 2026**

Win a cash prize of €500 for your Community Group

**HOW?**

**SIMPLY ENTER WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL'S SNAP INTO ACTION COMPETITION**

**STEPS TO FOLLOW**

- Take a **BEFORE** and **AFTER** photograph of your Clean-Up during the month of April.
- Submit **ONE A4 PAGE** on who got involved and what action your Community Group took to tackle the litter problem.
- Tell us why you think your Clean-Up should win Spring Clean Wexford 2026.
- Send your entries by **May 15th 2026** to Cliona Connolly, Environment Section, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford. Tel: (053) 919 6475 Email: [environment@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:environment@wexfordcoco.ie)

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford  
NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

**SPRING CLEAN WEXFORD 2026**

Win a cash prize of €500 for your School and the award of Wexford's Cleanest Primary School 2026

**HOW?**

**SIMPLY ENTER WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL'S SNAP INTO ACTION COMPETITION**

**STEPS TO FOLLOW**

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Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford  
NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

# LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND ARTS

## READING AND LITERACY: RIGHT TO READ AT YOUR LIBRARY

### In Conversation with Neil Tully

New Ross Library celebrated new Irish writing featuring Neil Tully, the debut author of *The Visit* - a powerful, atmospheric novel set in New Ross in 1963, during the town's historic preparations for President John F. Kennedy's arrival.

*Staff Member Thomas with authors Neil Tully and Tina Callaghan in New Ross Library*



### The World of Colm Tóibín: Enniscorthy and Beyond - Enniscorthy Library

This was a special literary event exploring the work of acclaimed Irish author Colm Tóibín, with a focus on his novel *Brooklyn*. Guest speakers, Bairbre Tóibín and Emma Boyce guided the audience, which included Spanish Erasmus students, through the novel's rich themes of home, identity, and emigration, while also examining how Tóibín's own experiences and the landscapes of Wexford influence the world he creates.

### Family Literacy Programme - Wexford Town Library

This new programme was developed by staff member Ornella, which debuted in April with its first event – Learning Stations. The programme aims to support the development of children's literacy skills by offering a range of activities that encourage engagement from their parents, families, and carers. This debut workshop was aimed at teaching children essential skills through play. Each of the five learning stations had fun activities focused on essential early skills.

### Spring into Storytime

This national programme takes place in Libraries across Ireland every April and is part of the national Right to Read programme which aims to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. During the month all Wexford Libraries branches held interactive storytimes and craft sessions while Enniscorthy Library held a Teddy Bear Sleepover. There were also Outreach visits to local schools and Early Learning Centres.

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Autism Awareness Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Wexford Library celebrated World Autism Awareness Day with a display of artwork developed during the KITE Pottery Programme which brings together a group of autistic adults who go to KITE Services in Wexford. KITE supports adults to build confidence, learn new skills, and take part in their community in a way that feels right for them.

### Launch of CYPSC 'Support Pathways' Resource

Wexford Town Library hosted Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) for the launch of their new Support Pathways resource. This valuable booklet provides clear, helpful information on the supports available to children with disabilities in Wexford, helping to guide children, young people, parents, families, and caregivers.



## COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

### **Bunclody One Book One Community - Bunclody Community College**

Bunclody Library staff attended the Bunclody One Book, One Community Celebration bringing together the following groups through a shared love of reading. This initiative includes a broad range of community based groups including 1st Year students from Bunclody Community College; 6th Class pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes National School and Carrigduff National School; Residents from Signa Care Nursing Home; Bunclody Day Care Centre; Bunclody Tidy Towns; Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group; Wexford Mental Health; local residents; local elected members and library staff. Copies of this year's chosen novel, **Rosa by Starlight by Hilary McKay**, were sourced for the event by Bunclody Library.

### **Spring Moves Dance Festival - Wexford Library**

2026 Spring Moves Dance festival was launched in early April. The theme was 'Finding Our Way Through' and the launch was preceded by a discussion on making space for the next generation in the performing arts. Speakers talked to attendees about how work is created and how they work together with children, young people and families, with the audience invited to contribute to the discussion.

