



2026

SEPTEMBER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council



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HOUSING

Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025 – 2030

Under the new housing action plan each local authority has been tasked with creating a Housing Delivery Action plan. This plan will be submitted to the Department of Housing by 25th September.

The plan will encompass specific targets regarding social housing and Starter Homes (including affordable housing), housing for older people, disabled persons and members of the traveller community. The Department of Housing have provided target figures for the lifetime of the plan of 912, it is planned that this will be exceeded in line with the over rates of delivery. The plan is currently being drafted and will be shared with members when finalised.

Housing Strategy & Services

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

Housing For All 2022-2026									
1,190 Target	- (	1,240 Units Delivered	+	214 Units Projected	=	1,454 Delivery Pipeline	)	=	264 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. **Expression of Interest ran from 29th July to 10th September.** A new EOI will open at the end of October. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2027	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	6 x 3-bed apt, 6 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	12
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed, 4 x 2-bed apt	Q3 2026	14
Sunset Avenue, Ballinatray Upper, Ardamine	2 x 2 Bed, 3 x 3 bed	Q1 2027	5
		Total Turnkey Units	33

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Forest Close, Ramsford Park	2 x 3-bed	Q3 2026	2
Spring View, Gorey Hill, Gorey	4 x 3-bed apt, 4 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	8
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	6 x 3 bed, 1 x 3-bed apt 1 x 2-bed apt	Delivered	8
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q3 2026	2
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	1
Millquarter, Knockmullen	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Q3 2026 (6)	12
Fermoyle Manor, Kilanerin	1 X 3 bed hse	Q3 2026	1
Ramsbrook, Ramstown Lower	10 X 3 bed hse	Delivering on a phased basis from Q3 2026	10
Dun Greine, Coolgreany	1 X 3 bed	Q3 2026	1
		Total Part V	45
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey (AHB)	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	86
Overall Total			164

Rosslare Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Carrig-on-Bannow (TURNKEY)	5 x 1 bed 5 x 2 bed	5 Delivered Dec 2025 5 due in Q4 2026	10
Murrintown Upper (PART V)	3 x 2 bed hse	Delivered Q3 2026	3
Overall Total			13

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
The Meadows, Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy	3 x 2-bed 9 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	4 Delivered. 10 due in 2026	14
		Total Turnkey	14
Holly-Close, Clonhasten, Enniscorthy (Part V)	2 X 2 bed hse 1 X 3 bed hse	Delivered Q1 2026	3
The Hawthorn, Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy (Part V)	16 x 3 bed hse 2 x 2 bed hse 16 x 1 bed apt	9 Delivered Q4 2025. 5 delivered Q1 2026 16 to deliver Q4 2026	34
		Total Part V	37
Milehouse, Phase 2, Enniscorthy (AHB)	7 x 1 bed hse 26 x 2 bed hse	19 delivered. 14 delivered Q1 2026	33
		Total AHB	33
Overall Total			91

New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Hewittlands, New Ross (LAGS site) (AHB)	10 x 1-bed, 16 x 2-bed, 22 x 3-bed	Delieverd Q2 2026	48
Grange Wood, Rathnure (Turnkey)	6 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Q4 2027	12
Grange Wood, Rathnure (Part V)		Q4 2027	3
Overall Total			63

Borough District of Wexford

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Ard Uisce, Wexford	8 x 2-bed	Delivered 2 in Q2, 2 in Q3, 2 in Q4	8
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge	2 x 3 bed	Q3 2026	2
Turners Way, Coolcotts	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q3 2026	4
Clos na Pairce, Park	3 x 2 bed, 3 x 3 bed	Delivering from Q2 2026	6
The Paddocks, Coolcotts	7 x 3 bed	Delivered Q2 & Q3 2026	7
Roxborough, Wexford	23 x 2 bed apt	Q4 2026	23
Carrig Mor & Meadow Av.	1 x 2 bed & 2 x 3 bed	Q3 2026	3
Kerlogue, Coolballow Road	8 x 2 bed	Delivering from Q4 2026	8
Seaview Court, Roxborough	3 x 3-bed, 4 x 2-bed	Q3 2026	7
		Total Part V	68
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed, 23 x 2-bed, 1 x 3-bed, 1 x 4-bed	Q3 2026	50
Overall Total			118

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to **157** units across all districts. These proposals are subject to Planning and Departmental approval.

District	No. of Units
Enniscorthy	30
Gorey	31
New Ross	9

District	No. of Units
Rosslare	42
Wexford	45
Total	157

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 01/01/2026 to 31/08/2026:

	Enniscorthy	Gorey-Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Rosslare	Wexford Borough	Total
Emergency	30	10	31	9	33	113
Routine	178	132	147	76	182	715
Urgent	1282	1001	1420	792	1348	5843
Total	1503	1148	1606	884	1578	6719

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

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	No of Properties Allocated	No Delivered & Funding Received
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118
2025	120	120
Total	409	421
Status Update September 2026		
Units completed to date		97*
Works in progress		21
Contract Awarded		32
In tender process		0
Survey/Tender Doc Prep		0
Total		150 No.
2026 allocation		130 No.

Notes: * 17 units completed in Q4 2025

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

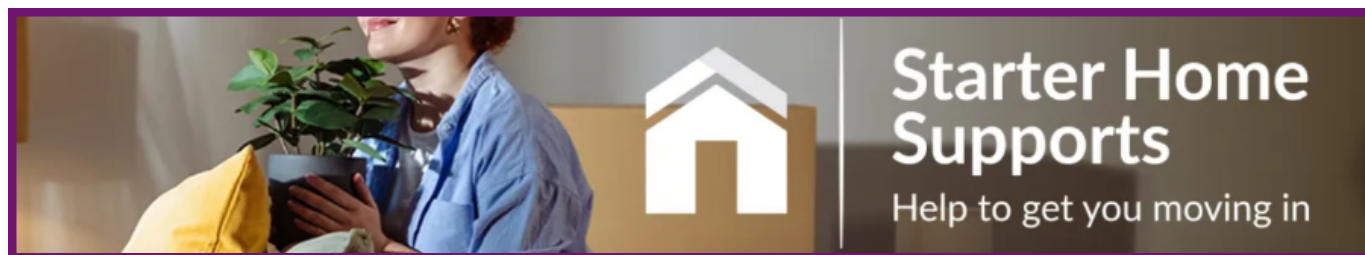
The figures below represent the total number of calls to the HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.

There were 1001 calls to the HSSU up to 1st Sept 2026, the following is the breakdown of same:-	
771 (77%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
128 (13%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
91 (9%)	Calls were ineligible at the time for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted the caller on regularization of their housing situation.
11(1%)	Calls received where it was not possible to complete a full assessment.

STARTER HOMES PROGRAMME (Formally Affordable Housing)

Affordable Homes – now Starter Homes

Communications Campaign



The affordable housing supports previously delivered under separate schemes are being rebranded under the Government's new Starter Homes Programme, which was introduced as part of the Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030 Housing Action Plan.

As part of this change, the **Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme (LAAPS)** has been renamed the **Starter Home Purchase Scheme**.

The rebranding is intended to create a clearer and more consistent identity for affordable housing supports, improve public awareness of the options available, and align local authority communications with the Government's Starter Homes communications campaign.

A wider national campaign is due to commence in September across a range of media platforms.

Starter Homes

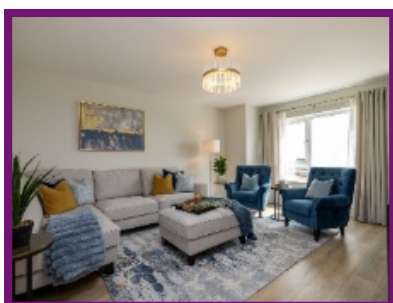
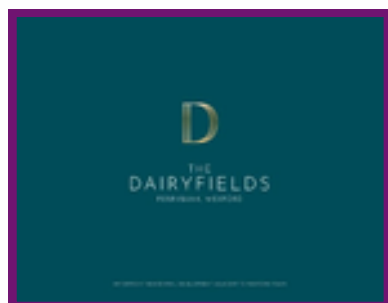
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon –

- Prices from €235,000, 2/3/4 bed homes, 13 Units available
- Applications open 09th September at 12.00pm



- Application details are available www.wexfordcoco.ie/housing
- For further information please email starterhomes@wexfordcoco.ie

'The Dairyfields', Ferrybank – Launching September 28th, 2026



- Prices from €225,000, 2/3 bed homes, 14 Units available
- Applications open 28th September at 12.00pm
- Information launch - 16th September 2026 7.00pm. to register please email rsvp@wexfordcoco.ie.

Choice Based Letting - 244 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2026 to 26/08/26. Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table below:-

Municipal District	No. of Properties Advertised	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4/5-bed
Enniscorthy	40	1	20	18	1
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	87	3	22	58	4
New Ross	63	10	29	23	1
Rosslare	14	5	6	3	0
Wexford	40	3	16	20	1
TOTAL	244	22	93	122	7

Housing Tenancies 2026 - From the 1st January to 26th August, 2026 there were 300 new tenancies.

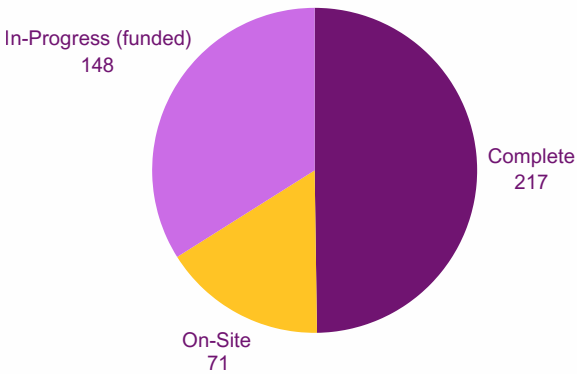
Area	Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)	Transfers	New Lets	AHBs	MTR	Total
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	9	6	42	10	0	67
New Ross	23	3	1	37	1	65
Enniscorthy	13	4	30	40	2	89
Wexford	17	6	15	9	2	49
Rosslare	11	4	6	8	1	30
TOTAL	73	23	94	104	6	300

Estate Management Cases – Logged between 01/01/2026 and 27/08/2026					
Complaint	Enniscorthy	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Rosslare	Wexford
Abandonment	0	4	8	0	0
Breach of Tenancy	0	23	10	3	11
Damage to Property	1	13	6	0	3
Estate Management	48	32	33	5	14
End of Tenancy	0	0	1	0	0
Unauthorised Occupants	2	8	5	2	8
Verbal Abuse/ Violence/ Harassment/Drugs	7	37	26	1	15
TOTAL	58	117	89	11	51

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION –CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS

Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY	
Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings Complete 2024	54
Dwellings Complete 2025	92
Dwellings to Complete 2026	71
Funded Projects for delivery 2026 / 2027	148

Construction Status



Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline (2027+)	783
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Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2026

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

Funded Projects for delivery 2026 – 2027					
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Belvedere, Wexford	18	Rosbercon, New Ross	50
Clonard, Wexford	57	Adamstown, New Ross	4	St. Walerans, Gorey (social)	40
		Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	Grogan’s Road, Wexford	4
					Total 148

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Group TAP Housing	5	Kilmore Quay (10 units & 4 serviced sites)	14
Creagh, Gorey	24	Castlemoyle, New Ross	82
The Lyre, Enniscorthy	101	Park, Wexford	12
Bunclody, Enniscorthy (social)	65	St Walerans, Gorey (affordables)	35
Bunclody, Enniscorthy (affordables)	45	Turrett Rocks, Enniscorthy	50
Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy	5	Taghmon	40
Ballynagee, Wexford Masterplan (to be phased)	252	Bride Street, Wexford	3
Rosbercon, New Ross	50		
			Total 783

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Georgia Delegation Visit to County Wexford

Wexford County Council welcomed Governor Brian P. Kemp, and a high-level delegation from the State of Georgia in July for a two-day visit that further strengthened the economic, educational and cultural links between County Wexford and Georgia.



