



2025

MAY

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council



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## Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme



## PHOTO ALBUM MAY 2025

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### Coolcotts Blue Run



### Book of Condolence



### Wexford Half Marathon



# HOUSING

## Housing Strategy & Services

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must build a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery, which includes new built and leasing, is contained in the diagram below. (1281 below includes leasing also)

Housing For All 2022-2026						
1281 Target	- (	861 Units Delivered	+	636 Units Projected	=	1497 Delivery Pipeline
						) = 279 Shortfall /Over

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

**Turnkey Delivery** - The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. The current Expression of Interest opened on the 26th March, 2025. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

## Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

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



## Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD - cont'd

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Gleann an Ghairdin Phases 3 & 4	2 x 2-bed	Q1 2026	2
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne, Gorey	2 x 2-bed	Q2 2025	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt 4 x 2-bed apt	Q3 2025	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	1 x 3-bed 1 x 2-bed	Q2 2025	2
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q2 2025	2
Pearsons Brook	2 x 3 bed	Delivered March 2025	2
Upton Meadows, Kilmuckridge	2 x 3 bed 1 x 2 bed	Delivered March 2025	3
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q3 2025	
		<b>Total Part V</b>	<b>22</b>

Project Address (AHB)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
Riverchapel Road, Gorey	6 x 1-bed apt	Q2 2025	6
The Close, Newbury, Clonattin, Gorey	2 x 1 bed apt 4 x 2 bed apt 17 x 3 bed	6 Apts. Q2 2025	6
		<b>Total ABH</b>	<b>98</b>
			<b>228</b>

Rosslare Municipal District

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

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 2-bed	Q2 2025	5
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	Phased from Q3 2025	14
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	5 x 3 bed	Q2 2025	5
		Total Turnkey	24
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	4 x 2-bed	4 due by end Q2 2025	4
Holly-Way, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy	5 x 3-bed	Q2 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	4 x 2 bed 1 x 3 bed	Delivered Q2 2025	5
Orchard Way, Clonhasten	2 x 2 bed 2 x 3 bed	Delivered Q2 2025	4
Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	16 x 3 bed hse 2 x 2 bed hse 16 x 1 bed apt		34
		Total Part V	52
Milehouse, Phase 1, Enniscorthy (AHB)	4 x 2 bed hse 16 x 3 bed	17 delivered Q4 2024 – Remaining 20 units to deliver Q2 2025	20
		Total AHB	20
			96



## New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (TURNKEY)	2 x 2 bed apt 4 x 1 bed apt	18 units delivered Q1 2025	32
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) (AHB)	10 x 1-bed 16 x 2-bed 22 x 3-bed	Q1 2026	48
Ard an Bhile, New Ross (PART V)	2 x 1 bed apt	Q2 2025	2
			88

## Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard na hAbhainn, Newtown Rd (PART V)	2 x 3-bed	Q2 2025	2
Ard Uisce, Wexford (PART V)	10 x 2-bed	Phased from Q3 2024 – Q4 2025 2 delivered Q4 2024	10
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge (PART V)	1 x 3 bed	Q2 2025	1
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed 23 x 2-bed 1 x 3-bed 1 x 4-bed	Q1 2026	50
Whiterock Hill, Wexford (AHB)	6 x 2 bed 34 x 3 bed	40 Delivering on a phased basis from Q2 2025 in 3 phases. 8 delivered April 2025	32
			93

Support has been offered to AHB’s for other proposals amounting to **445** units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	63
Gorey	187
Wexford	67

District	No of Units
New Ross	70
Rosslare	55
Total	442

**Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme**

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

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	No. of Properties	Delivered
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118*
Total	289	301

Status Update March 2025	
Units completed to date	71**
Works in progress	10
Contract awarded February	13
In tender process	11
Tender process to commence April	15
Total	120 No.
2025 Allocation	120 No.

**Notes**

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

\*\* includes 51 units completed in Q4 2024

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



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### Affordable Housing - Expression of Interest in County Wexford for Building Contractors and Housing Developers

Wexford County Council are seeking expressions of interest for the delivery of new dwellings for affordable housing in county Wexford

In this call, home builders and housing developers are being asked to consider offering properties with planning permission to Wexford County Council under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement. This call is targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 dwellings in any one scheme. Please note that Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended applies.

### ‘Register of Interest in Affordable Housing’ – Launching May 2025



**AFFORDABLE HOMES WEXFORD** Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council

### CALL TO HOME BUILDERS & HOUSING DEVELOPERS

Wexford County Council are seeking expressions of interest for the delivery of new dwellings for affordable housing in county Wexford

In this call, home builders and housing developers are being asked to consider offering properties with planning permission to Wexford County Council under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement.

The Affordable Housing Act 2021 provides for Local Authorities to acquire, build or cause to be built, affordable dwellings that can be subsequently sold to eligible applicants (assessed by Wexford County Council) through direct sales agreements between purchasers and developers.

Application forms/Programme information can be requested by emailing - [affordablehomes@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:affordablehomes@wexfordcoco.ie) or downloaded from [www.wexfordcoco.ie/housing/affordable-housing](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/housing/affordable-housing)

All applications made under this Expression of Interest will be assessed and approved by the Housing Agency as of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Please note that Wexford County Council are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014



**AFFORDABLE HOMES WEXFORD** Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council

### Looking For Your New Home?

Have you considered Wexford County Council's Affordable Housing Scheme?

For more information please e-mail [affordablehomes@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:affordablehomes@wexfordcoco.ie)

Please fill out the Register of Interest form [www.wexfordcoco.ie/housing/affordable-housing](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/housing/affordable-housing)

Wexford County Council is launching an online ‘Register of Interest’ for people who feel they may be eligible to acquire or rent an affordable home from the council. The findings will help in determining the level of interest in affordable housing purchase and cost rental and is for the purpose of gathering information on:

\*Income levels    \*Family size    \*Housing type    \*Location preference

The information will be used to inform the Council on the level of demand and locations for affordable houses and the house prices that people can afford. This will also aid the design of schemes with the right type of homes, at the locations and price points that suit applicant's needs.

Availability of any affordable housing schemes progressed by the Council in the future will be advertised separately, and a formal application process will apply in accordance with the legislation in place at that time.

The registration application is now available on Wexford County Council's website. All information provided will be retained in full adherence to Wexford County Council's Data Protection Policy and in compliance with GDPR requirements.

## Coming Soon – New Affordable Housing Purchase Schemes

Wexford County Council is partnering with Wexford Low Energy Homes to provide up to 24 new homes for sale under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme. The housing schemes are located in Wexford and Enniscorthy town and will be offered for sale to eligible purchasers nominated by Wexford County Council.

### Applications

Applications for both housing schemes must be made through the online portal which will open on the Wexford County Council website in the coming months.

Further details to follow, interested applicants are asked to register their interest in the schemes by emailing [affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:affordablehousing@wexfordcoco.ie)

## AFFORDABLE HOMES COMING SOON



**Ard Uisce**

**NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME**

**Coming Soon**

**Prices starting from €250,000**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST PLEASE E-MAIL

[AFFORDABLEHOMES@WEXFORDCOCO.IE](mailto:AFFORDABLEHOMES@WEXFORDCOCO.IE)

3 Bed Room and 4 Bed Room

WEXFORD LOW ENERGY HOMES | Camhairle Co. Loch Garman Wexford County Council | 2040 | AFFORDABLE HOMES WEXFORD



**OLD FORGE ROAD**

CREATING COMMUNITIES IN WEXFORD, FOR OVER 25 YEARS

**NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME**

**Coming Soon**

**Prices starting from €250,000**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST PLEASE E-MAIL

[AFFORDABLEHOMES@WEXFORDCOCO.IE](mailto:AFFORDABLEHOMES@WEXFORDCOCO.IE)

3 Bed Room and 4 Bed Room

WEXFORD LOW ENERGY HOMES | Camhairle Co. Loch Garman Wexford County Council | 2040 | AFFORDABLE HOMES WEXFORD



## CHOICE BASED LETTING

58 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2025 to 30/04/25. As multiple properties were available in some cases, a total of 127 properties were available for allocation.

Municipal District	Properties Available for Allocation	No. of Properties Advertised
Enniscorthy	16	13
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	42	12
New Ross	41	16
Rosslare	6	6
Wexford	22	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>58</b>

## HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

From the 1st January to 30th April, 2025 Wexford County Council allocated 129 properties. There were also a further 35 Approved Housing Body tenancies

Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	7	1	25	5	0	38
New Ross	10	0	22	1	1	34
Enniscorthy	7	2	8	3	1	21
Wexford	18	2	18	9	0	47
Rosslare	7	0	0	17	0	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164</b>

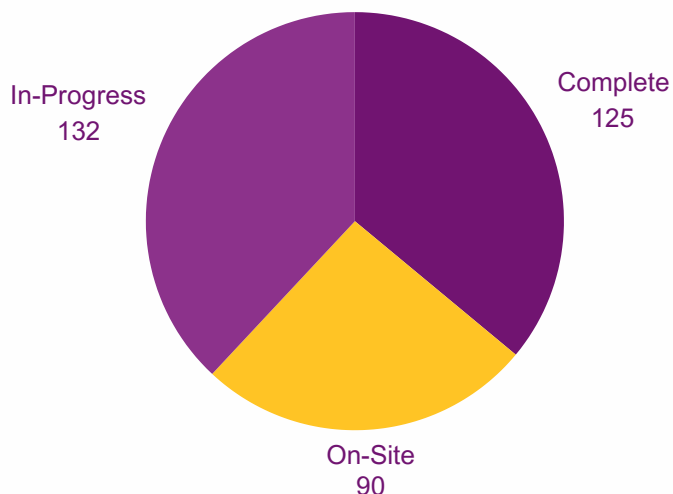
## ESTATE MANAGEMENT CASES

The figures below are from 01/03/2025 - 30/04/2025			
Area	Complaint	Open	Total
Enniscorthy	Abandonment	3	3
	Breach of Tenancy	2	2
	Estate Management	4	4
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	2	2
	<b>Enniscorthy Total :</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Gorey Kilmuckridge	Breach of Tenancy	3	3
	Estate Management	7	7
	<b>Gorey Kilmuckridge Total :</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
New Ross	Breach of Tenancy	1	1
	Estate Management	3	3
	Unauthorised Occupants	3	3
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	4	4
	<b>New Ross Total :</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Rosslare	Breach of Tenancy	1	1
	Estate Management	2	2
	Violence	1	1
	<b>Rosslare Total :</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Wexford	Breach of Tenancy	11	11
	Damage to property	2	2
	Estate Management	2	2
	Unauthorised Occupants	1	1
	Verbal Abuse/Harassment	1	1
	<b>Wexford Total :</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>

# HOUSING CAPITAL - CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY	
Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings Complete 2024	54
Dwellings to Complete 2025	90
Dwellings to Complete 2026	132
Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline	439

Construction Status



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

Creagh, Gorey	22 Units	Tagoat, Rosslare	18 Units
Wexford Street, Gorey	30 Units	Ramsfort Park, Gorey	20 Houses

Funded Projects for delivery 2025 – 2026			
Monomolin, Gorey	5	Ballygillane, Rosslare	5
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Grogans Road, Wexford	4
Rosbercon, New Ross	50	Killeens, Wexford	60
Adamstown, New Ross	3	Francis Street, Wexford	2
<b>Total 132</b>			

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Clonard, Wexford	55	Creagh, Gorey	24
Group TAP Housing	5	Castlemoyle, New Ross	82
Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	The Lyre, Enniscorthy	50
Bride Street, Wexford	3	St Walerans, Gorey	100
Lacken TAP	1	Park, Wexford	12
Kilmore Quay, Rosslare	12	Belvedere, Wexford	8
		Bunclody, Enniscorthy	65
<b>Total 439</b>			





## Year of the Normans 2027

The Inaugural County Norman Forum was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

The forum was chaired by Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, and brought together elected representatives and key stakeholders from across County Wexford to explore new avenues for heritage-led cultural cooperation and to work in conjunction with a number of Norman congregations and territories in Europe to mark the Millenium Year of the birth of William the Conqueror.