### **World Art Day Exhibition: 'Charming Mallows' - Wexford Library**

This exhibition featured work created by the 'Charming Mallows' group, which works to support Ukrainian children to overcome trauma through creating art. The exhibition was organised and displayed by Olga Iamtsun, Intercultural Community Support Officer with Wexford Local Development.



### **Wexford South Station: Wexford Model Railway Club - Wexford Library**

Wexford's hidden railway history was brought back to life with this Wexford Model Railway Club Exhibition which was open to the public.

### **Junior Comhaltas led by Helena Dunbar - Bunclody Library**

The local Junior Comhaltas group provided an hour of music showcasing young musical talent.

### **Baroque Art with Elaine Hoysted - Bunclody Library**

In this talk, staff member and independent art historian Elaine Hoysted discussed artists who brought their own characteristic styles to the art of the Baroque period.

## LEARNING & INFORMATION

### **Skills for Life**

### **Misinformation/Disinformation Workshop with Wexford Local Development - Wexford Library**

Denis Whelan from Wexford Local Development delivered an informative talk on online safety and media literacy. He provided valuable insights to transition year students from Selskar College, into navigating the online world safely and critical thinking critically.

### **ComMUniversity**

A collaboration between, Maynooth University, South East Technical University, Wexford Local Development and Enniscorthy Library, continued in April. The purpose 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.

## **From Vacant to Vibrant: Your Guide to Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants and Business Supports - Wexford Library**

During this event, attendees had the opportunity to get information on Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants and Business Supports available locally. Wexford County Council's Town Regeneration Officer was in the library to answer questions and chat about the supports offered by Wexford County Council.

## **Age Friendly Homes Talk - Gorey Library**

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme aims to assist older people to remain in their own homes with dignity and independence for as long as possible.

## **Wexford Science Café Presents - Wexford Library**

This month's discussion was with Dr Geraldine Canny, Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) manager, SETU, who talked about the contributions that members of the public can make to scientific research through citizen science initiatives.

Digital Skills groups and Digital Literacy sessions continued during April in all Wexford Libraries branches.

## **HERITAGE AND LOCAL HISTORY**

### **Jane Austen: Fact or Fiction - Gorey Library**

North Wexford Historical Society held their monthly talk given by Hazel Percival. The topic was Jane Austen, how a woman's life in Regency England created a novelist relevant to today.

### **Local History - Wexford Library**

26 local studies queries and 20 genealogy queries were received in April.

Wexford Library also continued their Local History Hub, a new discussion group offering a welcoming space for local history enthusiasts to explore Wexford's fascinating past.

### **Commemoration 2026**

The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport has approved the Commemoration 2026 plan submitted by Wexford County Council for **€18,500**.

The programme will include

- A series of free historic lectures held in libraries.
- An artistic and creative bursary in partnership with Wexford Arts office.
- A day to commemorate "America 250", organised by John F Kennedy Trust in New Ross.
- Preparatory talks ahead of "Year of the Norman 2027" which will be organised by Wexford Normandy Cultural Association.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION**

Wexford County Councils Climate Action Team supported by Age Friendly added an extra two sessions onto the six weeks, six step climate action course with Jacinta Barrins in Enniscorthy Library for the over 55's in April 2026. The course aims to demystify climate change and highlight helpful actions.

### **Nature Explorers - Gorey Library**

This new monthly children's craft workshop is to raise awareness and embed understanding in children of the wildlife and climate of the area. This month's workshop saw children familiarise themselves with seasonal, flowers and blossoms picked from the area, learning about native vs. non - native plants as well as pollinator - friendly flowers.

## World Earth Day April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026

Plant enthusiasts were invited to pop into Enniscorthy Library and adopt a plant during World Earth Day. The selection included strawberry/tomato or spider plants, mint and radishes.



*Staff members  
Emma & Esther on  
World Earth Day in  
Enniscorthy Library*

Gorey Library held a craft circle in which recycled paper from damaged library books, newspapers and offcuts from previous children's craft sessions was transformed into brand new sheets of paper, ready to use again. They also held a jigsaw and board game swap to celebrate World Earth Day.