The visit brought together representatives from government, higher education and industry to celebrate existing partnerships and explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration in trade, investment, research and talent development. The programme highlighted the success of the TradeBridge initiative in fostering commercial connections between Wexford and Georgia and included presentations from Wexford-based companies Kersia, Waters Technologies and Stafford Bonded demonstrating innovation, enterprise and international growth.



During the visit, the delegation engaged with Georgia Southern University's Wexford Campus Initiative, meeting students and key stakeholders involved in the partnership and visiting associated facilities. The programme also featured visits to a number of significant cultural and heritage attractions, including Johnstown Castle, the National Opera House and the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience, showcasing Wexford's tourism offering and its historic links with the United States.

The visit represented a significant milestone in the ongoing development of international partnerships and reinforced County Wexford's strong relationship with the State of Georgia. Through engagement across government, industry and higher education, the visit further enhanced opportunities for trade, investment and innovation while raising Wexford's profile as a location for international collaboration and economic growth.



Visit of Senator Billy Hickman and Delegation

On 26 August 2026, Wexford County Council welcomed Senator Billy Hickman of the Georgia State Senate and a delegation from Georgia Southern University to County Wexford. The visit formed part of the continuing engagement between Wexford and key stakeholders in Georgia, building upon established educational and institutional partnerships.

The delegation visited the Learning Centre, where they received an overview of the facility, its educational programmes and its contribution to supporting learning, research and future development opportunities. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the county's commitment to education, skills development and academic collaboration.



Senator Hickman and members of the delegation subsequently met with representatives of Wexford County Council to discuss matters of mutual interest and to learn more about strategic initiatives being advanced within the county. The programme concluded with a visit to the Adoration Student Accommodation development, currently under construction, where the delegation received an overview of the facility and its role in supporting international students studying in Wexford.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the county's educational infrastructure and student support services while strengthening engagement with academic and institutional partners in Georgia. It also highlighted the importance of continued collaboration in education, research and student mobility, supporting the development of enduring international connections between Wexford and Georgia.



TOURISM

Find Your Summer 2026 Campaign

Wexford County Council in partnership with Visit Wexford implemented the 'Find Your Summer 2026' campaign which was delivered across domestic and international markets throughout the summer season, promoting County Wexford as a leading visitor destination. The campaign showcased the county's beaches, outdoor activities, heritage attractions, food experiences, festivals and accommodation offering through a coordinated programme of digital marketing activity.





The campaign was supported by Visit Wexford's social media channels and directed potential visitors to visitwexford.ie, where they could access tourism offers, accommodation information, event listings, attractions and suggested itineraries. The campaign helped maintain Wexford's visibility across key target markets and provided a platform for local tourism businesses and experiences to reach potential visitors during the peak tourism season.

A number of festivals and events across the Municipal Districts were held including Rockin Food & Fruit Festival, Gorey Market House Festival, Kennedy Summer School and Wexford Maritime festival to name but a few.

RTÉ Nationwide Feature Promoting County Wexford

County Wexford featured on RTÉ Nationwide on 22nd July 2026 as part of the county's summer tourism promotion activity. The programme showcased a variety of visitor experiences, attractions and tourism businesses across the county, highlighting Wexford's appeal to a broad range of domestic visitors. The feature provided valuable national media exposure in support of the "Find Your Summer" campaign, helping to raise awareness of County Wexford as a tourism destination during the peak visitor season. The programme highlighted experiences from across the county and reinforced key Visit Wexford tourism messages to a significant national audience.

International Marketing Campaign

As part of its continued international marketing plan, Wexford County Council, in collaboration with Visit Wexford and Tourism Ireland, is participating in a new marketing campaign aimed at attracting visitors from Great Britain. Tourism Ireland identified Tripadvisor as a key strategic marketing platform and recommended it as a strong opportunity for reaching the Great Britain market in 2027. Tripadvisor is one of the world's largest travel platforms and is particularly effective in influencing travellers during the dreaming and planning stages of their holiday decision-making process.



A mid-campaign review of the current Visit Wexford activity has shown positive results, with performance in line with Tripadvisor benchmarks. Particularly strong engagement has been recorded in Northern Ireland, with audiences in Belfast and Derry significantly outperforming benchmark levels. These results highlight the potential of the Northern Ireland drive market and provide valuable insights for future marketing activity targeting visitors to County Wexford.

European Market Digital Campaign Activity

Targeted digital marketing activity is now underway in key European markets to support international visitor growth and increase awareness of County Wexford as a holiday destination.

France - In partnership with Tourism Ireland, a dedicated social media campaign has been launched targeting the French market. The campaign highlights accessibility to County Wexford, visitor experiences, and ease of travel throughout the county, while directing audiences to the dedicated French-language destination landing page.

Spain - A similar targeted social media campaign is scheduled to run in the Spanish market during September and October. The campaign will promote County Wexford's tourism offering, travel connectivity and key visitor experiences, while directing potential visitors to dedicated online content designed for the Spanish market.

These campaigns form part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Wexford's profile in key European markets, drive traffic to destination content, and encourage consideration of County Wexford as a holiday destination among international visitors.

Irish World Feature Coverage



County Wexford secured significant tourism exposure in the Great Britain market through a major feature in The Irish World newspaper, highlighting the county's visitor offering to a key target audience. The multi-page spread highlighted Wexford's tourism offering, including its beaches, outdoor activities, marine wildlife, cultural attractions, accommodation providers, food experiences and heritage assets. The article also featured coverage of the 2026 Kennedy Summer School in New Ross, showcasing Wexford as a destination for major cultural and international events.

The Irish World is one of the leading publications serving the Irish community in Great Britain, reaching a highly engaged audience with strong connections to Ireland and a demonstrated interest in travel, culture and tourism. The feature therefore provides valuable exposure for Wexford within an important overseas market and is expected to generate further reach and engagement when published across the newspaper's digital platforms.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Wexford Food Producers Network Collaboration

Continuing the collaboration, LEO Wexford attended the Wexford Food Producers Summer Gathering at the Village at Wheelocks in July. The event brought together an inspiring mix of artisan producers and established food brands showcasing the incredible talent, innovation, and quality that make Wexford's food sector so unique.





Now in its 19th year, Blas na hÉireann, The Irish Food Awards is the biggest competition for quality Irish produce on the island of Ireland. Wexford has 20 producers as finalists in the 2026 Awards. The Awards will be presented on the 2nd October 2026 in Dingle the Blas Village in Dingle

LEO Wexford is offering finalists assistance to maximise the opportunity with Bespoke One-to-One Support for Wexford finalists including focus on both show readiness and commercial targeting at the event.



Bannow & Rathangan Show

Local Enterprise Office Wexford collaborated with our colleagues in Environment to have details of the Energy Efficiency supports available at the Environment stand at the Bannow & Rathangan Show in Killag in July.

On the day Local Enterprise Office Wexford also visited many of the local food and craft exhibitors discussing specific Local Enterprise Office supports and client opportunities.



BOOK NOW

 **20th ANNIVERSARY**

National Women's Enterprise Day

**Thursday
15th October
2026**


Master of Ceremonies:
Shonagh Lyons
Beat FM


Kel Galavan
Keynote speaker


Aisling Hurley
Ideas into Impact

Local Enterprise Office 

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED), celebrating its 20th year this October, is Ireland's largest female entrepreneurship event, promoting, supporting, and inspiring women to start and grow their own businesses.

It provides an opportunity to showcase achievements of women in business, highlight available support, and offer learning and networking opportunities.

The event covers a wide range of topics important to entrepreneurs including finance, marketing, innovation, product development, well-being, and mental health. The programme balances education, inspiration, and practical advice, aiming to encourage women who may not have previously considered entrepreneurship. Notable participants include business founders, industry leaders, and advisors who share practical insights, success stories, and mentorship

The event also serves as a platform to connect with Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) and Enterprise Ireland, where participants can access training, development programmes, and mentorship opportunities throughout the year.

LEO Wexford will host an NWED 20th Birthday Business Celebration for 120 women in business from across the county.

 Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Y25 FY07

 **17** Thursday, 15 October 2026

 **9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

 **Grow Forward - Future-Proofing Your Business for 2027 and Beyond**

Speakers Include Kel Galavan, aka Mrs. Smart Money; Aisling Hurley, Innovation and Business Growth Specialist; and MC Shonagh Lyons of BEAT FM.

Over the years, NWED has become a high profile celebration of female entrepreneurship, gaining media attention and providing visibility to women-led businesses across Ireland. This year continues that tradition while celebrating its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of supporting and inspiring women in business across County Wexford.

PLANNING

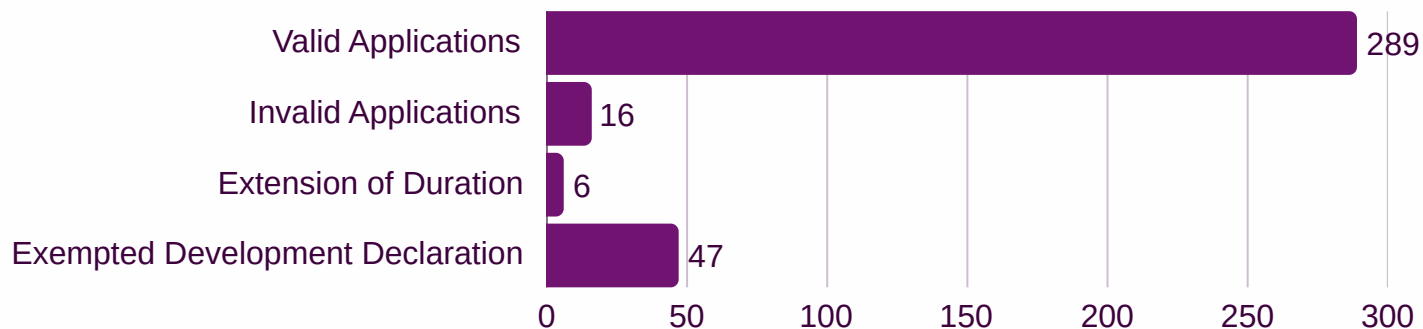
Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF)



The Housing Infrastructure Working Group, a cross departmental team established on foot of the HIIF funding awarded to Wexford County Council has been working to progress the detailed delivery phases of the five projects. The initial phase of delivery is focused on establishing the key requirements of the projects and progressing them through early planning and development stages. This has included engagement with relevant stakeholders, site assessments and surveys and the identification of barriers to delivery. This work will ensure the implementation of the development processes in a timely manner so as to support the delivery of the housing enabling infrastructure.