Two distinguished guests from the Normandy Region of France, Jean-Gabriel Guyant, General Delegate for the Year of the Normans project, and Candice Rousseau, Project Officer for Cooperation with the UK, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, attended in person to present an exciting initiative titled “2027 Year of the Normans.”

The “2027 Year of the Normans” is an international programme developed by the Normandy Region to commemorate the legacy of the Normans across Europe. It aims to connect history with contemporary global challenges including migration, climate change, and intercultural dialogue. The initiative envisions long-term cultural, educational, and tourism partnerships across Norman-influenced regions, with the ultimate goal of strengthening a shared European identity.

This visionary project already took its first steps during the European Summit of the Norman People, held in October 2024 at the historic Abbaye aux Dames in Caen, France. The summit convened representatives from Ireland, France, Southern Italy and Sicily, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, Flanders and the Channel Islands.

2027 will see various events taking place across the represented areas.

Joining the Wexford forum online were:

- Michael Dodds, Director of Normandie Tourisme and Normandie Attractivité
- Pierre Alexandre Beurlion, International Cooperation Officer, Normandy Regional Council
- Xavier d’Argoeuves, Councillor for Cooperation and Cultural Action, French Embassy in Ireland
- Julien Bougon, Deputy Director, Office de Tourisme du Cotentin
- Anne-Maria Power, Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Ireland)



## Fringe Fleadh 2025



Following the success of the Fringe Fleadh in 2024 the Economic Development Section has once again allocated funding to Gorey, Enniscorthy New Ross and Rosslare Municipal Districts to stimulate the interest in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025 in each district to support potential tourists to County Wexford.

Each of the four Districts will run Fringe Fleadh events around County Wexford prior to the main Fleadh event. To coincide with the County Fleadh taking place in Gorey on May 11th it is proposed to launch details of the Fringe events.

## Wexford Showreel at Cherbourg Port

Following the various meetings that took place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March during the Wexford delegation visit to Cherbourg. County Wexford is now promoted through a County Showreel on various screens at the Terminal building at Cherbourg port.

The County Wexford Video Showreel includes footage of paragliding on Mount Leinster, Enniscorthy Castle, Vinegar Hill, Fr Murphy Centre, Oulart Hill, Slade Harbour, Knights Templar Church, Fethard Castle, Duncannon Fort, Tintern Abbey, The Burrow, JFK Arboretum, Dunbrody Famine Ship, Courtown, Ferns Castle, Wells House, Curracloe & The Raven, Johnstown Castle, Irish National Heritage Park.



## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

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

County Wexford Chamber in conjunction with Wexford County Council are due to honour the leading business across County Wexford in a gala awards evening to be held in Clayton Whites hotel on 23rd May. The annual awards provide a platform for recognise the achievement of businesses of all sizes across the county. The Local Enterprise Office is once again sponsoring the County Wexford Start-Up Business of the Year Award 2025

## B2B Roundtable Networking Morning

On Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup>, LEO Wexford participated in the County Wexford Chamber B2B Roundtable Networking Morning held in the Ashdown Park Hotel in Gorey. Business Advisor Jill Kelleher, provided advice on funding, training and digital and sustainability supports available from the Local Enterprise office to assist business to scale efficiently.

## National Enterprise Awards

Felix Oster of Well Preserved Ltd T/A Mór Taste will represent Wexford at the Final of the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House in Dublin on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. These awards celebrate all that is best in entrepreneurship, small business and Irish enterprise. Every county in Ireland will nominate a representative for the finals, and across 5 categories, an overall national winner, plus 5 category winners and regional winners will be chosen.



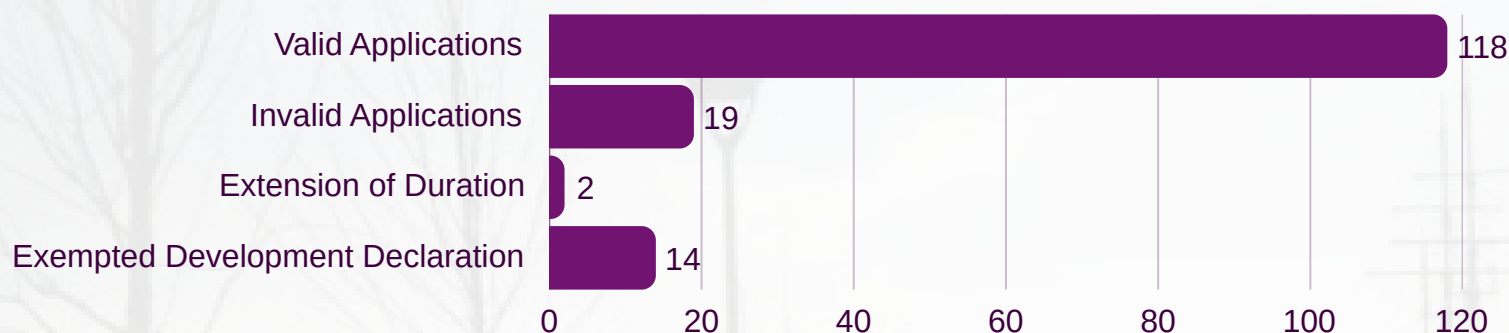
Felix participated in the Judging process in Mullingar on April 8<sup>th</sup>, presenting an overview of his business plan and outlining the success of his company to date.

## LEO Participation in National Events.

The LEO National Committee, which coordinates the Networks participation in National Events, The Ploughing Championship and Bloom are currently assessing interest from businesses across the Country to participate in the LEO Village at both events.

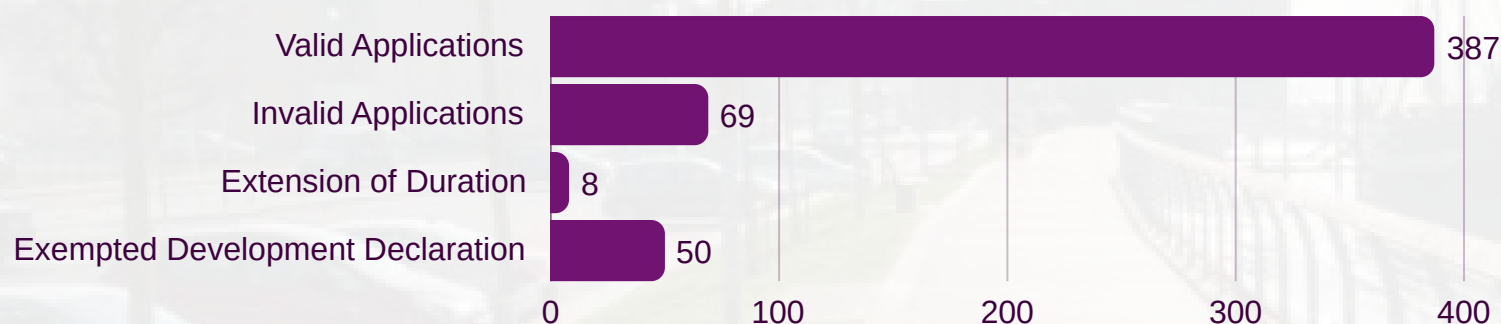


## Planning applications received from 24th March 2025 to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Total number of applications: **137**

## Planning Applications received year to date - 1st January to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025



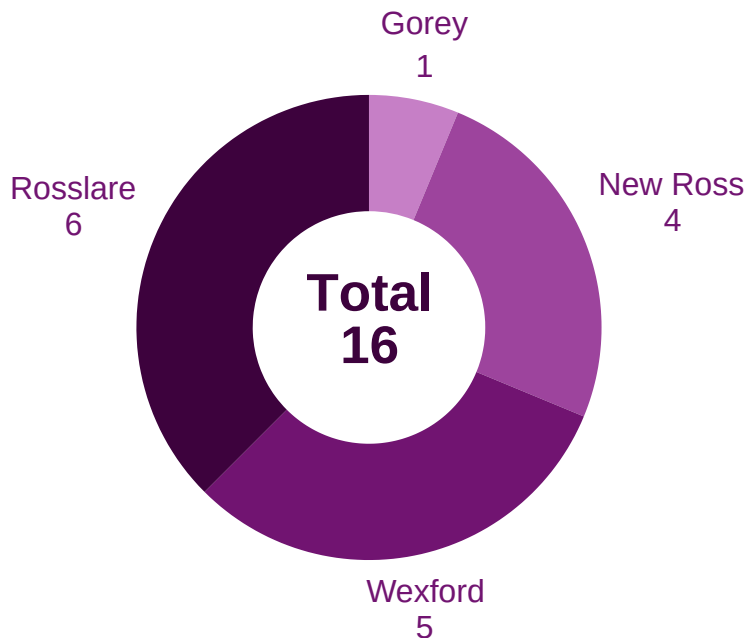
Total number of applications: **456**

## Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	27	8	9
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	49	20	18
New Ross MD	29	8	14
Rosslare MD	33	17	2
Wexford BD	38	18	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>58</b>

## Major Pre-Planning

Year to date up to the 31st March 2025 number of meetings held by district:



Commercial  
Development  
(approx. sqm)

**3,481**

Total No. of  
Housing Units

**411**

## Planning CSO Returns

2025 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Housing Developments (total no. units)	Apartments incl. self contained dwelling units (total no. units)	One off Houses	Total no. permissions granted for new dwellings
108	16	61	185

## Planning and Building Control SPC

The first meeting of the Planning and Building Control SPC took place on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April**.

The new SPC is **chaired by Cllr John Fleming and includes 6 council members**. Representation from IFA, CIF and Trade Unions were also present.

The first meeting including agenda items on SPC Work Programme, National Planning Framework, New Planning Act, and Development Contributions Scheme review.

### Building Control - From 1st January 2025 to the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Validated  
Commencement Notices

**101**

Building Control Inspections

**126**

Validated Cert. of Compliance  
on Completion

**30**

### Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Live Cases

**440**

Cases Opened (YTD)

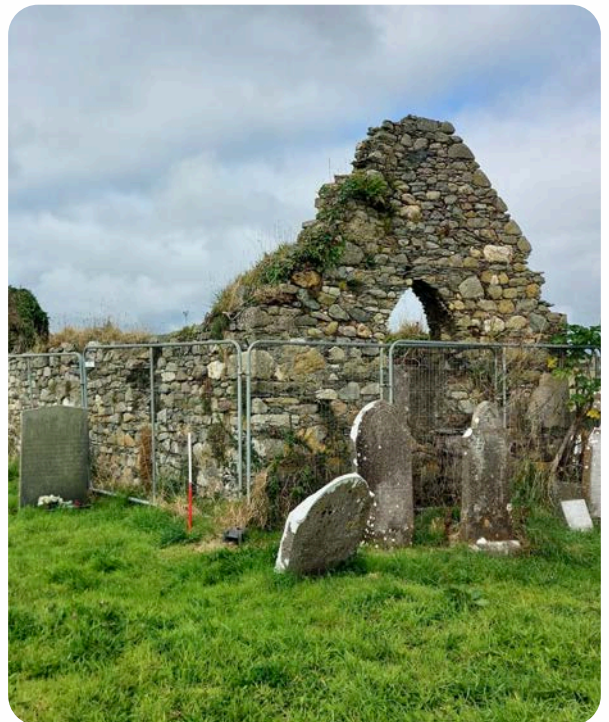
**100**

Cases Closed (YTD)

**75**

### Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage

In April the Heritage Section was successful in securing **€430,867** in funding for six medieval structures in County Wexford under the National Monuments Service's Community Monuments Fund. These works will see essential conservation repairs carried out on **Clonmines church, Killag church, Ballycogley castle and Lady's Island Castle**, while conservation management plans will be undertaken for Carnagh and Ballyvaldon churches. This investment will help conserve, maintain and protect these important monuments for the benefit of communities and the public.