### **'Green Week' at Wexford Library**

Wexford Library hosted a week during which staff facilitated events aimed towards promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. The events included a plant swap, a Bee Hotel making workshop and a 'Get More, Grow More' session where attendees learned to grow plants from kitchen scraps.

### **Change Clothes Community Swap Workshops**

This interactive two-hour workshop held in Wexford Library provided a hands-on guide to organising a community clothes swap from start to finish. There were two workshops, one for members of the public and an additional workshop for library staff.

## **ARCHIVES**

### **Collections management**

In addition to 31 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 6 researchers visited the Archive during April, with one making seven return visits. Research topics included family history research through the Earl of Courtown's Kiltennel estate collection (1850); research on Joshua Bobiear and the 'Coffee House', Enniscorthy; research on a fatal accident at Enniscorthy Tunnel (Aug 1921); research through archival material and local newspapers regarding the opening of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Ballyoughter for its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026; family history in relation to Rosslare Fort (1860s); burial records for Wexford town (1880-1950).

### **Outreach**

The Archivist participated in an event, 'Increasing Participation and Diversity in Local Government', which took place in the council chamber on 24 April. An overview of the history of female elected members in Wexford County Council was delivered, focussing predominantly on the last five election terms.

To coincide with the exhibition of the same name, the Archivist delivered an illustrated talk on 'Plucky Ladies' – female representation in local elections in County Wexford, 1899-2024 in New Ross library on the evening of 28 April. A series of talks on the exhibition are ongoing 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

### Westgate Music Rehearsal Space Residency Open Call

Wexford Arts Office is supporting a 3 – 6-month residency at the Westgate music rehearsal space for Wexford based musicians during 2026. As part of this residency the selected musician will be supported to perform at the Wexford Arts Centre. Deadline for expressions of interest is 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### Public Art Working Group

The newly appointed working group met in April to develop a Public Art programme in Co. Wexford using pooled Per Cent for art funding. Members of the group include Cllr Darragh McDonald- Chairperson (Chair of SPC), Carolyne Godkin (Director of Services), Lucy Meddlycot (ISACS), Ruairi O 'Cuív (Public Art Specialist), Liz Burns (Arts Officer), Una Cahill (Public Arts Co-ordinator/Assistant Arts Officer), Martin Reading (PPN), Orla Barry (Artist), Stephen O'Connor (Housing).

### Wexford Women's Refuge Public Art Commission

Under Per Cent for art a new public artwork is being commissioned for the Wexford Women's Refuge. Three invited artists are currently working on a proposal for an artwork for an internal garden space in the Women's Refuge. The selection panel will take place in May, the artwork will be developed in 2026 and installed in 2027.

### Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the EU 2026

Following an Open Call from the Department, Wexford Country Council has been awarded **€42,000** in funding to support arts and cultural activities throughout the county in 2026 to coincide with the EU Presidency. All Local Authorities received funding of between €10,000 - €42,000. Following an open call in February, twelve festivals/events in Wexford were awarded funding between arts and cultural activities with a European perspective. They are: **New Ross District** - New Ross Guitar Festival, Eugene O'Neill Festival, **Wexford District** - Ri Ra Children's Festival, 'So Say So' Spoken Word Event, Community Opera / Wexford Opera Festival, **Rosslare District** - Write by the Sea Literary Festival, Rathspeck Church Music Concert, The Sessions Johnstown Castle, **Enniscorthy District** - The Night Belong to Youth Concert Vinegar Hill, Mick Fortune- Shared Folklore between Wexford and Europe, **Gorey District** - Cuisle Cheoil - Traditional Music Festival Gorey Little Theatre, North Wexford Traditional Singing Festival.

### Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme

Wexford Arts Office has funded two Wexford based writers for the annual National Mentoring Programme 2026. Dominic Stevens and Suzanne Walsh will be paired with an established writer for mentoring.

### Living Arts Project Open Call

County Wexford Arts Office in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre and The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon announced its open call to primary schools and visual artists to participate in the Living Arts Project commencing in September/October 2026. The aim of the project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Eight Wexford-based artists will be selected and partnered with schools to create a body of work over the academic year. Applications are now closed.