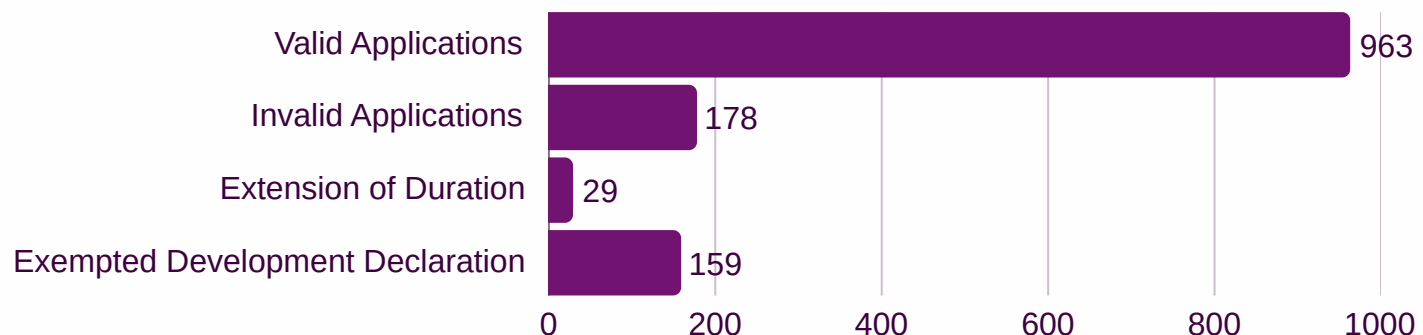
Quarterly reports on the progress of each of the projects have been submitted to the Housing Activation Office and the Working Group met with Garret Doocey, Deputy Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, together with members of the Housing Activation Office, on the 24th of August to provide updates on each of the five projects.

Planning applications received 22nd June 2026 to the 30th August 2026



344 total number of applications

Planning applications received 1st January to 30th August 2026



1141 total number of applications

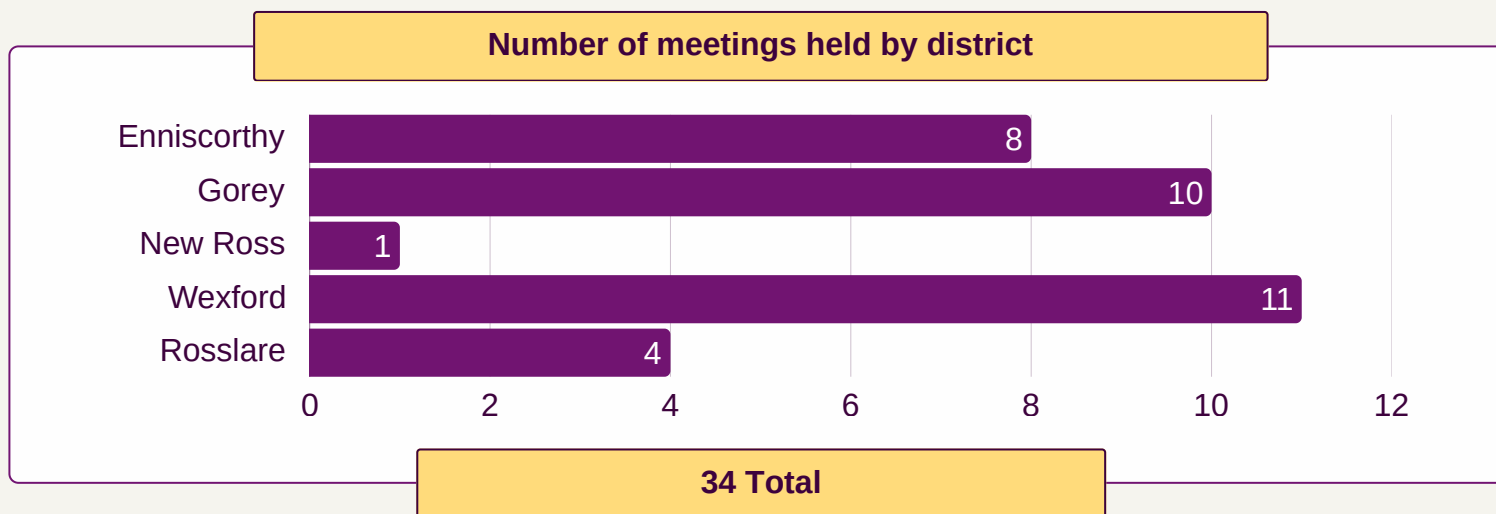
PLANNING CONT.

Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 30th August 2026

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	55	39	13
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	106	95	28
New Ross MD	62	52	8
Rosslare MD	78	70	3
Wexford BD	82	53	24
Total	383	309	76

Average days to pre-planning meeting is 26

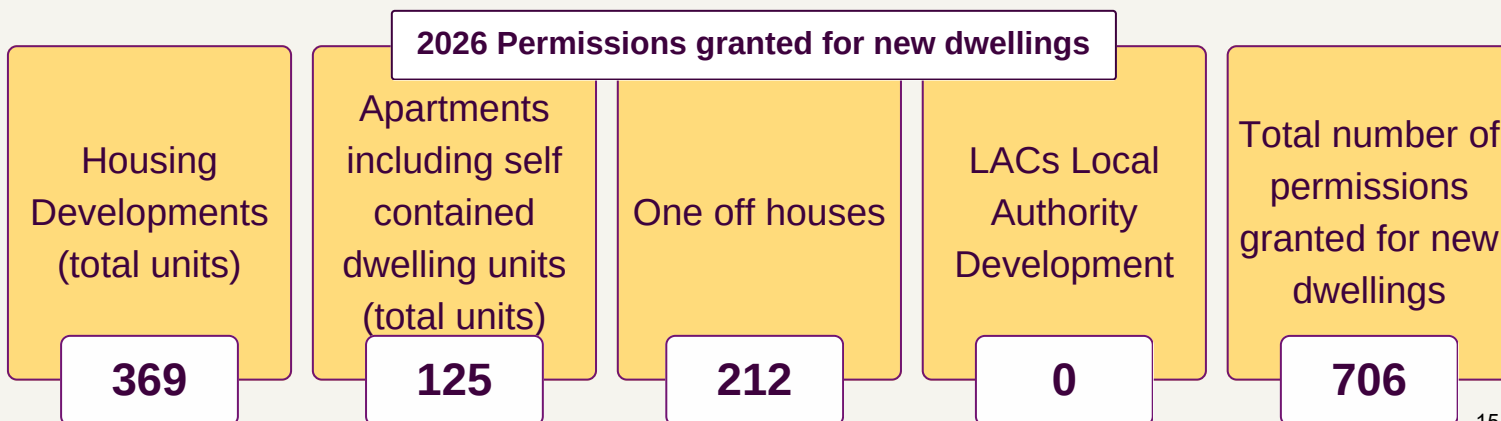
Major Pre-Planning - Year to date to the 30th August 2026



Number of Housing Units: 1,972

Commercial Development (approx. sqm): 12,954

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



Forward Planning

Variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan

Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 represents a significant first step in implementing the increased housing growth targets for county Wexford arising from the Housing Growth Requirements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities. The Variation provides the revisions required to the Core Strategy, land use zoning and related objectives for Enniscorthy and New Ross.

Following public consultation on the Proposed Variation, the Chief Executive prepared a report summarising and responding to submissions received and recommending Proposed Material Alterations.

The Members considered the report and agreed a number of Proposed Material Alterations, which were subsequently placed on public display for further public consultation.

Following this second consultation period, a further Chief Executive's Report was prepared to consider the submissions received and make recommendations on the Proposed Material Alterations. The report was submitted to the Members for consideration in advance of the Council meeting. Variation Number 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was made by the Members of Wexford County Council on the 13th July 2026, in accordance with the provisions of Section 58(17) of the Planning and Development Act, 2024 (as amended) (the 'Act'). The Variation came into effect the same day.



Variation Number 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 seeks to implement the revised Housing Growth Targets for Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane, and Bunclody.

Following workshops with the elected Members of the affected Municipal Districts, the Proposed Variation was placed on public consultation. Public information sessions were also held in Bunclody and Rosslare to facilitate engagement with stakeholders and the wider community. Both events were very well attended and generated significant public interest in the proposed changes.

The Chief Executive's Report is currently being prepared and will summarise and respond to the submissions received during the consultation process. Briefing sessions with the elected Members of the affected Municipal Districts are scheduled to take place in early September. A Special Meeting of Wexford County Council will be held on September 21st to consider the Chief Executive's Report and determine whether to adopt Variation No. 2, with or without modifications, or to refuse the proposed Variation.

PLANNING CONT.

Forward Planning cont.

Variation No. 3 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Wexford Town)

Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 will provide the planning framework for the sustainable growth and development of Wexford Town and its environs. The Variation will set out land use zoning objectives and identify the infrastructure required to support both future development and existing communities.

The Proposed Variation will also include an Urban Design Strategy, a Master Plan for the Ballynagee area, a Rainwater Management Plan and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The Variation will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure environmental considerations are fully integrated into the plan-making process.

In preparing the Proposed Variation, Wexford County Council is having regard to the consultation process already undertaken at Pre-Draft Stage, including the submissions received and reports prepared. A further opportunity for public and stakeholder engagement will arise during the statutory public consultation period on the Proposed Variation.

Work on the preparation of Proposed Variation No. 3 is ongoing. It is hoped to hold a pre-draft briefing with the Members of Wexford Borough District before the end of September, following which the Proposed Variation will be brought forward for public display and consultation. A number of public consultation events and information meetings will form part of the consultation process to provide opportunities for engagement with local communities, stakeholders and interested parties.

Heritage

Window Workshop

The opening of Wexford County Council's first traditional skills training workshop **An Introduction to the Care and Maintenance of Historic and Traditional Timber Windows** was held on Friday 21st August 2026 at Enniscorthy Castle.

There were a number of talks and demonstrations from leading conservation experts and practitioners and this wonderful event was officially opened by Minister James Browne T.D. who stated as Minister with responsibility for heritage he was delighted to allocate funding through his department to support this worthwhile initiative at Enniscorthy Castle as part of the County Wexford programme of heritage week events. The event was fully subscribed with many Wexford County Council staff in attendance.

The Heritage Section hope to continue to organise and facilitate traditional skills training workshops on an ongoing basis and are planning a 'Thatch' workshop for 2027.



PLANNING CONT.

Heritage cont.

Heritage Week 2026

This year proved to be our most successfully Heritage Week to date with 105 events taking place in Wexford. Communities came together across the county to bring our shared past to life in creative and exciting ways. From graveyard tours and heritage boat trips to historic re-enactments and nature walks, Wexford's rich and varied heritage was celebrated.



Ballyvaldon Church

Essential conservation works have just been completed on the medieval church ruin at Ballyvaldon, Blackwater. These vital repairs will help ensure the long-term preservation of this important historic monument for future generations. The works were managed by Wexford County Council's Heritage Section, with grant aid of **€130,000** provided by the National Monuments Service's Community Monuments Fund.



Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 30th August 2026

485

Live cases

202

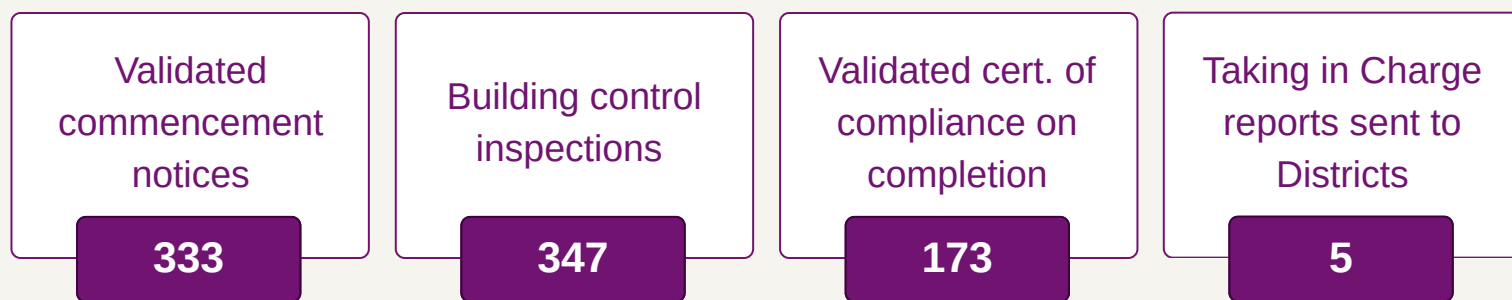
Cases opened
year to date

192

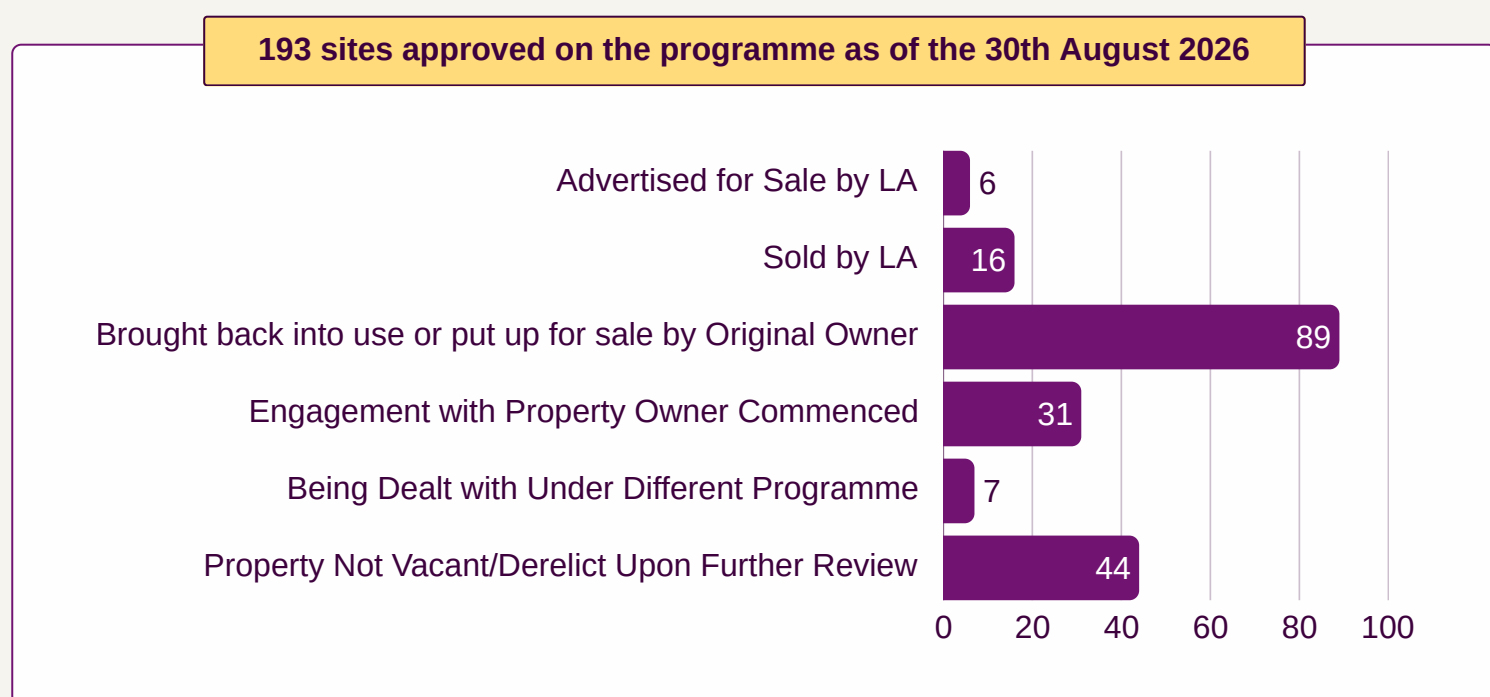
Cases closed
year to date

PLANNING CONT.

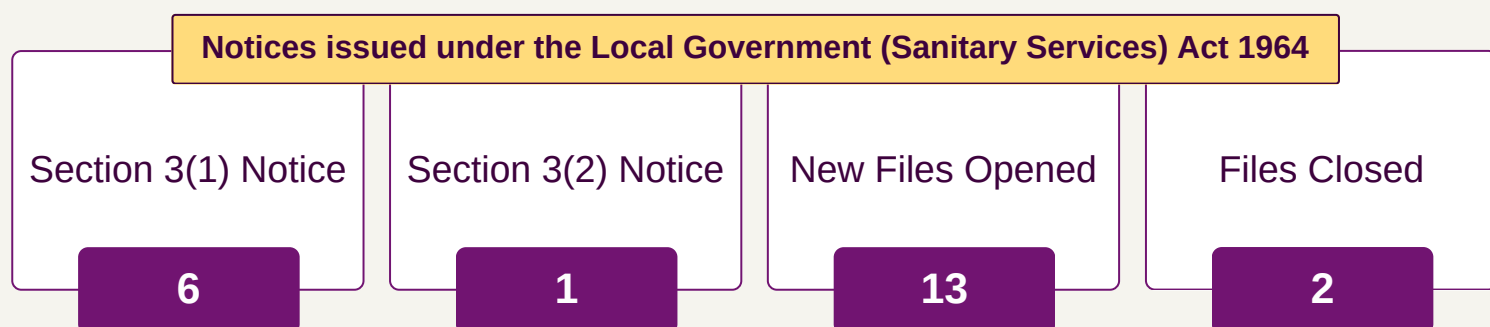
Building Control - Year to date up to the 30th August 2026



URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund



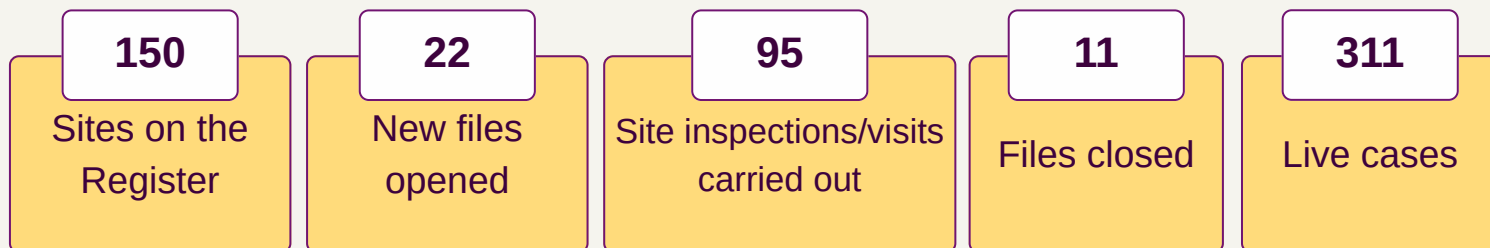
Dangerous Structures and Places - Year to date up to the 30th August 2026



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

PLANNING CONT.

Derelict Sites - year to date up to 30th August 2026



Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990



55 total notices issued



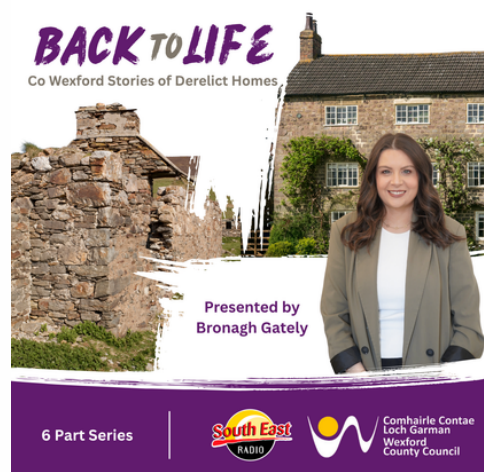
- **Section 8(2):** Notice of intention of entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- **Section 11(1):** A list of works required to be carried out by the owner within a timeframe
- **Section 8(7):** Notice of entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- **Section 22(2):** Notice of site valuation prior to the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

Back to Life - Podcast Series

County Wexford Stories of Derelict Homes has been shortlisted for the IMRO Awards in the Radio Podcast of the Year Category.

The 6 Part mini-series was produced by Wexford County Council in conjunction with Southeast Radio and was released over June and July this year.

The podcast featured 6 stores of derelict and vacant property brought back to life by property owners with the support of Wexford County Council through the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Planning Support, Conversation Support and Building Control Support. The podcast features derelict property from New Ross, Gorey, Wexford and South Wexford now returned as homes.



The IMRO Awards take place in Lyrath Estate Hotel on Friday 2nd October.

PLANNING CONT.

Disability Access Certificates (DACs) Year to date up to the 31st August 2026

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	14	1	6	7	0
Gorey	9	0	3	6	0
New Ross	14	0	3	10	1
Wexford	16	2	3	11	0
Rosslare	10	2	3	4	1
Totals	63	5	18	38	2

Disability proofing - year to date up to the 31st August 2026

101

LAC/PLAC/LRD and
General Planning Applications

5

Major pre-planning event
days

2

Event Licences

Access Items

Access Activity Key

Over the past month, the Access Team has continued to progress a number of initiatives aimed at improving accessibility and inclusion across the county.

Introduction of Sensory Boxes

The provision of Sensory Boxes for Wexford County Council district offices to support the Council's Autism Friendly Strategy is in the pipeline. A project led by our 2026 student, Brianne Kavanagh, who co-ordinated the research and sourcing. Each Sensory Box has been designed to support neurodivergence and people who may benefit from sensory aids when visiting Council offices. The boxes are now nearing completion, with a planned rollout in September 2026.

The introduction of these Sensory Boxes will help create a more welcoming and supportive environment for customers who experience sensory sensitivities, they represent another positive step in improving disability supports across all district offices, while also demonstrating Wexford County Council's commitment to achieving objectives of the Autism Strategy and Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People.

Update on Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030

The Access Section continues to engage with Departments and Districts to inform of the specific areas of the Human Rights Strategy for which they have responsibility. Additionally, an initial discussion with Wexford P.P.N has taken place to inform of their significant role in collaboration /consultation as key objectives under Pillar 3 in the Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People. The Access Team will attend the P.P.N. living well expos planned for Wexford and Gorey in September and October respectively. The June presentation to the Executive Team proved productive in setting the tone for a co-ordinated, whole-organisation response, underpinned by universal design, cross-departmental collaboration and the development of measurable KPI. A number of one to one meetings with individual Departments has since taken place.

Update on Collaborations Between Departments

Accessible Beaches: The installation and launch of the new bridge crossing, upgrading of approach, and the installation of Beach Mats at Clones Beach in the Gorey Municipal District. This significantly improved the access for the Beach and the Maritime Heritage Event of the 23rd of August, for this event beach wheelchair and rollator were also made available and managed by the Access Officer on the Day. This collaboration with the Environment Department, Access Section and the local community garnered significant positive feedback which was reported in local media.



Title		Status	Reach	Likes and reactions	Comments	Shares	Views
	Improving Beach Accessibility at Clone ...	Boost	4K	86	3	24	5.1K
	Reel · wexfordcoco						
	Improving Beach Accessibility at Clone ...	Boost	23.1K	251	23	24	28.2K
	Reel · Wexford County Council, 1 pendin...						