### Dangerous Structures and Places

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

Section 3.1 Notice

**3**

Section 3.2 Notice

**1**

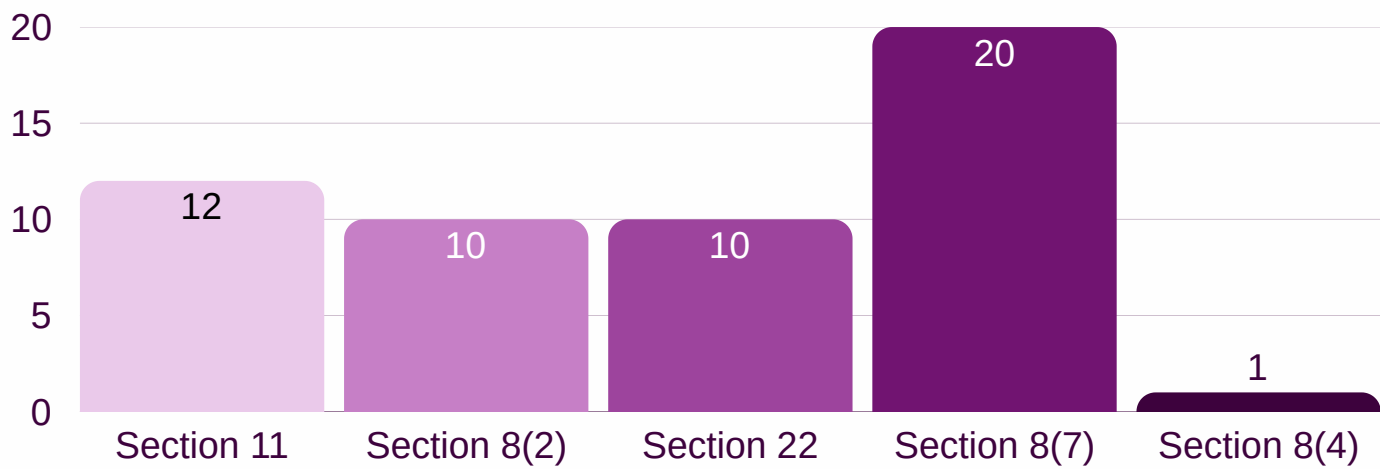
New Files Opened

**3**



Derelict Sites

Derelict Site Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.  
Year to date up to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025:



Total number of Notices issued: **57**



\*Year to date figures

URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund

174 sites approved on the programme as of the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025



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

A URDF meeting took place with the Department of Housing on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and received good feedback on the progress of the URDF Call 3 Programme.

## Access - Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

24 valid DAC applications for the year to date up to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Total 41** - 17 carried over from 2024

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	2	1	1	2	1
Gorey	10	1	7	3	0
New Ross	4	0	2	3	0
Wexford	6	0	6	11	0
Rosslare	2	0	1	0	2
2025 Totals	24	2	17	19	3

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

Referrals:

**38**

LAC/PLAC and  
General Planning Applications

**4**

Major  
Pre-Planning

**2**

Appeals  
1 upheld, 1 received

## Access Items

The Access office continues to work on programme of works for 2025, supporting Access for All within the Fleadh and working with departments to ensure NDIS reporting is kept up to date.



Installation of wheelchair accessible park bench in the Cahore Picnic Area

### Forward Planning

#### Wexford Town Local Area Plan

Work is progressing well with the Wexford Town Local Area Plan. A report is being prepared on the consultations on the Town Centre First Strategy. The consultations included an internal workshop with the Town Team and a themed walkabout and workshop led by the Town Team, attended by the public, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. Written submission were also invited and they will also inform the

consultation report and strategy. This TCFS will be informed by an economic and market report. A draft of the report has been received and has been reviewed.



The Draft Rainwater Management Plan has been received from McCloy Consulting and a workshop is planned between the consultants and a number of Council Departments to review the plan. An ecology report and associated mapping has been completed and it will be used to inform the land use zoning and environmental, biodiversity and amenity proposals and policies of the plan. Flood risk mapping has been received from JBA Consulting and it is being used to inform land use zoning proposals. The Local Area Plan team continue their work on drafting the spatial planning framework for the plan area with work currently focused on reviewing the detailed urban design framework for the plan area, prepared by Loci Consultants

#### County Development Plan Monitoring

Work is ongoing on the Chief Executive's Report on the achievement of the objectives of the Plan. The Plan contains over 1,200 objectives covering the Council's key programmes, activities and projects, and monitoring ensures that these objectives are being met as set out. Work has commenced on the monitoring of the environmental indicators contained in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the plan.

# REGENERATION UNIT

## Town Centre First

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

Initial consultations are complete and the Consultants working with the Town Team and the TRO are working through the feedback. It is envisaged that we will have a draft town centre first plan by mid-June, this will then go out on display for 4 weeks with a final Town centre first plan expected by Autumn 2025.

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

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

## Vacant Homes

Work is continuing on vacant homes with the administration of the Croi Conaithe Grant taking up the vast majority of our time with over €220,000 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 30-04-25	
Applications Received	455
Inspections Required (First)	16
Inspections Required (Final)	15
Applications Info Requested	121
Applications Approved	318
Awaiting Approval	0
Applications Rejected	3
Application on Hold	0
Withdrawn By Applicant	8
Funding Issued	66
Total Funding Paid to Date	€3,820,037.00



# WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme	
<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<b>Kilanerin GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrate removal and monitor included in MARWP submissions.</li> <li>Awaiting announcement from Department on approved projects under the MARWP 2024-2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<b>Blackstairs GWS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Caim Tank</b> – Works complete. Road Reinstatement to take place in Q2 2025.</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 Q4 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<b>Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender assessment report sent to Department for review.</li> <li>The Department have stated that The Bing CWWC is not considered to be value for money and will not provide any funding for its construction.</li> <li>WCC are requesting a review of this decision</li> </ul>
<b>MARWP 2024-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission made to Dept. by closing date 12th April</li> <li>Submissions made across a range of measures totaling €3.26 million.</li> <li>All submitted projects have progressed to Phase 2 assessment</li> <li>Awaiting announcement from the Department</li> </ul>
<b>Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)</b>	<b>Individual Well Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of <b>21</b> new well grant applications were registered in April 2025.</li> <li><b>27</b> Well Grants have been paid in this period, totaling <b>€52,712.99</b></li> <li><b>47</b> inspections to date carried out to date in March 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Needs for Villages &amp; Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service</b>	<b>New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister announced Ramsgrange is one of the successful projects under the €50 million Rural Water scheme.</li> <li>Detailed programme for the delivery of project was submitted to Dept. on 10th May 24.</li> <li>Meeting held with Dept. 28th June to discuss next steps for advancing project.</li> <li>Project now with Uisce Eireann to progress to next stage.</li> <li>Workshop -5 held with UE on 3rd October.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Remediation Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 applications received to date on revised grant, 6 paid, 3 approved.</li> </ul>

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

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

#### N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

Meeting with Iarnród Éireann regarding the railway protection structure at the River Slaney Bridge crossing is scheduled in the first week of May. Consultation with directly affected landowners is ongoing. Preparation of Environmental, Planning, Design and other reports are ongoing.

#### N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project is currently in Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement. Main Contract Tender documents package is near completion. The technical and safety approval process with Irish Rail for the Ballygerry Railway Overbridge is ongoing.

Individual Notice to Treat letters has been issued on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Archaeological Services (Stage i – iv) tender documents are finalised and will be published in coming weeks.

## NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

### Safety Schemes

National Road	Progress update
N25 Tagoat	Detailed design of the traffic calming scheme is ongoing.
N80 Clohamon	Camera surveys and traffic count reports are being reviewed to determine the most suitable works.
N30 Leeches Bend	The preliminary design is pending TII approval. The revised scheme to be tendered in May
N25 Larkins Cross	The Feasibility & Options report has been approved by TII The preliminary design is being developed in conjunction with the submission for Part 8 consent approval. Tender documents to be completed by Q3

### 2025 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballygillane to Ashfield Cross Roundabout Phase 2 Pavement Scheme €2,460,000

The pavement scheme is due to be completed by the end of May.

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2025 €2,750,000

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

- N11 Oilgate to Scurlocksbush Roundabout. 1.7km
- N30 Ballymackessy 1.0km

Tender documents are being prepared at present and these schemes will be tendered in July.

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

**Restoration Improvement Programme** - Wexford's allocation is €12,068,000.

92 projects have been added to our countywide programme. Macadam and strengthening works are ongoing in each District.

**Surface Dressing Programme** - Wexford's allocation is €2,841,500.

71 projects have been added to our programme and will commence in mid-May. Preparation is underway on road surfaces and surface dressing designs.

### **Severe Weather Repairs -**

- Adamstown on the R735 has been completed with some minor riverbed works to be complete during the summer. The R735 is fully reopened.
- Little Cullenstown Bridge is substantially complete and the local road reopened.
- Grange Cliff Stabilisation Works, Fethard will be complete in May.

**Winter Maintenance** - The season closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April. A total of 184 treatments were delivered during the season across the five winter service routes. A complete service review will be carried out prior to the 2025-26 season in October.

**General Maintenance** - Drainage, patching and road surface repair works are ongoing in all Districts. The projects under the other Roads Programmes are progressing.

## **ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE**

**Newtown Road – Phase 1** – Project is now complete.

**Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3** Tender documents to be completed in May 2025.

**Hospital Junction, Newtown Road** - The Part 8 consent process is live and the closing date for submissions is 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme** - Document preparation to progress to Part 8 in Q2 2025

**Roxborough Cycle Scheme** - This Scheme design is being finalised to proceed to Part 8 in Q3 2025.

**Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme** - Oaklands to Kents Cross Cycle Scheme (New Ross) to progress to Part 8 in 2025.

## **Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)**

**Wexford Town** - Completion of this study is expected in July 2025 after which a draft assessment plan will be issued.

**Enniscorthy Town** - The options development report is being finalised. Further assessments and consultations will proceed throughout 2025.

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

Ramsgrange: The project is substantially complete, with some line marking outstanding.

## **2025 Safe Routes to School Programme**

The following sites are approved for works in 2025:

1. Ballaghkeene NS. Public consultation under Section 38 currently underway
2. Kiltealy NS - Topographical survey completion and preliminary design started.
3. Enniscorthy Vocational College – Preliminary design complete for internal review and costing
4. Ballyroe buck NS has been approved for works as part of an additional scheme for schools on high-speed roads. Surveys have commenced.

## **Public e-bike and e-Scooter Sharing Scheme**

Expressions of Interest received from 4 suppliers/operators for an e-bike and e-scooter scheme to operate in Wexford Town. The procurement process will continue through May.

## **Castlebridge to Wexford Road (R741)**

Topographical survey is complete and the preliminary design process will follow.



## PUBLIC LIGHTING

### Public Lighting Development Fund

The following are schemes are being progressed at present:

Location	Progress update
Churchtown Road, Kilrane	ESB connection applied. Out for design quotation.
Old Garden City, Gorey	ESB connection applied. Out for design and quotation.
Sean O Byrne Park, Gorey	ESB connection applied. Out for design and quotation.
Saltmills Village	ESB connection applied. Out for design and quotation.
Ballycullane Village	Out for design and quotation. ESB connection will be applied for once the design has been confirmed.
Mary's Lane, Wexford Town	Pots and ducts installed. Once they have been surveyed, design & quotations will be invited. Connection will be sought once design is confirmed.
Glentire Heights, The Ballagh	Duct installed, in conjunction with Active Travel's safe routes to school, design and quotations will be sought.
Ballycogley Village	ESB connection will be applied for once the design has been confirmed.
Coolgreaney Village	Needs to be surveyed. ESB connection will be applied for once the design has been confirmed.
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	Pots & ducts installed. ESB connection will be applied for once the design has been confirmed.
Kilanerin Village	Full design required for village pinpoint deficiencies. Design to be carried out in May.
Screen Village	Additional lights required from the village centre to St. Cyrian's Villas.
Kilhile, Arthurstown	Design required here and quotations will be sought for an additional 3-4 lights.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

**Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project** - Appointments have now been made for both Project Archaeology and Conservation Engineering services, which will facilitate an application for Ministerial consents for the project.

*ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept masterplanning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project. This was presented at the April meeting of the Enniscorthy MD.*

### **Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building**

The activity centre building is currently on hold. It is planned to commence construction of the boathouse and associated works in Q2 2025 subject to confirmation of funding. *No update.*

### **WEXFORDIA – Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects.** *No update.*

**New Ross Tourism Project** - Both teams are working towards the completion of a familiarisation and preliminary design plan in advance of an application for Part VIII development consent in early May 2025.

**Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway** - The compilation of the Options Selection Report commenced in October 2024 and is currently ongoing. It is expected to confirm a preferred route in Q2/3 2025, with Public Consultation of the preferred option taking place in Q3 2025.

**Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme** - A public consultation event was held in the Tara Vie hotel on the 23rd of January '25 and was attended by 300 locals. Feedback from the event was very positive for the scheme. An application for category 2 RRDF funding was submitted in March'25. *No update for May.*

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

**Adoration Convent Wexford** - Tender assessment is now complete, and it is intended to appoint a works contractor to commence works onsite in Spring 2025. *No update for May.*

**Gorey Market House** - It was announced Gorey Market House was successful in grant application under EU THRIVE scheme receiving the maximum allocation of €7m grant aid. A tender for the procurement of an architect led design team for detailed design, procurement and construction supervision services was published in December 2024. *Technical Consultancy Services Contract/s have been awarded for Architect led integrated design team for detailed design, procurement and construction supervision services (Stage (ii) to (v)) in April 2025.*

### **Esmonde Street, Gorey**

A tender competition for a works contractor was published to etenders in December 2024. The Tender Assessment is ongoing. It is anticipated that construction will commence on-site in September 2025. *No update.*



**Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 2** - The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for Stage (i) to (v) design services. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. It is anticipated the tender for construction works will be published in Q2 2025. *No update.*

**Enniscorthy Technology Park – IDA Advance Factory Building** - The Technical Consultancy Services Contract has been awarded for an architect-led design team to prepare a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park. Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. It is anticipated the planning application will be lodged in Q3 2025.

**Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience Upgrade and Extension** - A tender for the procurement of a consultant to undertake Stage (i) to (v) design services for the upgrade and extension of the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience was published under an existing framework in Q1 2025. *It is anticipated that a design team will be now appointed in May 2025.*

## PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**Trinity Wharf** - A Site Investigation contractor has been appointed and they are due to start on site expected to commence in April 2025, following which Irish Rail will build a level crossing for site access ahead of the main construction contracts in Q4 2025.

The next construction works contract is expected to commence in Q4 2025 and will comprise the new sea wall, bulk filling, essential site services and select surface works. *No update.*

**Curraclloe Water Sports Activity Facility** - The main works contract has been awarded to Kilcaven Property Developments. Works commenced on site in mid-October 2024, with completion expected in summer 2025. *No update.*

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

**Rosbercon Trailhead** - Preliminary Design - Pre-planning meeting took place for masterplan design proposal on Rosbercon trailhead 11/4/25

**Lot 4** - Detailed Design - Fehily Timoney and Company are advancing designs for Lot 4 and all other Lots for the completion of the greenway. It is targeted to commence works on Lot 4 in Q3 2025

**Under construction** - The contractor requested substantial completion for Phase 2, a 5.5 km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore in December 2024

A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit for Lot 2 and 5a took place in January 2025 and made a number of recommendations. A proposal for a proposed instruction has been sought from Glas to address these items and some subsequent works will be required in advance of opening that section, which is targeted for Q2 2025.

## FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEMES

**Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme** - Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Kevin Moran met with local Councillors in Enniscorthy on 15th of April 2025. The Minister confirmed his commitment to providing a Flood Relief Scheme for Enniscorthy and that funding is in place for the scheme.

**Phase 1 - New River Slaney Bridge Project** - Public consultation will take place on the emerging preferred option for Phase 1 on the 13th of May 2025 at the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy from 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The planning application for Phase 1 is to be submitted in Q2 2026.

**Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme** - A threshold survey is to be carried out in March 25 on 1,700 premises in low lying parts of the town and areas known to be subject to flood risk. A media campaign informing residents and owners about this survey is ongoing. Coastal and fluvial modelling is continuing. *No update.*

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)** - The new DRCD (Department of Rural & Community Development) unit within Special Projects has taken over the administration of the ORIS scheme from the Environment Section. Environment Section will continue to provide support on the delivery of existing projects. *No update.*

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)** - The new DRCD (Department of Rural & Community Development) unit within Special Projects has taken over the administration of the ORIS scheme from the Environment Section. Environment Section will continue to provide support on the delivery of existing projects. *No update.*

## DRCD CAPITAL DELIVERY TEAM

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)** - Following Expressions of Interest from local community/voluntary groups, the following Funding Applications have been submitted to the Department for Rural & Community Development (DRCD) under the various ORIS Measures. Notification of successful applications is expected in Q3 2025.

ORIS Measure	Proposed Project:	District
M1	Rehabilitate Cliff Top Walk, Rosslare Harbour	RMD
M1	Vinegar Hill Links	EMD
M1	Morriscastle Beach Access	GKMD
M1	Taghmon-Carrigfoyle Cycle Route	RMD
M1	Sweetwalk Trail, Ramsfort	GKMD
M1	Crory Lane Link to Edenvale	WBD
M2	Kellyswood Trail Link	NRMD
M2	Coolgreany to Ballyfad Walking Trail	GKMD
M2	Wellintonbridge to Little Seas Walking Trail	RMD
M3	Our Lady's Island Trail (Ph 3)	RMD
M4	Feasibility Study of Wexford's Outdoor Recreation Potential along the Waterford Estuary	NRMD
M4	Blackstairs Recreation Trail Feasibility Study	RMD/EMD

**Note:** M1: Small Scale Repair/Development/Promotion & Marketing (Grant: up to €40,000)

M2: Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development (Grant: up to €200,000)

M3: Strategic Large-Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategic Trail/Amenity Development ( Grant: up to €500,000)

M4: Project Development Measure: Development Costs for Strategic Large-Scale Projects ( Grant: up to €50,000)



## Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

In response to the issuing of the Fourth Call for RRDF Category 2 Funding the following applications were submitted to DRCD for consideration.(detailed development and enabling initiatives required to enable a project to reach Cat 1 readiness – Grant of up to €1m)

Notification of successful applications is expected in Q2 2025

RMD	<p><b>Europe's Gateway to Ireland - Rosslare's Sustainable Tourism Experience</b></p> <p>This project will revitalise, develop and support the inter-connection of two highly strategic coastal villages in County Wexford (Rosslare Harbour and Rosslare Strand). A greenway is proposed to connect these two villages and this RRDF application is for the strategic design of large-scale and transformative infrastructure and public realm projects in both settlements.</p>
GKMD	<p><b>Coastal Destination Courtown Project (Beach Nourishment, Marina &amp; Public Realm Development)</b></p> <p><b>Phase 1</b> Restore a c.500m stretch of the North Beach to Blue Flag status by importing 225,000m<sup>3</sup> of beach nourishment material (sand) and constructing sediment containment structures to protect against future losses.</p> <p><b>Phase 2</b> Deliver a new c.198 berth marina complex, outdoor tidal swimming pool and adjacent 1.2 Ha public realm area, all within the perimeter of an outer protective rock berm and concrete training wall.</p>

## Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Minister Dara Calleary TD launched the Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025 on 19th March 2025

Wexford County Council invited Expressions of Interest from towns/villages who may have a suitable project for consideration under the Main Scheme and Project Development Measure. All EOI's received will be assessed and selected proposals will be developed into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department for Rural and Community Development. Closing date for EOI's was 30th April 2025.

## COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date (76%)	€1,174,450.24(incl. WCC Admin)
Works complete (21 projects)	78%
Works in progress (2 projects)	7%
To be started (4 projects DRCD granted extensions to June 2025)	15%
Total fund claimed to Q3 2024 from Dept.	67%

### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024 - Progress to date

Total Fund	€1,703,377 (incl. WCC Admin)
Total fund expenditure to date	€311,873.64 (incl. WCC Admin)
Works in progress (4 of 23 projects)	22%
Shortlisted Window 1 – March 2024	€798,291.00
Shortlisted Window 2 – September 2024	€241,996.00
Shortlisted Window 3 – February 2025 TBC by DRCD	€574,026.74

#### The following milestones have been achieved this period:

- Awaiting DRCD decision and final approval for Window 3 shortlist of 9 projects by WCC (presented end of February 2025).
- DRCD have requested 'further information' on 2 projects. WCC liaising between community groups and DRCD.
- Shortlist of projects embargoed until formal approval and announcement by DRCD.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continues to **provide support to those living under International Protection across the county.**



The LAIT invited the **Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB)** to deliver an **information session** at Wexford Library. The event provided valuable guidance on pathways to education, training, and employment for migrants and international protection applicants.

Attendees appreciated the clear, accessible information and the opportunity to ask direct questions about available supports.

In partnership with the **Football Association of Ireland (FAI)**, LAIT partnered in the coordination of an **Easter football camp** for children living in Direct Provision. Over 50 children from IPAS accommodation took part in the week of games, learning, and fun. The event fostered inclusion and promoted wellbeing through sport and play.

The **“My Kitchen to Your Kitchen”** programme came to a successful conclusion this month. Over the course of the project, women from Wexford’s IPAS Centre shared and developed culinary skills rooted in their cultural heritage. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants highlighting the social, cultural, and confidence-building value of the experience.

LAIT continued its collaboration with Sports Active to support the **Wellness Programme for Women** in Wexford’s IPAS Centre. The programme remains a key source of support for women seeking community and improved mental health.

As part of our ongoing efforts to listen and learn, LAIT hosted a series of focus groups - **Voices from the International Protection Community** explored the lived experiences of individuals in the international protection process. Facilitated by an Dr Amy Stapleton, the sessions were well attended and provided important insights that will inform future planning and service delivery.

LAIT welcomed the **Hope & Courage Collective** to Wexford for two engaging workshops. These sessions focused on practical strategies for working with communities around misinformation, racism, and the rights of asylum seekers. Attendees included Members & staff of Wexford County Council, who are actively working to foster inclusion and challenge harmful narratives

Two new Syrian families moved to Wexford this month and are settling into their new communities. Seven families are now accommodated under the **Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)** programme.

The IRPP hosted a joyful **Eid celebration** attended by Syrian families, friends from Gorey community, the Cathaoirleach, and the Chief Executive. The event was a warm gathering of food, culture, and friendship, highlighting the value of inclusion and shared celebration. The Community Integration Forum and IRPP Working Group met in April to discuss ongoing work.

## UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

### Accommodation

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

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	285	870
Irish Red Cross	34	110

Numbers of pledged properties and people placed by pledge type, source Ukraine Support Team, 22/04/25 Offer A Home website/IRC Tracker

The Offer A Home scheme has been extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

### Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

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

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	49	68
Unity Court, Wexford	33	57
Michael Street, Wexford	13	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	7	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	2	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	0	21



Healthy  
Wexford

HEALTHY WEXFORD

The next meeting of the **Healthy County Committee** is in early May with working groups meeting in advance of this date to update on project progression. As **Round Four the Healthy Ireland Fund** will complete in December partners are now being contacted regarding remaining spend and activity to ensure fund maximisation before the completion date.