### Living Arts Project Exhibition

The Living Arts Project Exhibition from the 2025 – 2026 residency programme ran in the Wexford Arts Centre in April. The following artists and schools were selected for the 2025/2026 programme: Sonya Weston and Kate Tyrrell with Castlebridge National School (Wexford), Deirdre Meehan-Buttimer and Shannon Jade Wilson with Clonroche National School (Enniscorthy), David Begley and Hanneke van Ryswyk with Curracloe National School (Wexford), Laura Flood and Mayumi Nakabayashi in Scoil Mhaodhóig (New Ross). Over 180 children from the four schools visited this art exhibition and Wexford County Councils' art collection in April 2026 as part of this programme.

## **Bealtaine Festival Programme with Wexford Libraries**

Wexford Arts Office with Wexford Libraries are offering five free workshops over the month of May for Bealtaine Festival, Ireland's national festival celebrating the arts and ageing. There is quilting with Josephine Whitmore, Dance with Becci Whelan, Lantern making with Caoimhe Dunn, story writing with Caroline Busher and Felting with Trish Middleton.

## **Screen Wexford**

An Arts Office, Economic Department initiative to support the development of the film / screen industry in Wexford. Crew Networking took place at St Michaels Theatre, New Ross in April. Fifteen participants were in attendance.

A Screen Southeast Networking event took place in Kilkenny in April. This was a collaboration between Screen Wexford and Screen Waterford and Kilkenny. 112 professionals attended across the three counties.

## **Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE)**

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

Activities included: Social Canvas programme: 3rd year SETU Arts students working with various community groups in Enniscorthy on work placement through CPE.

Circus Unites: 14 young people from Enniscorthy took part in a Youth led contemporary circus project with Juliet and Fadi Zmorrod from Doulab Circus and Dance.

## **Music Generation (MG)**

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

April activities included: **Music Workshops at Bunclody Community College** Musician Educators Anita Mahon & Diarmuid Comerford delivered four music workshops at Bunclody Community College in April. 65 students from 1st to 3rd grade took part. The workshops were focused on body percussion, singing, musicianship and performance abilities.

**Arvo Part Ensemble Workshop** at Kennedy National School and Kilmore National School by Musici Ireland in partnership with Music Generation Wexford. An interactive concert to introduce students to the sound world of a string trio (violin, viola and cello) alongside three operatic singers was held. Over 100 students in each school participated.

## **Yellow Bellows Concert at Presentation Arts Centre**

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

## **CREATIVE IRELAND**

### **Cruinniú na nÓg 2026**

Planning is currently underway for Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, which will take place on 6th June 2026. A diverse programme of events is being developed, with activities planned across all libraries in the county, as well as in selected Family Resource Centres and in Gorey Hatch Lab. A full schedule of events be promoted across the county in the press, radio and social media platforms in the lead-up to the event.

### **Sound/Audio Project at Carnsore Wind Farm Cultural, Biodiversity and Heritage Trail**

Following an open call, Conor Duggan has been appointed as the artist for a sound-based project at Carnsore Wind Farm Cultural, Biodiversity and Heritage Trail. This project includes a programme of community workshops, the development of original musical compositions, and live performances. Conor has now commenced work on the project, with initial engagement and planning underway.

### **Visual Art Commission to coincide with 2027 Millenium Year of the Normans**

Following an Open Call in February, Wexford visual artist has been selected for a visual art commission exploring the legacy of Wexford's Norman heritage, working with local communities in 2026 – 2027. This commission is in partnership with the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and the final artwork will be exhibited in County Hall in October 2027 as part of the European Norman Visual Arts Trail, showcasing the work of six local, national, and international contemporary artists.

### **Community Building and Placemaking through Heritage in Killanne**



Following an open call, artists Liz Rackard and Mick O'Dea have been selected to deliver a project titled 'Village of Giants'. This project aims to celebrate and commemorate the history and achievements of notable individuals from the Killanne area in a visually engaging way, while also recognising the contribution of less visible 'giants' within the community. Initial stages of the project are now underway, including meetings between the artists and the local community, the gathering of historical material, and the identification of local skills, strengths, and ideas to inform the development of the work.