Accessible Events: In collaboration with the Health and Safety Department the initial stages of a process for recording and supporting Accessible Events in Wexford which are owned, operated, or funded by Wexford County Council has begun. This will assist in reporting on the measures taken to ensure that access and inclusion have been considered for all festivals and social events. That events are inclusive, accessible and open for all to participate, a key objective of the Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People. It is intended that the Access Section will develop a guidance document on measures to ensure Festivals /Social Events can be more accessible.

VACANT HOMES

Interest in the VPRG's remains high, while applications for the new vacant above the shop Grants are low with just 3 applications, however this scheme is in its infancy and there have been a good few queries which may translate into more applications for this Grant in the future.

Existing Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Work is continuing on vacant homes with €811,722 paid out in Grants in the last 8 weeks and €1,488,744.30 of initial approvals granted in this time period which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 25-08-26			
Applications Received	680	Awaiting Approval	0
Inspections Required (First)	3	Applications Rejected	12
Inspections Required (Final)	23	Applications Approved In Principle	5
Applications Info Requested	64	Withdrawn By Applicant	69
Applications Approved	523	Funding Issued	246
Total Funding Paid to Date		€13,702,403.10	
Total Funding Approved in Principle		€30,614,425.70	

Included in the above figures

Vacant Above the shop applications received	3
Vacant above the shop applications approved	1

In addition to the figures above

Expert Advice Grant applications received	3
Expert Advice Grant applications approved	3

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme

Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	Blackstairs GWS • Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete for stage 1 payment Recouped from Dept. • Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q2 2027.
MARWP 2024-2026	MARWP 2024-2026 • Funding approval – €1.2 million for the upgrade of 3.9km Watermain for Blackstairs GWS. • Topographical Survey carried out • Detail design ongoing • Site Investigations contract preparation underway
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	Individual Well Grants • A total of 41 new well grant applications were registered in August 2026 • 28 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €57,908.95 • 91 inspections to date carried out in August 2026.
Group Water Scheme Subsidies	• Subsidy A Application deadline passed. Approx. €278K paid to date. • Subsidy B (payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&M costs associated with “bona fide” DBO contracts for GWS’s). Validated figures for Q1 2026 payment made to schemes €94,225. Q2 approved for payment of €92,789.50. • MARWP Capital Replacement Costs of the DBO GWSs have been reviewed and approved for Blackstairs, Borrmount and Mullawn GWSs. The Employers representative has certified that all equipment has been replaced. The 4 DBO GWSs have been paid a total of €130,232.00.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 • Ramsgrange – €8.1 Million funding approved to Wexford County Council • Weekly update meetings held with the 5 Local Authorities with Measure A8 funding, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Uisce Eireann to assign responsibilities and to implement a plan for the execution of all projects in a timely manner. Draft MOU circulated for approval. • Appointment of consultants will be managed through this process.
Lead Remediation Grant	• 11 applications received to date on revised grant, 8 paid, 2 approved, 1 new application.
Compliance monitoring	• 168 private supplies on register for compliance monitoring. • Compliance testing ongoing for 2026 as per schedule. Mapping of all Private supplies for risk assessments as part of EU regulations have commenced.

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	Q1 2027
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q2 2027
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q4 2027
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2027
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q1 2027
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q1 2027
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2027

- Cois Cuan, Farrin Carraig & Beach View – Contractor appointed. Works programmed Q4 2026/Q1 2027.
- Stonebrook submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval. Planning Approved.
- Kyle Close submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval. Planning Approved.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The project is in Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

- Project design is progressing, with additional work ongoing to address Service Area requirements, Active Travel provisions, and Biodiversity considerations.
- The Additional Topographical Survey works for the proposed Online Service Area (OSA) has been completed. Results of the survey were sent to Technical Advisors for the development of the preliminary design of OSA.
- Preliminary design of the Active Travel facilities is ongoing.
- Preliminary design of the River Slaney Bridge has continued.
- The Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) has been submitted to MARA and the Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application is under review.
- Landowner consultation is ongoing.
- Preparation of the Financial and Progress reports in relation to the CEF funding has commenced

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

- Negotiations between the Real Estate Valuers and landowners regarding Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) compensation are ongoing. Agreement on compensation has been reached with five of the eight landowners.
- The procurement process for the appointment of Technical Advisors for Phases 6 and 7 is ongoing, with contract award expected in the coming weeks.
- The Main Construction Tender assessment has been completed. Contract award is expected in September 2026.
- Archaeological Consultants completed on-site archaeological works and de-mobilised from site. Reporting on the findings is ongoing.

NATIONAL ROADS

SAFETY SCHEMES

N25 Tagoat - The design report has been approved by TII. The scheme is out for Section 38 consultation at present and detailed design is ongoing to prepare for procurement before the end of 2026.

N30 Leeches Bend – West of Clonroche - Works are substantially complete

N25 Larkins Cross - Part 8 planning consent process commenced and is due to be completed in September. The report will be brought to the full council meeting.

HIGH LEVEL COLLISION ANALYSIS NATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

10 Locations Identified 2026

N11WX_118.0 Tinnahask - Site under review no clear options identified.

N11WX_119.0 Whitefort - Line marking and Signage review underway by THRDO. Additional warning signage has been installed.

N11WX_122.0 Kyle - Major N11/N25 Scheme required.

N25WX_165.0 Newtown - Safety scheme design solutions will be included as part of design for pavement scheme in this same location.

N25WX_166.0 Coolcots - Safety scheme design solutions will be included as part of design for pavement scheme in this same location.

N25WX_167.0 Clonard Great/Little - Safety scheme design solutions will be included as part of design for pavement scheme in this same location.

N30WX_019.0 Ballymackesy - Safety issues identified included in 2025 HD28 site which will progress in 2026

N30WX_023.0 leeches Bend - Site included in 2025 safety scheme. Scheme is now complete.

N80WX_100.0 Bunclody - Restrict parking on the approaches to the existing zebra crossings. Design required.

N80WX_102.6 Clohamon.

Draft Feasibility and options report sent to TII regional safety Team. Once approval achieved scheme will move to Design Report.

2025 Road Safety Inspection - N25 Lot 2C RSIs P3A – N25 (Wexford) - under review.

Park and Share M11 Junction 11 - A potential Park and Share facility is being investigated at Junction 11 on the M11. Feasibility and options stage.

2026 Pavement Schemes

Pavement Schemes for completion in 2026

- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great – Tender has been awarded with works due to commence in Q3 2026. This will consist of Civil works during the day and pavement works at night.
- N30 Rathturtin to Clonleigh Pavement – Tender has been awarded, civils works will start in September with pavement works following in October.

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2026

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

- N30 Ballymackesy 1.0km – Works are substantially complete
- N80 Ballycarney Cross North 1km – the project is in design phase
- N11/N25 New Ross Roundabout and N25 Duncannon Road Roundabout – to be included as part of a feasibility and options study to consider how vulnerable road users can traverse the junction
- N25 Duncannon Roundabout to Drinagh Roundabout – 2 separate sections 3km in total – Works have commenced and will be completed by the end of September.

Retexturing works

- N80 – Clohamon 2.7km
- N80 – Scarawalsh to Tomacurry 1.5km

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Wexford's allocation through the Regional and Local Road Grant 2026 is **€36,807,100**. This includes €13.49m allocated by DoT on 1st July 2026 under the 2026 Severe Weather Works.

Restoration Improvement €12,837,500

91 projects are now added to the road strengthening programme for 2026. Works are progressing on this roads programme with 76 projects (84%) completed to date.

Restoration Maintenance €2,917,000

R75 projects are added to the restoration maintenance / surface dressing programme. These works started on 22nd June 2026 and was completed on 14th August 2026. 74 of 75 projects completed, 1 remaining road to be completed in the coming weeks.

Severe Weather Works €13,490,000

On 1st July 2026 funding of €13.49m was allocated to Wexford County Council to repair damaged roads and structures arising from the severe weather in early 2026.

94 projects are added to this programme with works underway and 22 projects (23%) completed to date

Strengthening Works underway at L-4035 Ballykeerogue, Campile under the Severe Weather Works. New Ross MD.



Stabilisation Works at Kildavin Bridge, Murntown – carried out under 2026 Severe Weather Works. Rosslare MD.

Bridge Rehabilitation €690,000

12 bridges are included in this year's programme with 5 bridges completed to date.



Ballintarton Bridge / Culvert completed works – Bridge Rehab works. Rosslare MD

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works €700,000

19 projects are included in this year's programme with 8 projects completed to date.



Restoration works at Taulaught Bridge, St Kearns – under the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works. New Ross MD.

Community Involvement Schemes €665,700

Schemes are included in this year's programme with 6 schemes completed to date.

Safety Improvement Works €559,000

15 projects are included in this year's programme



L4043 Tintern – Safety Improvement Works underway – improving sightlines at entrance to Tintern Abbey. New Ross MD.

Strategic Rehabilitation Roads €420,000

One road is included in this year's programme – R772-12 Gorey (former N11). This contract will be awarded in Sept 2026.

Specific Improvement Grant €570,000

Wexford, Edermine and Kildavin (Murntown) Bridge Remediation Project €270,000.

Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are appointed to progress this scheme. The works involve bridge inspections, overseeing site investigations and undertaking necessary designs for remediation works.

The Detailed Structural Investigation Contract was awarded on 10th August 2026. Investigation works on the 3 bridges will start in Sept 2026 and will be completed in Oct 2026 – the findings from these investigation works will determine the extent of works required on each bridge. The investigation works will require traffic management at each bridge.

Grange Cliff Stabilisation Works €150,000

Extension to original scope of works to protect a section of road. The contractor started the works on 18th May and the main cliff works were completed on 10th July 2026.



Completed Works.

Green Coast Flag Flying



Grange Cliff Stabilisation, 5th August 2026

R733 Safety Improvement Project €150,000

Safety improvement project including linemarking, studs, junction improvements. Junction improvements completed at R733 / Redshire junction. Studs and linemarking are now completed at a number of key locations.

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Pathfinder projects	
Project & Location	Project Update
Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3	Tender awarded to successful contractor with commencement expected in Sept 2026. Construction traffic management discussions ongoing with contractor for Phase 2.
Hospital Junction Newtown Road	Landowner negotiations still ongoing between Council and HSE. Lands to be valued through Tailte Eireann valuations Services.
Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme	Part XI Planning Application approved on 8th June. Construction of phase 1 (permeability links, planting) to commence in Q4.
Roxborough Cycle Scheme	Planning Part XI to be completed this year. CCTV survey ongoing.

WX/22/0001 Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

Consultants are currently updating plan to incorporate plannings comments. Updated Wexford Town zoning was issued to our consultants to review impact of same.

WX/23/0010 Enniscorthy Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)

TII have reviewed the draft Plan and issued feedback, which has been incorporated into the draft Plan by the consultants. The Consultant has suggested to undertake a separate LTP to account for the new zoned lands in Enniscorthy.

Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRTS)

- Three schools have been selected for works in 2026:
- Kennedy College, New Ross
- St Fintan's National School, Taghmon · St Anne's National School, Rathangan.

Preliminary concept designs were presented for each of these schools at separate public information sessions. The Section 38 consultation period concluded on 28th August. A Section 38 report will be presented to the relevant Municipal Districts in September.

Enniscorthy Vocational College – Works are now completed and traffic speeds have been drastically reduced due to speed reduction measures such as speed cushions, raised pedestrian crossings and junction tightening works, together with footpath improvement works. Illegal parking on footpaths has been addressed with the installation of bollards. The Aldi Lidl roundabout will be redesigned to enable safe pedestrian crossing installations and reduce vehicular speeds on the regional road.