The next course of **'Strong Not Tough' Resilience Training for Community Volunteers** will take place in May in at County Hall in Wexford.

The learning and concepts of the programme, using the CBT approach provides an invaluable skill set for themselves and to share with the wider communities, in their homes, clubs etc.

This course is provided through the support of the Healthy Ireland Fund

Healthy Wexford are delighted to be collaborating with two community groups in the Rosslare MD for the further roll out of the Healthy Home Environments programme, which is supported by the Healthy Ireland Fund.

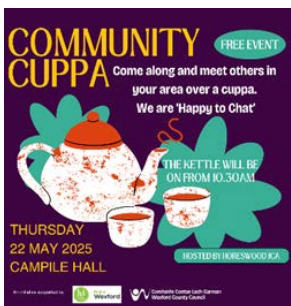


The series includes three themed information sessions on Thursdays in May: 8th May - The Air You Breathe, 15th May - Taking Precautions, and 22nd May - Energy Efficiency for Health

Day and evening time sessions are available as follows :

- Daytime in Rosslare (2pm-3.30pm) at Rosslare Community & Sports Centre
- Evening time in Tomhaggard (7pm-8.30pm) at Tomhaggard Social Centre

**For more details see our Healthy Wexford social media**



The first of a new pilot initiative **'Community Cuppa'** launched in April in Campile, hosted by Horeswood ICA and supported by Healthy Wexford. The initiative is a casual meet-up to chat, relax, and connect with others in the community over a free cuppa aimed at creating local social connections and reducing loneliness and isolation. This initiative is being supported by the Mental Wellbeing Working Group of the Healthy County Committee. The next event, in what will hopefully become a monthly event, will happen on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Once the pilot is reviewed there may be opportunity to extend to other communities.

**April events** that Healthy Wexford supported and collaborated on included Community Growers Field Trip, Country Connects social walk, and Cultural Companions events.



Our Healthy Wexford Coordinator was invited to the launch of Healthy Carlow and Healthy Kilkenny 'Not Around Us' Campaign Launch in Carlow recently.

We are delighted to see the 'Not Around Us' message continue to extend in the southeast and especially proud that Carlow and Kilkenny have followed the Wexford 'Not Around Us' approach where youth consultation is a key to sign up.

**Photo: Wexford, Kilkenny and Carlow Healthy County Coordinators**

The Chair of the OPC's and Programme Managers attended training organised by Age Friendly Ireland and hosted by Carlow County Council the Woodford Hotel.

Mary Carton Reynold covered a number of topics ranging from Diversity and Inclusion, Working with your Local Programme Manager and Communicating with the wider membership.



The Regional programme Manager meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April in Carlow and there were updates provided on the programme from the regions Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Kildare, and Waterford. Emer Coveny from Age Friendly Ireland introduced the new regional Programme Manager Caroline Brogan.

A number of topics were discussed, amongst which was looking at the potential for collaboration when producing information booklets and to share costs with the other programme so as to avoid duplication of work along with being more cost effective. It was also noted that the Department of Housing is introducing a directive to move applications to online and Age Friendly Ireland will see if they can follow up on this with the Department.

<b>Activator Poles</b>	An Activator Poles Program was carried out at New Ross Library with 11 participants - 10 female, 1 male
<b>PG Leader Workshop</b>	Crossabeg NS participated in the PG Leader Workshop. 12 boys & 8 girls
<b>Marathon kids</b>	295 children from 7 schools (Kennedy Park School, Murrintown NS, St Fintan's NS, Taghmon, Scoil Naomh Bríde, Ballycullane NS, Davidstown PS, Craanford NS) around the county of Wexford participated in the Marathon kid's programme. Children ran a distance of a marathon (42km) over the 8 weeks. This programme included educational wellbeing content and interactive online calls with brand ambassador David Gillick.
<b>Table Tennis schools programme</b>	Table Tennis Ireland Road Show in collaboration with SAW came to 8 primary schools in Co. Wexford, Gorey Central School, St. Josephs NS Gorey, Gaelscoil Gorey, Coolgreaney NS, Cushinstown NS, St. Fintans NS, Murrintown NS, Gusserane NS. 245 boys & 198 girls

<b>COPD Support Group</b>	1 staff member gave 2 talks at the Wexford and Enniscorthy COPD support groups to highlight the importance of physical activity while promoting the work of SAW.
<b>Prime time of Life</b>	Prime time of life train the trainer programme started in the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross. This is a train the trainer programme to upskill exercise professionals while working with older adults and individuals living with chronic conditions.
<b>Children's Inclusive Swim</b>	4 children with disabilities participated in the 5-week programme in Enniscorthy Swimming Pool – 1 girl & 3 boys
<b>Inclusive Aqua Aerobics for Adults</b>	Four adults (1 males and 3 females) with physical disabilities attended the 5-week programme in Wexford Swimming Pool.
<b>ESF+ Sport Empowerment 4</b>	Morans IPAS centre 1 to 1 session with Moran's IPAS Centre (17 females attended) 1 self-defence session delivered to 12
<b>Safeguarding</b>	No Safeguarding courses held in April
<b>Staff Training</b>	1 Staff member completed the Sport Ireland Women In Sport Leadership course.



**Schools Table Tennis Roadshow - 8 primary schools took part**

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

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

**Beaches** - Grange Beach Cliff Stabilisation works started in Oct 2024 and are now complete. The National Blue Flag Beach Award Ceremony by an Taisce is being hosted by Wexford County Council in Ravenport Hotel, Curracloe on Friday 16th May 2025.

**Green Coast Beaches:** we applied to An Taisce for 10 green coast beaches for 2025. Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton’s Gap, Rosslare Harbour, St Helen’s, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange, Baginbun, Booley Bay. An Taisce will announce the awards on 16th May 2025.

**Coast** - Seaview Coastal Protection and Beach Access, Kilmore. Contractor started works on site at the end of January 2025 and is currently scheduled for completion in Q3 2025.

- Kilpatrick temporary beach access in snow complete
- Ballyconniger & Clone bridges were installed before Easter.

**Operations** – Eddie Downes commenced work on 4th Feb as Pilot / AMO. The feasibility of carrying out dredging surveys is ongoing. A Marine User Licence Application for surveys has been submitted to MARA. The business development plan for the Port is ongoing and Explosive Byelaws are due to go to public consultation in May.

Public Conveniences

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

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2025	January-April 2025 10 application received	7 Grants paid/sent for payment	3 outstanding for review/documents due from 2024
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Court cases

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

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

No of Verification Inspections

2024 - Verification Inspection = 58	2025 - Verification Inspections = 6
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**Low Smoke Fuel Areas** - The 4 stations in New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey have now had their monitors updated to measure air quality and noise levels. There are also 14 low-cost sensors installed in Enniscorthy monitoring PM10 & PM2.5 only. UoG & UCC have started a programme called TownAir to monitor gases NOx, SO2, CO continuously, particle numbers 10 nm to 10 microns as well as black carbon and organic aerosol, ions ammonium, chloride, sulfate and nitrate, all in real-time, as well as collecting 24hr filter samples of PM2.5. The filter samples will be analysed for metal and toxicity. These will be compared with 2016 levels taken during the SAFFIRE project. They will be monitoring the weather also.

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

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

Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council carried out a total of 180 (TBC) farm inspections in 2024 and this has risen to 271 inspections in 2025 concentrating in areas where water quality was most at risk of not meeting its objectives under the WFD. A team of 4 Assistant Scientists take on this role lead by the Agricultural Scientist in the Environment Section. A total of 87 inspections have taken place in 2025 to date under GAP regulations, Sludge use in Agriculture and complaints made by the public. The team continue to work in Aughboy, Mangan, Boro, Owenduff, Heathpark & Begerin catchments for 2025.

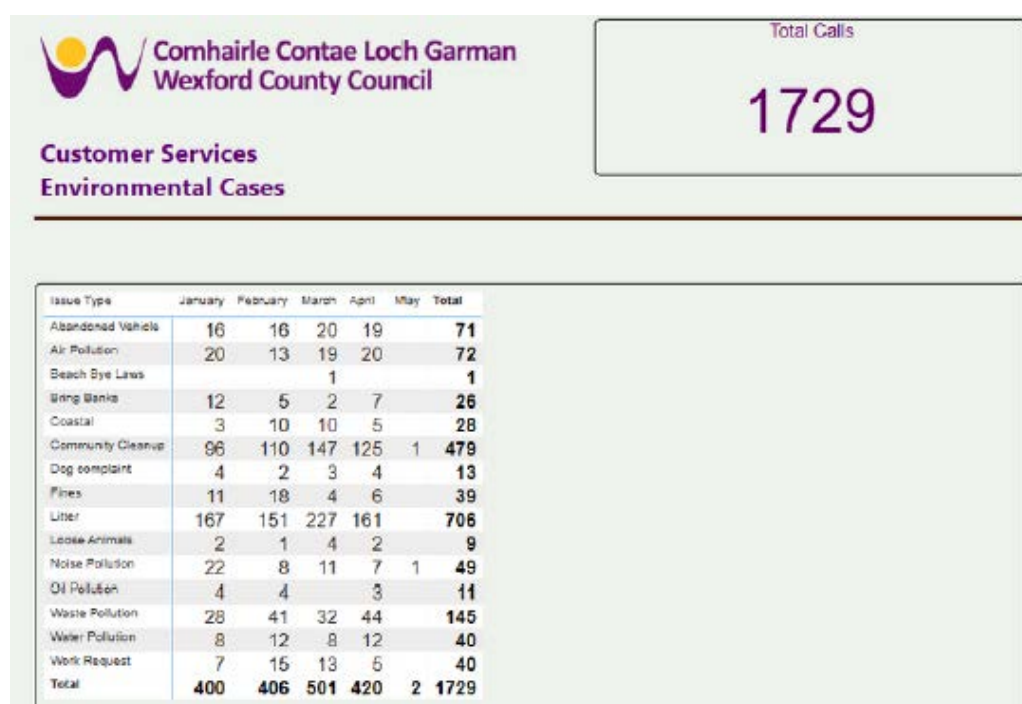
A total of 37 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications have been received in 2025 highlighting the continued investment in Wexford Agriculture and maintaining compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

YEAR	Dumping Incidents Reported	% Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
2025	951		469	

## Waste Management

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

	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan – Dec 2024	Jan - Apr 2025
Incidents	4997	5136	3896	4235	4195	1705
Closed	4996	5133	3710	3942	3766	1253
Closure Rate	99%	99%	95%	93%	90%	73%



**Total Calls logged  
January- April 2025**

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

Control of dogs	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dogs collected	546	575	564	115
Dogs reclaimed	117	128	147	27
Dogs re-homed/transferred	370	404	442	122
Dogs put to sleep	51	38	31	2
Dog Fines	21	14	11	0

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

RECYCLING SERVICES:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites March 2025	Recycling out (End March) 2024 (t)	Recycling out (End March) 2025 (t)
Glass bottles		904	1076.12
Aluminium Cans		22	8.59
Total	108	926	1084.71

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Mar2024(t)	Recycling out Jan- Mar 2025 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Mar 2024 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Mar 2025 (t)
Total Recycling out	109	118	170	163	213	228	89	83
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	824	866	N/A	N/A
Daily Average	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2023	2024
Customers Jan-Mar	69	72	115	114	133	143	86	85

**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	To end March 2024	March 2025	To end March 2025	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	646	428	796	+23%
Gorey *		98		
Enniscorthy *		115		
Wexford *		78		
New Ross*		86		
Rosslare		51		
Total Bring Site Inspections	2,311	842	2,512	+8.6%

## Environment Education and Awareness

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

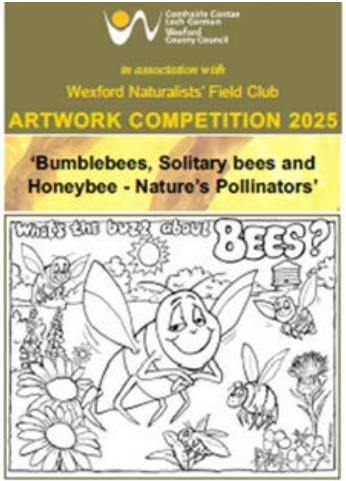
**Annual Artwork Competition:** The competition is being organised by the Environment Section and is run in conjunction with Wexford Naturalists' Field Club. The theme this year is 'Bumblebees, Solitary bees and Honeybee – Nature's Pollinators'. Details have been circulated to all schools. Closing date 23rd May.