# WEXFORD CIVIL DEFENCE

## Wexford Half Marathon & Fethard Classic Car Events



### Civic Duties:

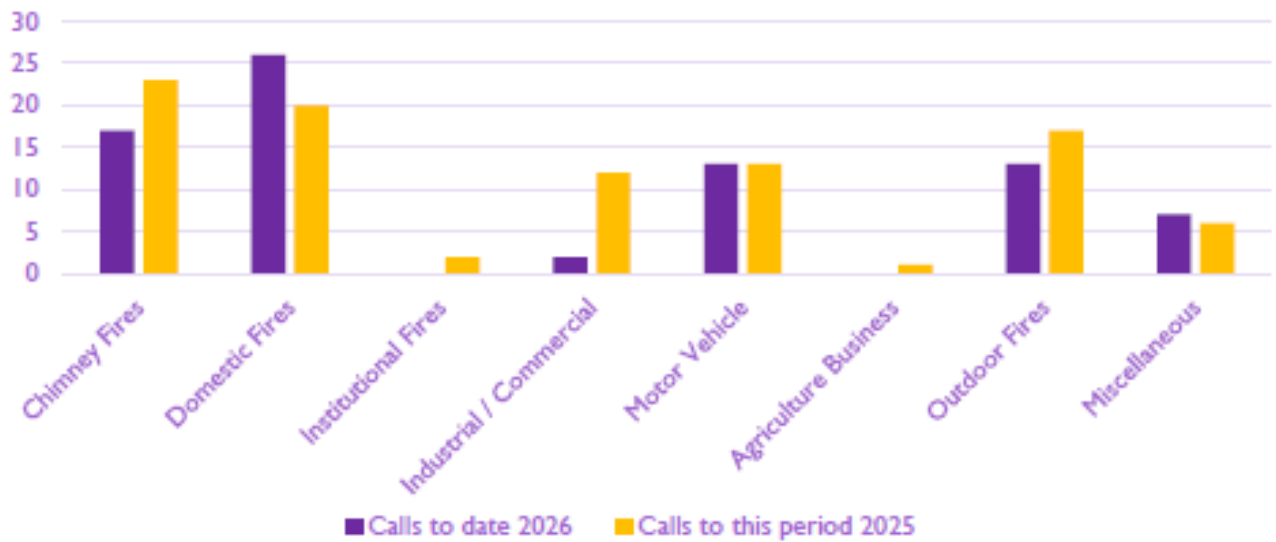
- April 6th- Easter Monday Commemoration- Enniscorthy- First Aid cover.
- April 12th-Athleics Road Race-Inch- Ambulance & First Aid cover.
- April 19th- Wexford ½ marathon- Wexford- Ambulance & First Aid cover
- April 19th- Classic Cars charity event- Fethard- First Aid cover
- March 29th- Athletics-Enniscorthy- Ambulance & First Aid cover