Supplementary Schemes

The following Active Travel schemes are at detailed design stage:

- Ballycanew pedestrian scheme
- Paul Funge Boulevard, Gorey – 3 no. pedestrian crossings
- Old Dublin Road footpath scheme
- The Shannon, Enniscorthy – pedestrian scheme

Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme

Rural Bus shelter update

Bus Shelter Installation completed at the following locations:

- Campile
- Clonard Rd. Wexford
- Roxborough, Wexford x2
- Killealy
- Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy
- Tagoat
- Rosslare Strand
- Mauristown Rd. Rosslare
- New Ross Marina x2
- Curracloe
- Duncormick
- Castlebridge
- Ballindaggin



PUBLIC LIGHTING

Public Lighting Development Fund

The following are schemes are being progressed at present:

Scheme	Current Position	Detail to Progress
Saltmills Village	Works complete	Operational
Ballycullane Village	Works complete	Operational
Auburn Avenue, New Ross	Works complete	Operational
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	Awaiting ESB connection	Installation complete, awaiting connection and certification.
Kilhile Arthurstown	Design returned, awaiting pricing	Further information sought from contractors on design.
Glentire Heights to the Ballagh Village	Works Ongoing	Operational
Kiltealy Village	Works Ongoing	Operational
South Quay, New Ross	Contractor appointed	Works to commence in September
Carnew Road, Gorey	Works complete.	Operational
Oylegate Community Centre	Works completed.	Operational
Kilrane Road Infill	Works completed.	Operational
Coolgreaney	Civils work completed	Awaiting light installation and certification
Boolavogue	Civils work completed	Awaiting light installation and certification
Bellevue New Ross	Contractor appointed	Works to commence in September
Piercestown	Civil works ongoing	Design and quotations sought

CLONARD TO WHITEMILL LINK ROAD

Clonard to Whitemill Link Road is progressing. Soil removal, road base construction, and retaining walls are complete. As are the utility works and the majority of pavement and footpath works. Works will start on the junctions in the coming weeks. The road is due for completion in Q4 of 2026. Tie in works at the junction with Whitemill Road and Clonard Road will be required prior to the road opening.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Projects at Planning Stages

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: September 2026
Ballast Office- a)Essential repair Work	Construction stage	Essential repair works have now been completed.
		
b)Refurbishment	Design Stage	The consultant services package is to be tendered with the John Street Grainstore in the coming month.
Ballynagee Link Road	Design Stage	The full scheme progressed through the “major pre-planning” process in Q1 2026 and is anticipated to be submitted for development consent sought via Part 8 in October 2026. Funding for this project has been confirmed under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund.
Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building	Planning Stage	Initial enabling works to level the site and make accessible for use are complete. We await confirmation of our agreement with the WWETB before commencing the next phase of works.
Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme	Planning Stage	Submission to ACP will follow receipt of an MAC from MARA who have assessed the application for the Marine Area Consent and have issued the Minded to Determine Notice
Dunbrody Centre and Extension	Detail Design	Detailed design is ongoing in preparation for issue for tender, which is planned for October 2026 (subject to Department approval)
Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme		
Phase 1-New River Slaney Bridge Project	Design Phase	The road bridge alignment option and junction designs are continuing. Ecology surveys are being kept up to date, such as, wintering bird surveys. Traffic modelling is ongoing for the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge. An initial pre-application consultation has been held with An Comisiun Pleanala - there are two more to follow. Design of the public realm and road layout is ongoing.
Phase 2	Feasibility Stage	The suitability assessment for the appointment of the Consultant Engineer is now complete. Invitations to tender will be sent to shortlisted candidates in October.
Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2 420827	Tender Stage	The tender for construction works was published March 2026. Appointment of main works contractor is anticipated in the new earthworks season Q2 2027, subject to approval to proceed with project.
Enniscorthy Technical Park IDA Tech Building 420847	Planning Stage	Planning application was submitted in December 2025. Final grant was issued in March 2026.

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: September 2026
Enniscorthy- (A) Town Centre & Tourism Project	Tender Stage	Consultants for detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Templeshannon scheme. Tenders have been received and tender assessment is ongoing. It is expected to appoint the successful design team in October, with design work to begin immediately. An application for the whole of the Market Square and Town Centre Regeneration Project, along with the enabling and demolition works for the Castle Quarter project, was made under the new Town and Cities Regeneration Investment fund on 1st May 2026.
(B) Templeshannon Regeneration Project.	Design Stage	Consultants for preliminary design, planning, detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be procured in tandem with consultants for the Market Square scheme. Tenders have been received and tender assessment is ongoing. It is expected to appoint the successful design team in October, with design work to begin immediately. An application has been submitted for the project as part of the Category 1A Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund call seeking funding of €150,000 for project development and DT fees on 1st May 2026.

Gorey Market House	Construction	The main works contract was awarded to B. Nevin Contracting Limited T/A Nevin Construction. Works are ongoing, due for completion in late 2027
Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)	Design Stage	The Irish Rail approvals process is ongoing and the project has now received Approval in Principal. Development consent via Part 8 was approved in July 2026. Detailed design has commenced and is anticipated to be completed in 2026. Funding for this project has been confirmed under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund, specific funding details to follow.
John Street Grain Store, New Ross	Design Stage	The application for development consents for the new public realm to the rear of the property was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála on March 12th, 2026. An application for funding the whole scheme (Building and public realm) was made under the new Town and Cities Regeneration Investment fund (TCRIF) on 1st May.
Riverchapel Community Centre	Design stage	Initial costings have been returned in excess of the original project budget. A thorough review is being carried out into the design brief as part of project value engineering. A meeting was held with the DRCDG on the 12th of August 2026, regarding the project proposal. A detailed project report and drawing is to be submitted to them for review.
Wexford Town Public Space Improvements (Cornmarket to Common Quay)	Feasibility	A TCRIF (Town Centre Regeneration Reinvestment Fund) Category 1A funding application has been submitted to support the development of the project and allow for the engagement of a design team to develop the project in line with the objectives set out in the draft TCF Strategy.

Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenways	Options Selection	Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand - Additional Flood Modelling is currently ongoing. Options Report on hold pending development of flood modelling and further assessment. Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour-Options Selection Report Peer review completed. Preferred Route Corridor agreed. A public Consultation process was conducted from 4/3/26 to 1/4/26. Phase 2 Gate Review Statement for the Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenway is complete. Pending formal approval from TII to proceed to Phase 3, WCC are making final preparations to invite tenders from Consultants for Phases 3 & 4 (preliminary design and statutory consents)
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Wexfordia		
Irish National Heritage Park	Preliminary Design	MARA have issued a Mandate to Determination notice for the scheme. A submission to ACP for approval is scheduled for Q4 2026. Preliminary Design of the new visitor centre is now complete
Hook Lighthouse	Preliminary Design	It is expected that the full preliminary design including Environmental reports, Interpretative and Architectural Designs will be completed by Q4 2026 for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála. Following delay caused by necessary ecological surveys, we are finalising the design for re-presentation to the Board of HHL, now planned for Q4 2026, prior to further engagement with other stakeholders. Public consultation will follow this. It is planned to submit to ACP before the end of 2026.
New Ross Tourism Project:	Tender Stage	The tender process is now complete and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Finalising interpretative design phase. A capital funding application for the project was submitted in late July under RRDF Call 5. A decision on funding is expected in Q4 2026.

Projects Under Construction

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: September 2026
Adoration Convent	Construction Stage	Works commenced onsite in July 2025, with the project now at an advanced stage of fitout. Works are expected to be complete in November 2026, and that students from GSU will occupy the refurbished convent from January 2027.
Enniscorthy Sports Hub 420330	Construction Stage	Works are progressing & currently on programme for completion in Nov. 2026
Esmonde Street, Gorey	Construction Stage	Construction works commenced on 8th June 2026 and are progressing on-site.
Ferndale Gymnasium	Handover	Substantial completion on the building was achieved on 6th May 2026, with an official opening in to take place in due course subject to ministerial availability.
Mechanics Institute	Construction	Works are ongoing. Completion date is anticipated for September 2026.

SouthEast Greenway		
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3	Complete	
Lot 8a Rosbercon Trailhead	Preliminary Design	Part 8 submission for Lot 8a (Rosbercon Trailhead) was approved at the June Wexford County Council Meeting
Lot 4	Detailed Design	The tender for the Lot 4 works contract has been advertised. Works are expected to commence in Q4 2026.
Lot 4a	Options Selection	No update

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: September 2026
Lot 5a	Complete	Phase 2 of the South East Greenway, Ferrybank to Curraghmore, opened on 19th June 2026.
Lot 5b ,Lot 6, Lot 7	Detailed Design	The design of Lots 5b, 6, & 7 is ongoing construction works are expected to commence on-site mid 2027
Lot 8	Preliminary Design	No update
Lot 9	Detailed Design	No update

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: September 2026
Trinity Wharf	Detailed Design Stage	Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing pending the licence agreement confirmation. As per the licence agreements with Irish Rail a new temporary security fence was erected to allow Irish Rail to undertake their works on the Trinity Wharf site. The revised Stage 1 pre-qualification for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) closed on the 6th of February 2026 and assessment is complete. It is planned to invite tenders before the end of 2026.
Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Options Selection	The Scheme is currently in optioneering. A Public Participation Day (PPD) was held on the 24th Aug 2026 and was well attended by the public. At the PPD the consultant has presented the short list of options showing areas that require defence.

Funding & Development Schemes		
Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025	n/a	DRCDG announced the TVRS 2026 Building and Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM) on 29th April, 2026 . A max. fund of €500,000 per LA is available under this measure. Funding applications for 2no. properties were submitted to DRCDG under the TVRS 2026 Building and Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM) Funding for the acquisition on 2no. properties under the Building & Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM) was approved by Minister Dara Calleary on 30th July 2026. For reasons of commercial sensitivity, details of the properties that may be purchased must remain confidential until the conveyancing process is completed.
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	n/a	Measure 1 and Measure 4 Projects approved under the 2024/2025 ORIS Fund are being progressed by the relevant Community Groups with an expected completion by Q1 2027. Measure 2 and Measure 3 Projects to be delivered by WCC - completion before scheme deadline of Q4 2027 The 2026 -2027 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) was launched by the Minister Dara Calleary TD, on 3rd June, making funds available for communities under a range of measure. A call for Expressions of Interest is currently open.
Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)	n/a	We submitted applications for Call 5 as follows: €10m - New Ross Norman Centre €5m - Castlebridge House
CLÁR Funding		Closing date for applications to DRCDG was 3rd July. Up to 12 applications for funding of between €5,000 and €65,000 with a further 2 applications up to €100,000 may be submitted. Community Section is administering submission of CLÁR applications.

Wexford Outdoors Week 10th - 16th August: Activities included - Family Hike in Forth Mountain, Children's Kayaking & Inclusive Kayaking with Reach Ability, Surfing for teenage girls and Morning Yoga.



Fun in the Sun - The Annual Multi-Sport Fun Camp took place in July. A total of 505 children including children from the Traveller community, refugees and children with disabilities took part in free activities over the 6 days.