**Rubbish Film Festival:** 10 secondary schools participated in this year's festival. The best poster and best film will go forward to the National awards held in May.

**Green Schools:** All assessments are now complete. 30 schools will receive their green flag at an awards ceremony on 14th May.

**National Spring Clean:** : Registrations continue with An Taisce for the National Spring Clean which takes place during the month of April.

**Snap Into Action:** Details of the Snap into action competition has been circulated to schools and community groups.



Date	No. of Community Clean UPs
01/03/25 - 30/04/2025	116
01/01/25 – 31/04/2025	469

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

**Marram Grass Planting:** On Friday 18th April Wexford County Council and Clean Coasts hosted a workshop for, and with local clean coasts and local community groups to complete some restoration work on the sand dunes at Curracloe Beach. The purpose of the workshop was to upskill volunteers in the region on how to replant sand dunes, to raise awareness of the importance of sand dunes to humans and nature, plants and wildlife in dunes and information on coastal erosion.







## Local Biodiversity Action Plan

A Pre Draft Discussion Paper and Survey has been published on line to provide a background to the development of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the County and to gather public opinion on the plan.

The first phase of public consultation (Pre Draft) commenced on the 7 of April 2025 with in person events in the County's libraries. Further events are planned for Biodiversity Week and Climate Week 12 to 25 May. Further information and link to the online survey are on the County Council website:

<https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/ga/content/localbiodiversity-action-plan-survey>

## CLIMATE ACTION

Wexford County Council were selected to host the Climate Action Regional office (CARO) Local Authority Climate Action Team Networking Event. Over 100 staff from Climate Action teams and senior Management from all 31 Local Authorities attended this two day conference and networking event. The first day comprised field trips to a number of sites around the county to observe first hand climate mitigation and adaptation measures and the impact from climate change. Day 2 of the conference was opened with the welcome address from the CE Eddie Taaffe Wexford Co Council. There were a number of expert speakers from various Government departments, stakeholders and local authorities. The Climate Coordinator Frank Burke from Wexford County Council presented at the event.

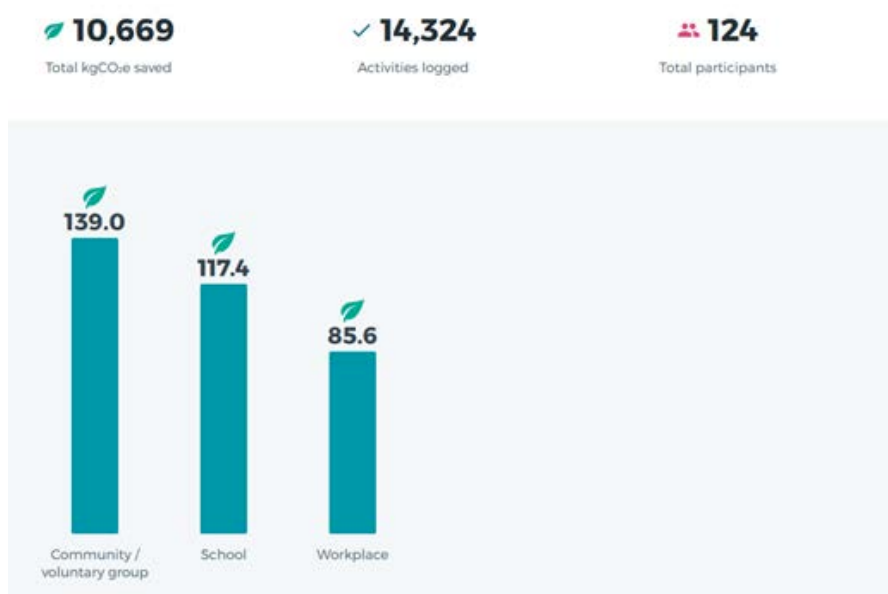


The South East Energy Agency held its annual Local Authority Climate and Energy Event in New Ross on 9th April. Twelve staff members from WCC attended along with the Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council Pip Breen.



The CAT continued its role to support and influence other sectors. The team ran a Climate Champions competition in the Enniscorthy DZ over a 2 week period. The aim of the competition was to raise awareness of all the simple actions that can be taken by individuals to reduce their carbon footprint. Research has shown that two thirds of our emissions are produced by individual consumption, so its within our power to do something. participants from community groups, business and schools participated.

Over the course of the competition 14,324 activities were logged by 124 participants across 19 teams. Enniscorthy as a community over the period of the competition saved 10,669.24kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e which is equivalent to travelling 43,727km by plane. This is roughly the same as flying all the way around the world once. This can be done every day with minor changes in our behaviour and the Climate ActionTeam wanted to highlight this.



The Climate team presented on the topic of Climate & Sustainability at St Mary's Secondary School, New Ross. The team is also working with the industrial sector in the Enniscorthy North Business Park (Old Dublin Road) to encourage an Energy Meitheal, where businesses come together, with supports from Wexford County Council and embrace renewable energy installation.

## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

The 16 successful projects are progressing well with several stages completed and a number of payments processed. The second round of the Programme is expected in summer 2025.



# LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

## COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

### Skills for Life

A national 'Skills for Life' umbrella programme of resources and activities is being developed and will be available through all libraries in County Wexford. It will include the various themes, Basic digital skills, Financial literacy, Media literacy, Business and employment skills, Health awareness, Sustainable lifestyles and environmental awareness. Each library will offer activities and resources in delivery or signposting.

Media and Information Literacy Community Connections (MIL-CC) will provide training through a 25-hour blended learning programme for nominated library staff, which is being led by DCU in Ireland, with Media Literacy Ireland and the LGMA as supporting partners. It will enable library staff to deliver community-based Media and Information Literacy projects within their local communities. Media Literacy training for library staff is due to commence in late May.



### My Little Library Book Bags 2025

The MLLBB campaign is due to launch on Friday 9th May. To help children to navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag with books and resources that can be collected at their local library. This initiative is set to attract audiences of 4, 5, 6-year-olds starting school in Sept 2025. The MLLBB initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

Children who are due to start school in September can collect their bags from their local branches and register for a library membership card. Children will also receive a free library card wallet with their bag.

Each bag contains 3 books, a library card holder and a range of resources for parents/children to support the transition to primary school, including a copy of Rufus Handwashing Storybook. Outreach visits by library staff to Early Learning Centre's and the community will begin in early May.

### Summer Stars 2025

Summer Stars is a free national reading programme for children which takes place in all public libraries every summer and will run from 1st June – end August 2025. Children are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer months. Children are encouraged to join the library if not already a member, they read and receive incentives along the way, including and Summer Stars activity book, reading card, stickers, stamps, seeds, bookmarks, along with a range of library events and a chance to enter competitions along the way. The Summer Stars is a free reading initiative available in all libraries and open to all children from 1st June. Outreach visits by library staff to schools and community will begin in early May.

## COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

**Spring into Storytime** takes places 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. Interactive Story times were held in all branches for children and their families. New Ross Branch held Storysacks in the Library Park and all branches held special story times with various spring themes including Easter, flowers and animal crafts. Sensory story times were provided in some branches. An ISL Rhyme & Sign Storytime with Claire Glynn was held too and participants got a brief introduction to baby sign and Irish Sign Language (ISL).



### Wexford Libraries are JAM card friendly

All library branches and mobile libraries in Co Wexford are officially JAM Card friendly. This initiative ensures that individuals who may need a little extra time or understanding when communicating can access library services with confidence. The JAM Card was originally designed to support individuals with learning disabilities and difficulties, but it has since expanded to assist anyone who experiences communication challenges. This includes autistic people, people with brain injuries, or those who may feel self-conscious in social interactions.

The JAM Card is available free of charge. Individuals can request a physical card or download the JAM Card app for iOS and Android via [www.jamcard.org](http://www.jamcard.org). Library staff are also available to assist anyone who needs help applying.

### Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Wexford County Council is preparing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the County. The aim of this plan will be to provide a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at county level. Biodiversity Officer Claire Goodwin was available to meet members of the public to discuss their views on what is important in terms of Wexford's biodiversity, the issues it faces and potential solutions, in Wexford Libraries this month. A Biodiversity Kit is available to borrow from Wexford Branch Library. The kit is free to borrow with a library membership card and can be borrowed for up to three weeks.

### My Open Library

New Ross: 316 people used MOL in New Ross Library in April 1,616 people in total have used MOL this year. New Ross now has 478 members signed up to the service. Gorey Library had 786 MOL visits in April . There are 1,103 MOL members in Gorey Library.



## LEARNING AND INFORMATION

### IT LITERACY

The WWETB 15-week digital skills classes continued in April in Enniscorthy and Gorey. A Library Resources Workshop on access to BorrowBox, Libby, Universal Class, Transparent Languages and Freegal Apps, which are all free with library membership, was held in Wexford. Age Friendly Digital Literacy Weekly classes for the over-55s facilitated by WWETB on Monday and Tuesday mornings were held in New Ross, 22 attended. 3 Age Action Age Equality 1 to 1 Digital Skills sessions were held in Wexford, 20 attended.

### HERITAGE

#### Local History

Wexford Library had 29 local studies enquiries and 22 genealogy enquiries in April. WGWD website had 3 queries and 1 amendment.

#### Commemoration 2025

Wexford County Council has received confirmation from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media that they have been allocated €15,000 funding for Commemoration 2025.

The programme will focus on commemoration and reflection remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that had particular significance for counties and communities in 1925 and in the early years of the State. Other themes include Ireland and the wider world, the experiences of women, democracy and politics, establishing institutions and infrastructure, partition and changing society in the 1920s. A special focus of this year's programme will explore poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms from 1925 and the early years of the State.

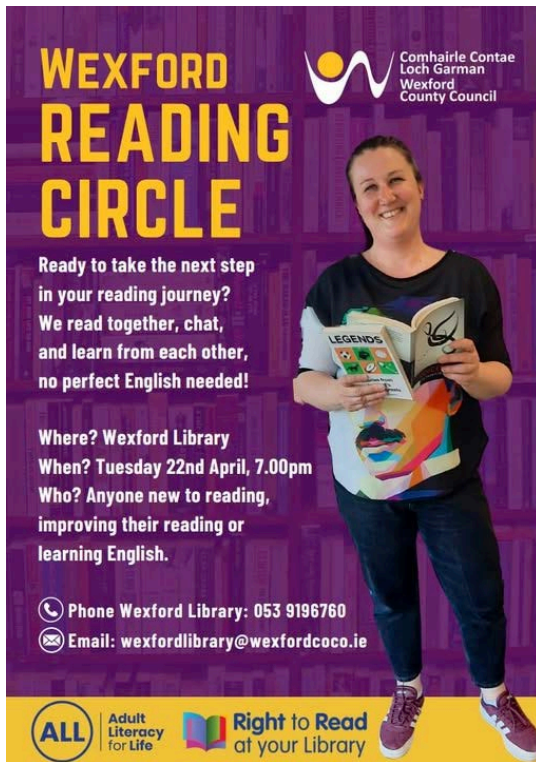
### INTEGRATION

The monthly Drop-in Information Service for new residents of Wexford provided by the Local Authorities Integration Team continued in Wexford Branch.