### Weekly Training

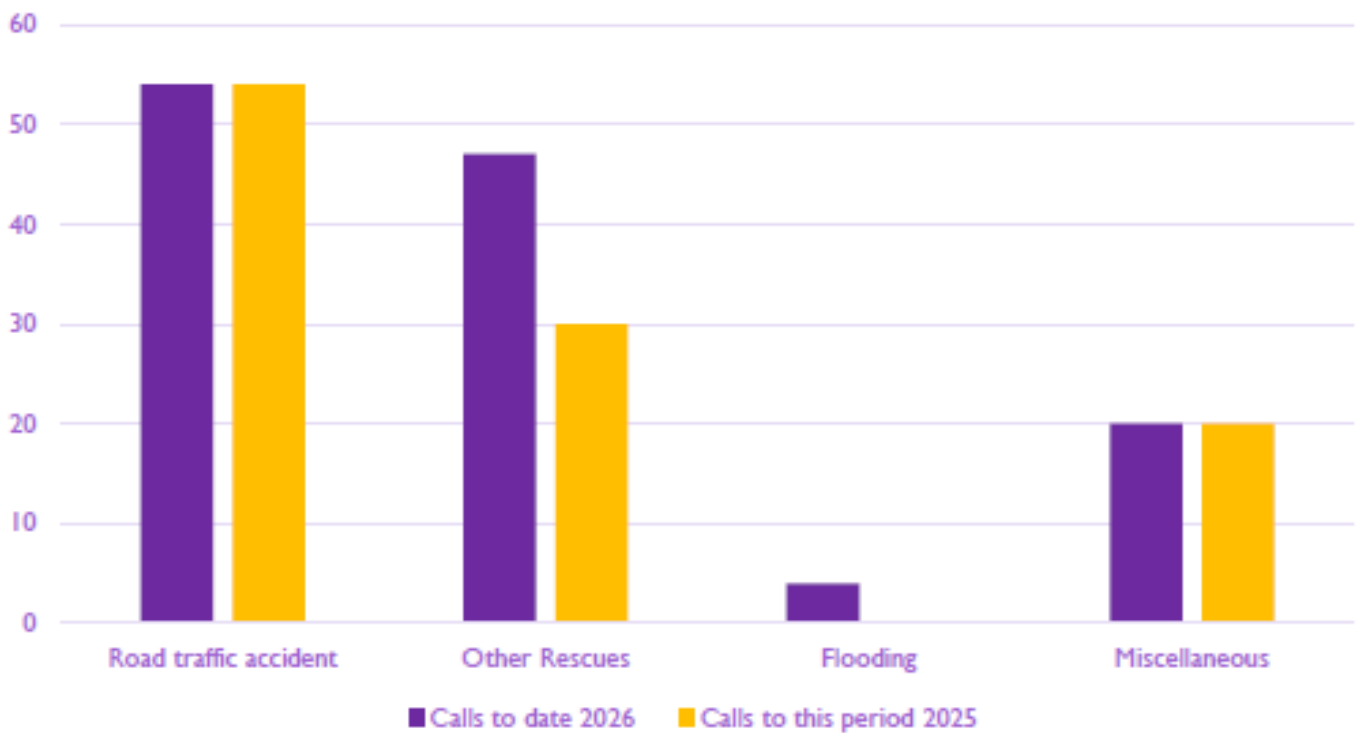
- Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.
- Weekly training will include Missing Persons Search Responder & Leader courses, Water Awareness & Swiftwater Food Responder- New & Recerts. Minimum Training Standards courses. Severe Weather Response.

# WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES MARCH 2026

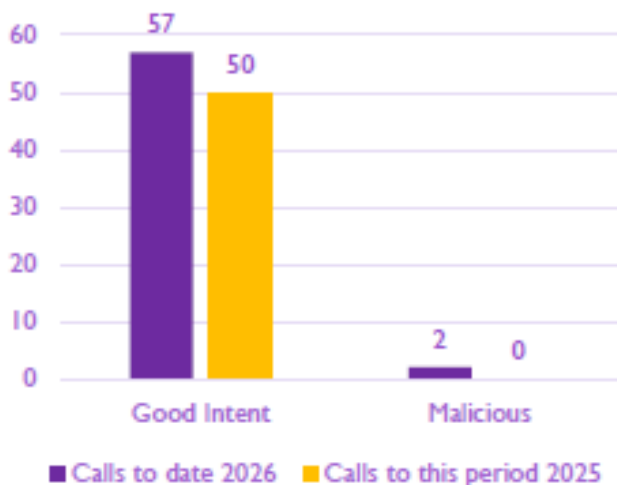
## Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service



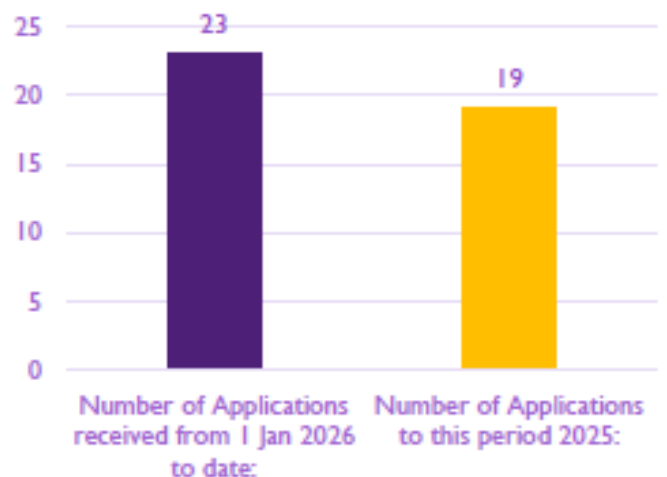
## Special Services - Wexford Fire Service