Highlights from a Summer of Sports Activity:

Try It!	A Multi-Sport Youth Programme designed for children and adolescents to experience a variety of sports in a relaxing, non-competitive environment.
Teen Outdoor Adventure Camp	Teens took part in a 4-week Outdoor Adventure Camp enjoying canoeing, kayaking, orienteering and mountain biking.
Walk, Breathe & Connect	A guided, easy-going outdoor session designed to help participants experience the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature. NR Riverside Walkway
Lunch Circuits	Lunchtime circuits were held in Clonard Community Centre for people working who wanted to take part in physical activity during their lunch break.
Outdoor Adventure Summer Programme	Individuals from Cumas Disability Services engaged in a 5-week outdoor adventure programme.
Reach Ability Sports Day	Sports Active staff assisted with the Reach Ability Disability Services Sports day involving 66 participants.
Bunclody Aqua Aerobics	In partnership with Empowering Communities (WLD), Sports Active held an 8-wk aqua aerobics & triathlon taster programme in Bunclody Outdoor Swimming Pool. 42 women attended.

Pride of Place Awards

The Pride of Place judges arrived in Enniscorthy on Friday 31st July for a presentation by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in Castle Gardens Nursing Home. The team there gave an insight into their great work and impact on their community. The judges returned on 8th September to meet the Cottage Autism Network in Wexford Town for their presentation. The awards night is planned for 24th October in the Convention Centre, Dublin.

Local Community Safety Partnership



Oireachtas and Public Reps Meeting 30th July

Wexford Local Community Safety Partnership held its fourth meeting this year on the 30th July in the Council Chamber which included Oireachtas members for County Wexford, as well as elected members of Wexford County Council.

A full update was given on the work of the Partnership to date, and details on the development of our 3 -Year Local Community Safety Plan. This meeting was in accordance with the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 where our Public Representatives are briefed on the work of the Partnership.



Age Friendly

As part of the *Let's Get Moving Project* funded by Healthy Wexford the Age Friendly Programme organised exercise classes in day care centres and nursing homes across the five districts in Wexford. The programme ran for five weeks and provided older people with opportunities to participate in accessible physical activity, supporting mobility, strength, balance, and overall wellbeing.



UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

Offer a Home Scheme

The Offer A Home scheme will come to an end in March 2027. The team is actively communicating with families to encourage them to enter rental agreements in the private sector or with families. Since the 1st of April 2026, 37 properties have been withdrawn from the scheme.

Pledge Type	No. of Properties	No. of People Placed
Offer a Home	256	739
Irish Red Cross	24	74

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Carne Accommodation Centre, Unity Court and Borrmount Lodge have been given closure notices in line with the Governments withdrawal of state-contracted commercial accommodation. These three centres are due to close by the end of October 2026.

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	51	68
Unity Court, Wexford	33	57
Michael Street, Wexford	13	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	30	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	5	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	13	21

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)

Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTP)

In preparation for the closure of nine Ukrainian accommodation centres between 18 and 31 October, the LAIT & Ukraine Response Team visited all affected centres, providing residents with information, addressing concerns and supporting those with identified vulnerabilities to access the Government's vulnerability assessment process.

Summer programmes focused on Child and Adult Wellbeing

A number of successful integration and wellbeing initiatives were delivered during August brings together members of the local community and people from new communities:

- The [Woodland Walks programme](#) in Courtown
- The [Empower Me programme](#) provided two days of creative workshops for women in partnership with Creative Ireland.
- The team facilitated a range of youth initiatives in partnership with the FAI and Wexford Sports Active, including summer camps, teenage soccer and a surf camp.
- A Mental Health and Wellbeing Day was also held for residents of the Carne accommodation centre, including a visit to Tintern Abbey, combining physical activity, wellbeing and an opportunity to experience Wexford's heritage and natural environment.



ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

Seaview Coastal Protection project has now received further funding from OPW €500,000 to strengthen rock Armour at entrance to access road. Main project is now substantial complete including 76m long concrete access ramp. Strengthening armour rock works of the access of the estate will commence shortly (OPW funding €500,000)

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

Kilpatrick Beach Part 8 Planning has now been approved and will be submitted to eTenders shortly.

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

Ballyhack & Passage East Car Ferry Infrastructure: AYESA consultant has been appointed and progressing with environmental reports.

Rosslare CRFRS: Public Participation Day completed. Emergency works for Kellys hotel coastal erosion has been applied for with OPW Minor works team, awaiting confirmation.

Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement: OPW Funding secured for €190m, additional application has been submitted to OPW to extend works in its entirety (Ch 0 to Ch 500). Part 8 Planning due to be submitted to Council at the September meeting.

DAFM Works 2026 – Received Approval from DAFM for 6 projects to the value of €730,000 for Piers & Harbours

- Duncannon Old Pier – Recommence works following design change 21st September
- Arthurstown Harbour – Wall repairs
- St Kierans wall, Saltmills, - Masonery wall repairs
- Slade Harbour – Middle Pier Wall
- New Ross Marina
- Courtown Harbour – crash Barrier

Bathing Waters – Awaiting results for final testing of the season which was completed in September.

Operations – Fethard on Sea, Slipway. After consulting with Foreshore Dept the decision is for the application to remain with them. Dept going to public consultation to have environmental impact assessment surveys completed. Expected timeline is one year.

MARA reconciliation of New Ross Marina and debris boom. Application to be completed and submitted in the coming weeks.

MARA has issued MUL 240003 for the Barrow pre-dredging surveys to be undertaken. The commencement date for the MUL was 23/03/2026 and holds a three-year term. Quotes for survey works stand the same as previously quoted circa €135 + VAT. Awaiting a decision with Management.

River Basin Management funding application granted €20,000 for NbS rain water garden in Ferrybank.

Funding application completed for pre development stage for NbS rain water garden in Kilmore Quay. Report will include drawings, drone GPS survey and pricing document.

Preparation works for generator cargo planned for Marshmeadows to be completed mid Sept.

Works completed;

Safety railing replaced on Duncannon Pier

Bunded waste oil tank installed at Duncannon for Fishers

Levelling and grading off car park at Ferrybank, hedging sown.

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2026	January – August 27 applications received (10/8)	2026 – Total €233,096.63 sent to finance	2 on hold for documentation
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No of Verification Inspections

2025 - Verification Inspections = 91	2026 - Verification Inspections = 47
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Court cases

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

Ongoing Inspections

125 cases were open at the end of 2025. 49 cases closed in 2026. There are currently 138 open cases, including 2026.

- 91 new inspections have been carried out for 2026. 25 passed and 66 failed. 3 inspections booked for September 2026.
- In 2026, 20 direct discharges to surface water and 17 discharges onto the surface of the ground were noted.
- NIP inspections will continue in 2026 in Piercetown/Murrintown area, Castletown/Inch area, Mount Howard & Lady’s Island area.

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

No. of Monitoring Submission Returns from 1/1/2026 to 31/7/2026	62
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Low Smoke Fuel Areas - There have been 4 inspections of premises / forecourts / shops who are all selling compliant products.

Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

DECO Paints: 8 Inspections carried out, 5 Certs of compliance issued. Site inspections are ongoing. 1 un-authorised operator received fines in June, premises was assessed by EPA approved assessor in July, awaiting assessors report. 1 operator who moved premises has been located, inspection due in September. Advisory Notices issued to 3 premises who have failed to renew certification. 2 un-authorised Auto-Refinishers located, advisory letters issued.

Dry Cleaners: 6 Dry-Cleaners are currently registered, All Certified as Compliant. 1 un-authorised premises received fines in July, submitted application for compliance subsequent to fines and is now Certified compliant.

Petrol Stations -PVE emissions Stage 1B 12 Inspections. 10 premises re-certified. 1 un-registered premises located in August & Advisory letter hand-delivered, testing booked for 9th September. Advisory Notices issued to 5 Petrol Stations for non-renewal of Certification. 2 of these are now registered. Warning letters will be issued to the remaining Service Stations in September. Prosecutions will follow from warnings if non-compliance continues.

Agriculture - Under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme, Wexford County Council's target has remained at 271 GAP Initial inspections for 2026 concentrating in catchments where agriculture has been identified as the main pressure and is not meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Catchments such as Heathpark_010, Begerin_010, Owenduff, Boro_040, Lady's Island Lake, Aughboy, Mangan, Lask_010 and Inch_010 are currently being inspected.

The team will undertake other agricultural inspections such as sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up inspections. A total of 278 farm related inspections have been carried out in 2026 to date with 142 of these been initial GAP inspections (target of 271) and 75 follow up inspections which are imperative to the EPA's inspection process.

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

A total of 70 agricultural related planning permission applications have been assessed to date in 2026. 8 applications were refused on failure to demonstrate compliance with the GAP regulations. 17 applications resulted in further information requested to assess the farm under the current regulations.

Waste/Litter Management

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	%Increase/ Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/ Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
Jan to Dec 2025	2441	Up 3%	981	Down 4%
1 Jan-31 Aug 2026	1751			

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

	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2025	Jan - 31 Aug 2026
Incidents	3896	4235	4195	4419	2891
Closed	3721	4009	3944	4176	2343
Closure Rate	95%	95%	94%	94%	81%

Members Portal

	1 Jan to 31 Aug 2026
Incidents	123
Closed	116



Comhairle Contae Loch Garman

Wexford County Council

Customer Services

Environmental Cases

Total Calls

2915

Total Calls logged 1 Jan to 31 Aug 2026

Issue Type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	15	17	18	19	30	24	25	21	169
Air Pollution	10	8	10	11	11	7	12	13	82
Beach Bye Laws			1	2	1	1	7	18	30
Bring Banks	11	1	3	2	6	4	7	7	41
Coastal	3	6	5	5	8	3	10	5	45
Community Cleanup	72	89	114	117	74	52	81	67	666
Dog complaint	3	4	2		3	3	5	1	21
Fines	15	8	3	9		12	3	2	52
Litter	201	169	193	163	113	114	172	196	1321
Loose Animals			2		1		1	4	8
Noise Pollution	9	5	4		7	13	15	13	66
Oil Pollution	2		5	1	1	3	2	2	16
Public Convenience					1	2	7	5	15
Waste Pollution	23	19	18	31	20	34	46	36	227
Water Pollution	9	8	11	8	19	11	28	14	108
Work Request	7	5	3	7	12	3	7	4	48
Total	380	339	392	375	307	286	428	408	2915

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Court Overview

Month	Heard	Outcome	Litter	Waste	Water	Air	Noise	Dogs
Jan - July (no court August)	8	Total fines	€1300	€100	NA	NA	NA	€750
		Total costs	€1520.50	€0	NA	NA	NA	€250

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

	Jan - August (26th) 2026
Fixed payment Notices issued	3 FPN WBPL 3 Waste regulations
Litter fines issued	68 (26/8)
Fines paid litter	48
FPN paid	6
Successful prosecutions	8
Legal proceedings in progress	38
Amount collected in fines	€7294.50 litter, €2400 dogs, €225 FPN, €1500 waste regs – total €11,419.50
Dog fines issued	12

Anti-dumping Initiative 2026:

The Household Furniture Amnesty will be held in Holmestown Recycling Centre for 3 weeks from Tuesday to Friday from 8th to 25th September 2026

Control of Dogs & Horses

<u>Control of dogs</u>	2024	2025	Jan-Jul 2026
Dogs collected	564	546	257
Dogs reclaimed	147	149	67
Dogs re-homed/transferred	442	386	159
Dogs put to sleep	31	10	7
Dog Fines	11	12	8

Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites July 2026	Recycling out July 2025 (t)	Recycling out July 2026 (t)
Glass bottles		330.96	383.82
Aluminium Cans		3.3	2.23
Total	108	334.26	386.05

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out July 2025 (t)	Recycling out July 2026 (t)	Recycling out July 2025 (t)	Recycling out July 2026(t)	Recycling out July 2025(t)	Recycling out July 2026 (t)	Recycling out July 2026 (t)	Recycling out July 2026 (t)
Total Recycling out	57	68	70	60	98	100	49	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	307	464	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Jul	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	76	84	115	114	162	190	83	83

Rapid Response Crew

Headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	Jul 2025	Jul 2026
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	157	218
Gorey *		48
Enniscorthy *		73
Wexford *		54
New Ross*		20
Rosslare		18
Total Bring Site Inspections	793	922

Environment Education and Awareness

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

Green Schools/ School Workshops: Preparations are under way for the coming academic year. Workshops and school programmes will be booked and communication with all green schools will begin in September 2026.