**Eid Celebration with Integration Office.** Gorey Library was delighted to host this even on behalf of Wexford County Council on 5th April, in association with the Integration Office, 52 attended.







Wexford Library has launched a new and inclusive book club Wexford Reading Circle that is open to everyone no matter what their reading levels or English language proficiency.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Earth Day is an event held annually on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The Theme this year was Our Power, Our Planet. Enniscorthy Branch held an **Adopt a Plant Day**. Other branches held foraging and summer gardening talks.



## Cloth Nappy Library Ireland Pop Up

The local CNLI volunteer demonstrated the benefits of cloth nappies and how they are better for the environment, 12 attended in New Ross Library.

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The **Irish Heart Foundation Workshop** in Enniscorthy Library this April focused on tips for helping with high blood pressure.

**Age Friendly Activator Poles Classes** were held in New Ross Library Park with Sports Active Wexford, 31 attended in total and there have been 77 loans of the library activator poles in New Ross with 364 loans county wide since their introduction.

**Living Well with Arthritis:** Arthritis Ireland continued their award-winning Living Well with Arthritis and related conditions course in Bunclody Library. This consists of a weekly 2 ½ hour workshop for six weeks for people with arthritis and/or fibromyalgia who want to learn self-management skills and techniques to live healthily with their condition, 66 attended.

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

### Adult Events

A **Creative Writing Masterclass with author Caroline Busher** was held in Enniscorthy Library.

The **New Adult Reading Circle** continued in Wexford Branch for people wishing to improve their reading skills; this is facilitated by a library staff member, 6 attended.

**Book Launch ‘Faith, Hope & Calamity’:** The book by Pat Hackett and Liam Turner: Wexford in the Great War – the lives behind the lists! was launched by Dr. Paddy McKiernan in Wexford Branch, 90+ people attended

**Screenplay Writing with Rosie Cullen,** Gorey Library hosted this screenplay writing workshop, 12 attended.

## ARCHIVES

### Collections Management

In addition to 34 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 9 researchers visited the Archive during April. Topics included family history research through extant property documents relating to Richard Wills Gason in Clohamon (1852-74); research through The People and New Ross Standard newspapers for the 150th anniversary of New Ross Boat Club (1875-1900); research through sports holdings for a forthcoming commemoration on camogie in North Wexford.

### Conservation

Ahead of a public consultation event in early May in Gorey Market House, Rachel Phelan, textile conservator carried out a conservation assessment on several historic artefacts in the former council chamber there in late April. Items included a large bespoke rug crafted by the Dun Emer Guild and chairs from the Arts & Crafts period. The Archivist catalogued a number of other important heritage items, some of which will be earmarked for appropriate preservation/conservation treatment and future display in the renovated building.

## ARTS

### Artist Workspace Scheme 2025

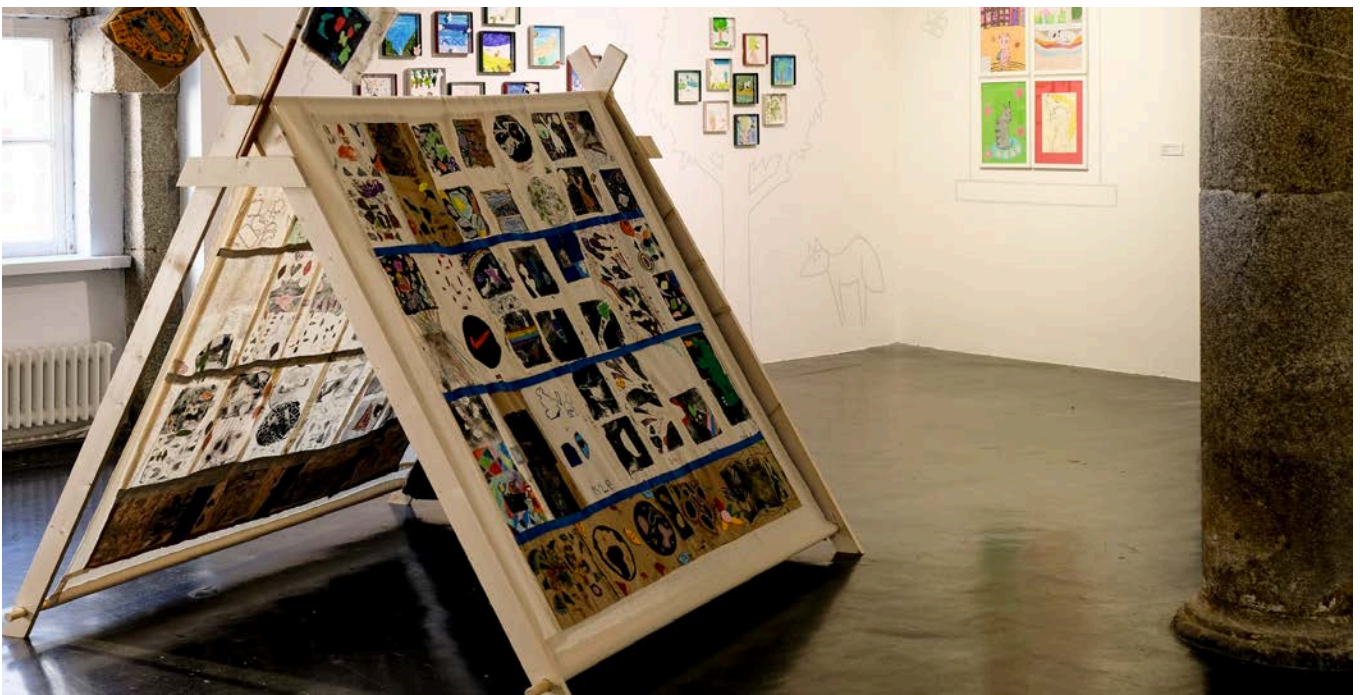
The Arts Office launched the new Artist Workspace scheme to support professional artists to access suitable and flexible workspaces to develop their arts practices. Applications are welcome from artists working in all art forms. Grants will be available in the region of €3,000 per application and must accommodate at least two artists renting a building or part of a building for their workspaces. Grants of up to €5,000 may be awarded to applications involving three or more artists taking a lease on a building. This was opened on 14th March and the deadline for applications is the 26th May 2025.

### Living Arts in Schools 2025-26 - Call for Expression of Interest

An Open Call was sent out in early April for Wexford based artists and four primary schools to take part in this programme for 2025 – 2026. Eight Wexford-based artists will be selected and partnered with schools to create a body of work over the academic year. The deadline for expressions of interest was 8th May 2025.

### Living Arts in Schools Exhibition in The Arts Centre

The launch of the Living Arts Project exhibition took place in Wexford Arts Centre on Saturday 29th March. Living Arts Project was established as an artist-in-residency scheme in primary schools, supporting the existing partnership between the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre. The aim of this project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. The Living Arts Project exhibition of the 5 schools ran in April.



### Culture Night Open Call 2025

The Arts Department is inviting expressions of interest to be part of the Culture Night celebrations that will be taking place across the 5 municipal districts of Wexford on Friday 19th September 2025. This open call is for artists, performers, community groups and/or cultural organisations or venues to showcase work on the night. This expression of interest opened on the 22nd April 2025 and will close on the 3rd June 2025. Culture Night is a free nationwide celebration of culture, creativity, and the arts, funded by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and local authorities in partnership with cultural organisations throughout Ireland.



**Cultural Companions** is a network of adults of all ages interested in arts and culture who can attend together as a group. The network is facilitated by Wexford County Council who work with a volunteer to draw up a calendar of events to choose from every three months.

**Story House Event** - Members of the Cultural Companions attended Story House at the Forge, Wexford and Wex Walks tour in April.

**Performing Arts Forum Limerick Gathering** - Wexford County Council Arts Office in partnership with Theatre Forum has awarded bursaries to Tony McCleane Fay and Vivian Brodie Hayes to attend the Theatre Forum annual Gathering in Limerick on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

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

**To the Power of Three Creative Ireland – Shared Island** - To the Power of 3, which is led by Tallaght Community Arts, is a creative exchange between 60 young participants, 20 each from Derry/Londonderry (FUSE Arts and Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership), Wexford (Creative Places Enniscorthy) and Dublin (Creative Places Mac Uilliam). The goal of each exchange is for the young people to collaborate in selecting short performance pieces. Creative Places Enniscorthy hosted a residential weekend in Enniscorthy for all the groups in April.

**Social Canvas 2025** - This is a series of creative workshops that took place in April led by SETU Art students exploring lanterns, film making and knitting. The groups who took part were the Hillside Cailíní womens group and St Patrick's School.

**Cow House Studios – Residential Partnership** - Artists who undertook CPE / Cow House Studio Residential in 2024 were invited to share and connect with other invited artists to share their experiences of the residency. These artists were Gillian O Shea, Fiona O Connor, Paul Cashin and Sarah Walsh.

**The Night Belongs to YOUth** - CPE held an outreach session with the WWETB and Youth Reach in April with Artist Mayumi Nakabayashi on the lead up to Cruinniu na nÓg event where they will showcase the results of this workshop.

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

**Transition Year Workshops - Coláiste an Átha** - Music Generation Wexford supported TY students from Coláiste an Átha, Kilmuckridge by providing guitar, keyboard and drums workshops, developed in partnership with Orla Kirwan, music teacher. The workshops took place over a four-week period and due to popularity returned for another four dates. They were led by musician educators Pete McCamley and John Colbert

**Selskar Sounds Music Hub** - A new after-school music hub has started at Selskar College, Westgate, Wexford Town on Thursdays from 4pm-8pm. The hub provides small group music tuition in a fun, positive atmosphere in the following instruments: Guitar, ukulele, keyboard, voice, drums, trumpets, French horns, trombones, tubas, clarinet, saxophone, flute, bassoon Genres: Rock & pop, blues, jazz, folk, world music and classical. Instruments will be available to rent.



**Wexford Windjammers Band Camp - Westgate Music Rehearsal Space** - In April Wexford Windjammers hosted their Easter band camp in Westgate Music Rehearsal Space. The aims of the camp are for young brass and wind musicians to play together, learn new music, perform as a band and to socialise with other wind instrument players. It was led by Musician Educators Louise Malone and Jenna Larsen.

### Macky Music |Westgate Music Rehearsal Space

On the 30th April Music Generation Wexford began an early years music programme for parents and their infants and toddlers in the Westgate Music Rehearsal Space. Both parents and toddlers will learn early years music, singing and rhythm and will be led by musician educators Aileen Donoghue and Pete McCamley. It will run for ten weeks from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> July occurring every Wednesday at 10:30am-11:15.



**Screen Wexford** is an Arts Office, economic dept initiative to support the development of the film / screen industry in Wexford.

### Screen Wexford Shortlisted for Emerging Location at Cannes Film Festival

Screen Wexford and County Wexford have officially been shortlisted for the Global Production Awards 2025 in the Emerging Location Award category. The award ceremony will be taking place on Monday the 19th May.

**Animation & VFX Course** - Screen Wexford hosted a two-day workshop and panel discussions for animators at The National Opera House in April. It was an opportunity to connect with industry experts, gain valuable insights, and get hands on advice straight from professionals who have worked on shows like Normal People and Ahsoka and Hollywood Films such as Star Wars.

**Lights, Camera, Access** - Screen Wexford supported Bodecii Film Ireland and Women in Film & TV in a full day major film and TV Industry event for writers, producers, emerging and regional filmmakers on the 25th April in The National Opera House. This included a masterclass on applying for funding by Wexford Screen Writers Academy, a panel and case study from the creators of Dead & Buried and a discussion with industry commissioners from BBC Northern Ireland, Screen Ireland, WRAP Fund and West Cork Film Studios.