## False Alarms



## Fire Safety Certificates

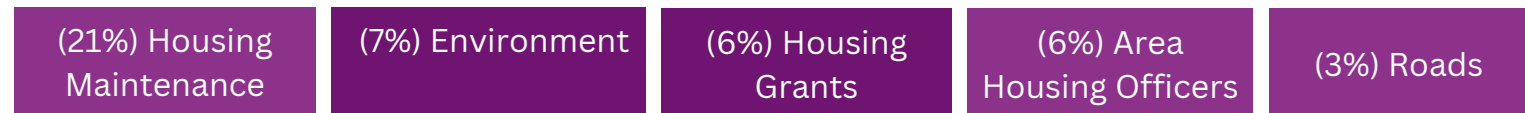


# CORPORATE SERVICES

## CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – APRIL 2026

Task	April 2026
Phone Calls	2983
Emails received and sent	2938

## TOP 5 CSU PHONE QUERIES



## FOI OFFICE REQUESTS APRIL 2026

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	12
Customer Complaint	24
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	4
Data Access Request	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

## FINANCE

**FINANCE Audit of Accounts 2025** - Following the completion of the 2025 Annual Financial Statement/Final Accounts (AFS) it is expected that the Local Government Audit Service will commence the formal audit of the accounts shortly.

**Audit Committee** - The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 17 June, 2026.

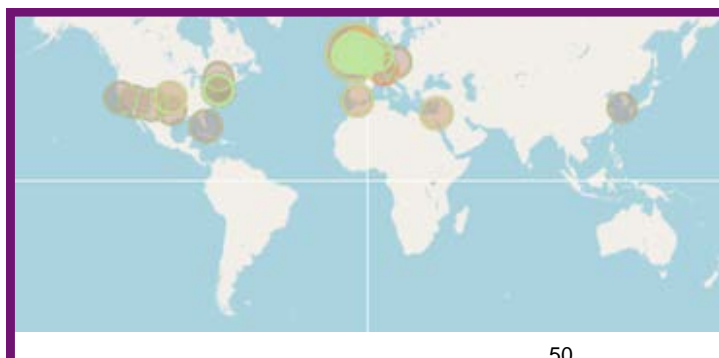
**Cash Flow/Overdraft** - The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €15m for the period to the 31 December, 2026.

## ICT SECURITY UPDATE - APRIL 2026

### Notable Incidents in Wexford County Council

Responding to a malicious email targeting our main LEO mailbox resulted in unusual behaviour where the affected user's laptop tried to delete emails and files on its own. The incident was isolated to the one device, which was wiped and an incident report sent to the NCSC. A new mailbox was set up for LEO to remove the risk of residual malicious activity and potential follow-up attacks.

- 821.6k emails in total (*Wexford CoCo tenant*)
- 717k stopped from malicious IPs
- 131 stopped with malicious links/attachments
- 10,044 emails in total (*Cllr tenant*)



## In the News

Meta have confirmed that after May 8, Instagram private messages will no longer be encrypted, meaning they will be accessible to Meta staff or law enforcement where necessary. This move has sparked pushback from users, citing concerns over privacy and increased risk from man-in-the-middle attacks. Meta have reiterated that WhatsApp remains their main solution for encrypted messaging.

ithelpdesk@wexfordcoco.ie

053 9196297

## COMMUNICATIONS

### TOP 3 POSTS FOR APRIL 2026



Weather Warnings



Co. Wexford Firefighters



Fire Warnings

### Post Requests April 2026 = 62



### Bike Week

Communications are working closely with Environment on promoting Bike Week 2026 (9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May)



**WEXFORD  
WALKING  
TRAILS**

*Let Nature lead the way...*



**Eddie Taaffe  
Chief Executive**