## CREATIVE IRELAND

### Shared Island

During a weekend in April, the Wexford/Belfast Shared Island for Cruinniú project welcomed a group of young people from Belfast to Wexford. The project explores climate change and the influence it has on mental health, particularly in regard to true/false information taken from social media.

Jeni Roddy, Lead Facilitator of the Creative Youth Lab at Wexford Arts Centre which is one of the groups taking part in the project, curated a fantastic series of events for the young people. These included a workshop on inclusivity, mental health and the climate crisis led by Theatre Director Al Bellamy on Saturday, followed by an exploration of balance and connection through social circus led by Juliet and Fadi Zmorrod of Wexford's own Doulab Circus & Dance. On Sunday they spent the day connecting with nature in Parable Gardens, Curracloe, led by land artist Mayumi Nakabayashi. On Monday they visited Blackbird Cultúr-Lab in Foulkesmills, taking part in an eco-art workshop that explored regenerative farming and the connection between urban and rural communities.

This phase of the project will culminate at Wexford Arts Centre on 7th June, the day of Cruinniú na nÓg, with a VR experience/exhibition that documents their journey.

### Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

Cruinniú na nÓg (a day of creativity for children and young people) will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June this year. A programme consisting of 48 events across Wexford's libraries, FRCs and cultural venues was finalised this month. This is in addition to workshops that will be held with seven targeted 'seldom heard' groups (as identified by Creative Ireland) across County Wexford. Four workshops will be held with each group in May, culminating in a showcase on the 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Other strands for the programme include the Shared Island project between Wexford Arts Centre and The MAC in Belfast. Extra funding from the Night Time Economy for Cruinniú has been awarded to support The Night Belongs to Youth in Enniscorthy. Workshops and creative activity will take place on Vinegar Hill on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> June, celebrating summer and youth.

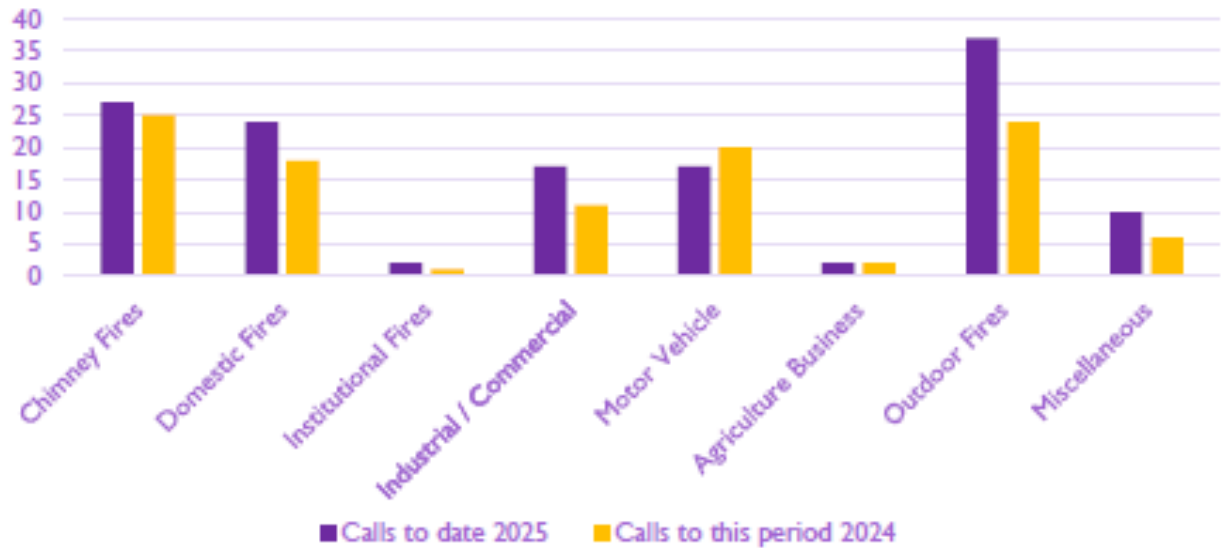
**Imeartas Focal (Word Play)** workshops kicked off in April. Led by writer Sylvia Cullen and singer Honor Heffernan, the project explores the Irish language through the creative concept of playing with words. Four iterations of bespoke creative workshops are taking place in Askamore Community Centre, where participants will be supported to speak Irish, while engaging with multiple artistic genres. In late June, a celebration evening will comprise of a live performance of song, poetry and short story readings, to mark An Bhailchríoch (the finishing of work).

**Imeartas Focal** is one of Creative Ireland Wexford's six Irish Language projects for 2025, meeting our strategic priority to 'promote the love and use of the Irish language in our community'.

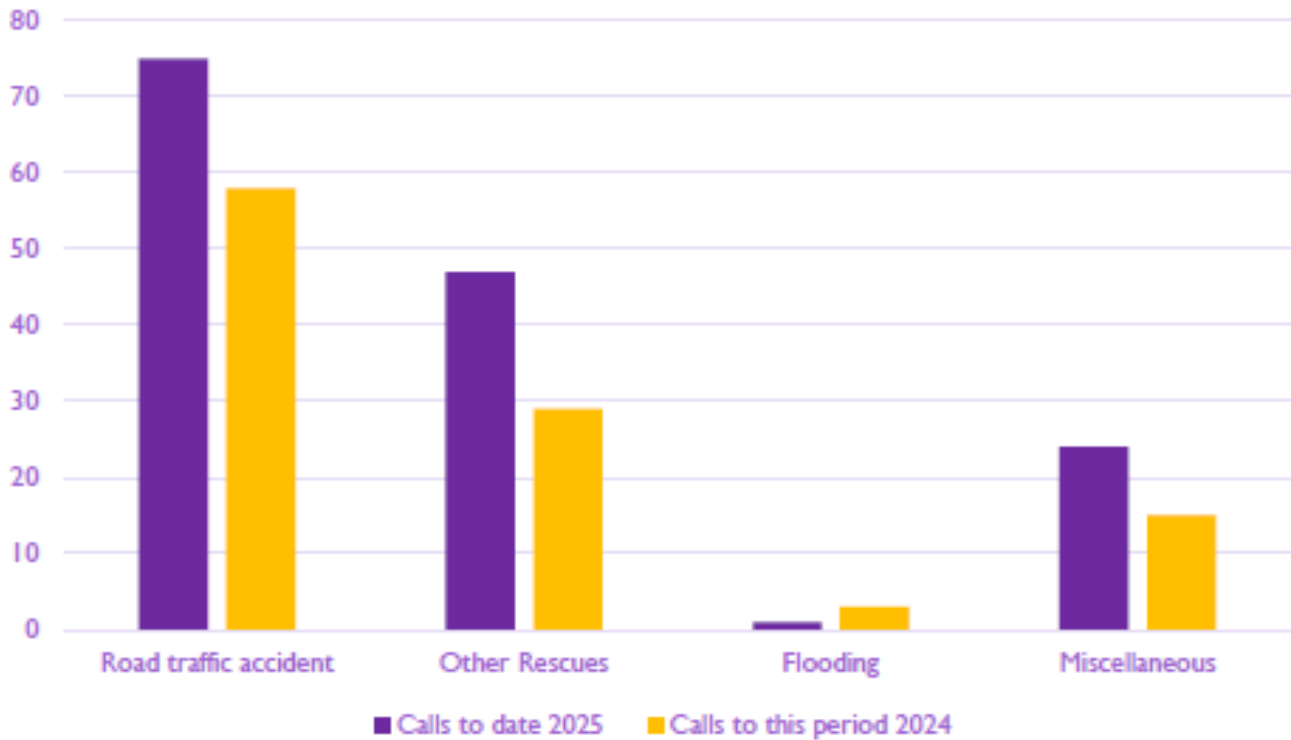
### Bunclody Placemaking Project

In April, plans were approved by the Bunclody Town Centre First Team and the Elected Members of Enniscorthy MD to progress a Creative Ireland Bunclody Placemaking Project. A creative facilitator (architect, designer and creative) will be engaged to develop a public-engagement project for the town in relation to the history and heritage of the local built environment and architecture. Creative consultations will be conducted with the community, collecting stories and information about Bunclody's architecture, and encourage constructive thinking in relation to future developments.

## Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service



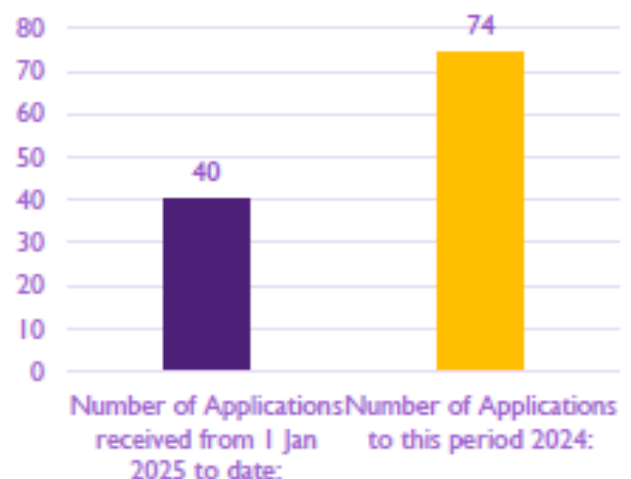
## Special Services - Wexford Fire Service



## False Alarms



## Fire Safety Certificates

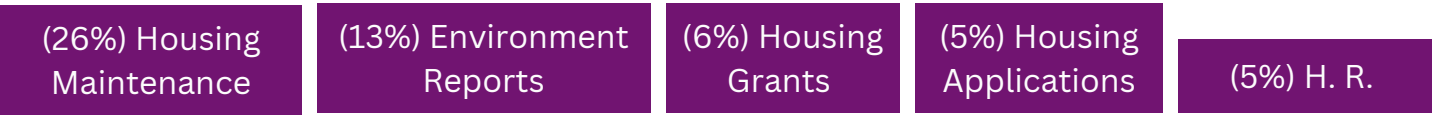


# CORPORATE SERVICES

## Customer Service Unit Statistics – April 2025

Task	April 2025
Phone Calls	3,232
Emails (Received & Sent)	2,382

## Top 5 CSU Phone Queries



## FOI OFFICE REQUESTS April 2025

Type	Number
Freedom of Information	21
Customer Complaint	42
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	3
Data Access Request	2
Total	69

# FINANCE

## Audit of Accounts 2024

Following the completion of the 2024 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 to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2025.

## 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<sup>st</sup> December, 2025.

Great interest in our New Ross Port and the great work of our team up in New Ross with over **32k** views on our socials.



Environment Recycling - Easter Campaign

**FREE'ASTER ELECTRICAL RECYCLING!**

At Your Local Electrical Retailer

APPROVED RECYCLING SCHEME

Recycle for good...

RECYCLE WASTE BATTERIES

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY Laura Lynn

**Summer Student Placement Scheme 2025**

The Council is seeking to fill placements in four areas:

- Administration Staff
- Technical Staff
- Sports Active
- Enniscorthy Municipal District

For more information visit our website at:

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/council-and-democracy/job-vacancies/summer-student-placement-scheme-2025>

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms for this post is:  
**5.00 pm on Tuesday, 6th May, 2025**

Wexford County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer

**21k Views**

Join our Team at Wexford County Council

**30k Views**

Part-time Cleaners

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms for this post is:  
**5.00 pm on Thursday 8th May, 2025**

Qualifications, application forms and further particulars for this post are available from:

Customer Service (Block F), Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford.  
Phone 053 919 6000 or visit our website at [www.wexfordcoco.ie](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie)





Official Launch of Fleadh  
Cheoil na hÉireann 2025

Eddie Taaffe  
Chief Executive