Trees for Wexford: The Trees for Wexford Scheme will open for applications on Wednesday 9th September. Closing date is Friday 25th September at 4 pm

Planting Grant: 147 applications for planting grants were received with 101 voluntary groups receiving a grant of 250 euros.

Keep Wexford Beautiful: 106 entries were received from 54 groups, and the competition was judged during July. Results will be announced at the annual Environment Awards on Monday 9th November in the Ferrycarrig Hotel

Circular Cups for Community Events: Relay For Life event which took place on 5th & 6th July used the circular Cups. Promotion of the cups continues.

Additional support was provided to the event with the provision of 5 waste segregation units and signage to aid segregation of waste at the event.



Local Waste Prevention Grant / Local Circular Economy Grant 2026: This scheme aims to support communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas. 10 projects have been funded with a completion date of 25th September.



Material World: An engaging and thought-provoking exhibition exploring fast fashion, textile waste and our role in shaping a more sustainable world will be in County Hall in September and Gorey Library in October. A series of workshops for schools and a community session will form part of the exhibition. Students will gain awareness of the environmental impacts of fast fashion, recognise the value of repair, care reuse and upcycling and learn about sustainable and circular fashion options.

Gorey Dates: 6th, 7th & 8th October

Community Clean Ups: Registrations and support for WCC;s Community Clean Up programme is ongoing.

Date	No. of community Clean Ups
01/07/2026 – 31/08/2026	144
01/01/2026 - 31/08/2026	662

CLIMATE ACTION

WCC is behind on our glide path for Thermal and Transport emissions. If HVO is not used for our fleet, in a significant way, Wexford County Council will not meet our CO2 target of 51% reduction by 2030. Currently Wexford County Council is above CO2 emissions from the baseline years of 2016-2018. Over 51% reduction in CO2 emissions is now required by 2030. The pathfinder projects will address the thermal requirements. Regarding the transport requirement, a new fuel tank is on order for the Machinery Yard with an estimated 15% allocation in this new tank for HVO. To achieve our transport emissions targets, half our overall diesel consumption will need to convert to HVO. This measure along with the Pathfinder projects for buildings retrofit for our Significant Energy users would meet our Climate Action targets of 51% reduction in CO2 emissions and 50% reduction in our energy usage.

1.Green Flag trial – Wexford County Council is one of six chosen LA’s taking part in this pilot initiative. A trial audit was carried out in July. The auditor and a rep from CARO along with staff from a number of different sections attended the opening meeting. A site visit around Co. Hall was completed with particular emphasis on the Plant room and the Biodiversity elements around the campus.

This work is a core part of the CARO 2026 Work Programme agreed by the CMMA and DCEE. Following on from the application and the audit inspection, a report with recommendations will issue to WCC from the auditor. The trial puts Wexford in as strong position when the Green Flag application is launched in 2027 with much of the baseline data collated as part of this pilot. It was also an opportunity to highlight challenges encountered in the process.



2. **'Shareclub Enniscorthy'** The official launch of the project took place in August, with Wexford County Council and Enniscorthy Tidy Towns. Funding was provided by the Environment Awareness Section for this initiative through circular economy funding stream.



Enniscorthy Tidy towns Launch Share Cup Initiative 27th August 2026



Enniscorthy DZ

Ringfenced funding has been allocated to Enniscorthy DZ by DCEE. The DZ Demonstrator Fund gives local authorities funding to advance their DZs and demonstrate what works. It is made up of funding from the Local Government Climate Programme and the National Dialogue on Climate Action to ensure an integrated approach and an emphasis on community engagement through the DZ process. The fund must be used to support projects and actions which are identified in each local authority's LA CAP/DZ Register of Opportunities. A minimum spend must be used on engagement activities that seek to mobilise citizens and communities in taking local climate action.

WCC are using this engagement funding for an Energy & EV event in the Astro Active community Centre in Bellfield on 22nd October 2026. The event will host over 30 exhibitors with information on energy awareness and energy efficiency measures for the home and business. There will also be an EV expo with a number of EVs on display outside the venue from the Car dealers in Enniscorthy. It is planned to host presentations and panel discussions upstairs throughout the day on Energy, EVs and Air quality. Real-life experience will also be provided from homeowners and businesses who have carried out retrofit measures and from EV owners/drivers

Pathfinder Retrofit Programme

A. The Apex Leisure centre, New Ross is still at stage one of the design process.

B. Ferrybank Leisure Centre – Emergency Enabling Works (Air Handling Unit Replacement) have been completed. The electricity consumption baseload has decreased since this upgrade.

C. **Co Hall Lighting and lighting controls retrofit** - Mini Tender published the established Pathfinder Multi-Party framework in May 2026. The Tenders were evaluated and the Project was awarded to Aramark Workplace Solutions. A Pre-Contract Meeting is scheduled for start of September.

A Solar PV Installation is planned for New Ross Town Park Public Shower/Toilet Facilities in September. The projected electricity generation is 7,692 kwh with a projected payback period of 6 years.

A successful SEAI Business Energy Upgrade Scheme (BEUS) Inspection Audit was carried out on BMS Upgrade at Wexford Fire Station HQ on 5th August.



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME (CCAP)

Wexford County Council awarded 23 organisations grant funding through Phase 2 of the CCAP. The project timeframe has commenced with groups engaging their preferred contractors, groups have until October 2027 to fully complete their works which includes a variety of measures such as installation of solar panels, retrofit windows, improve insulation, decommission diesel generators, upgrade lighting to LED, install grey water systems in their buildings, plant native pollinators and other Climate Action Measures.

Biodiversity

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

A report on submissions received during the public consultation phase of the draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan is now drafted to present to the next Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy committee due to take place on the 25th of September. All submissions received will be considered and issues raised reflected in the final draft plan where appropriate.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2026

Projects currently underway with the assistance of funding under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund through the National Parks and Wildlife Service

- **Swift Survey** – Birdwatch Ireland have been engaged to undertake a survey of the Common Swift in Enniscorthy and New Ross and Gorey. The objective of the Swift survey is to gather data on the number and location of nest sites in Enniscorthy and New Ross and Gorey, raise awareness of their presence and determining the number of nest boxes required to bolster the population, and where best to locate them. A well attended talk on Swifts with Bird Watch Ireland was held in New Ross library in August to coincide with Heritage Week.
- **Wetland Survey** – The aim of this survey is to continue to identify and survey previously unmapped wetland sites across the county. The survey results will be used to identify important sites of conservation value. Results will be shared in-house with other departments and also with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Heritage Council who are mapping County Biodiversity Areas (CBA's).
- **Invasive species control** – Cherry laurel control is underway in Tintern Abbey woods in association with Coillte and the local Tintern Trails Committee. Treatment has resulted in a large amount of the cherry laurel now standing dead. In September, after the nesting season the standing dead laurel over public footpaths will be removed and the areas underplanted with native woodland planting. This project will continue over a number of years to ensure any regrowth is identified and targeted. On the 22nd of October a public awareness raising event to highlight the problems associated with Cherry Laurel will be held in conjunction with the Gaelic Woodland Project.



invasive cherry laurel dying
back in the woodland at
Tintern

- **Hare's Corner** – This is an initiative in association with Burren Beo aiming to help landowners make more space for nature through creation of habitats such as Mini-Woodlands, Heritage Orchards, Wildlife Ponds, Wildlife Hedges and through provision of bespoke 'Plans for Nature' to guide their biodiversity. The table below shows a breakdown of the number of initiatives supported under this project

New Orchards	Mini Woodlands	Hedgerow	Plans for Water	Ponds	Plans for Nature
74	35	56	20	19	20

- **Supporting local communities through education and awareness** A number of other events held during Heritage Week were supported by the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. In Enniscorthy a kayak event on the Slaney with leader ecologist Faith Wilson was organised by Enniscorthy Tidy Towns. The aim was to highlight the ecology of the river and in particular the immense amount of non native invasive species which are growing rampantly and changing the ecology of the river valley. This was an action of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Enniscorthy which focuses mainly on the River Slaney



Age Friendly

Adult Sensory Collection

The Wexford Libraries Adult Sensory Collection was launched at New Ross Library during the Summer and the collection is now available to borrow from all County Wexford libraries. Designed to support older adults and people with visual impairments, sensory needs, acquired brain injuries and dementia, the collection includes a range of assistive resources to promote independence, wellbeing and inclusion.



Yvonne Smith Senior Executive Librarian, Eileen Morrissey County Librarian, Councillor Lisa McDonald, Shane Gibbons Executive Librarian, Annie Murphy Manager of Granstown Daycare Centre, Theresa Kelly Childrens Librarian and library staff member Caroline Waters at the launch of the Adult Sensory Collection in New Ross Library.

Memory Boxes

Wexford Libraries has launched a new initiative called "Memory Boxes" that will help support the well-being of people suffering with dementia. The memory box initiative falls under the Age Friendly programme in the Wexford County Council Public Library Service.

It allows patrons to borrow a box of items that stimulate memories and conversation for free with your library card. Each box contains items and activities that bring joy and connection to people living with dementia and their care-givers. This includes a mix of images of Co. Wexford, oral and written media, and music.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

Tiny Little Library

The launch of Tiny Little Library at the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) in Wexford General Hospital took place in late July, bringing the power of stories, language and connection to some of the County's smallest and most vulnerable babies.

Tiny Little Library is an innovative partnership between Wexford Library Service and the neonatal team at Wexford General Hospital.

The initiative also links families with their local public library, ensuring continued access to books, resources and support after their baby returns home.

The initiative provides a collection of carefully selected books that parents can read aloud to their premature and hospitalised babies, helping families bond during what can be a challenging and emotional time.



Senior Executive Librarian Yvonne Smith and Childrens Librarian Theresa Kelly with members of the neonatal team of Wexford General Hospital at the launch of Tiny Little Library.

Photo courtesy of Jim Campbell

Summer Stars Reading Adventure 2026

Summer Stars Reading Adventure is a free national reading programme, open to all children, which takes place in all public libraries every Summer. It ran in Wexford Libraries branches from June 2 until the end of August 2026.

Children were invited to join the library, if not already a member, and enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading throughout the Summer. They received incentives along the way including a Summer Stars Reading Adventure activity book, reading card, stickers and a range of other prizes. There were also free library events throughout the Summer which included drama and dance workshops, quizzes, craft sessions and storytimes.

3338 children signed up to the Summer Stars Reading Adventure this year throughout the County.

My Little Library Book Bag

The My Little Library Book Bag initiative has returned to libraries across the country.

The free bag is available to all children starting school in 2026 to help support the transition to primary school and is available in both English and Irish versions. Each bag is filled with brand new picture books and resources to promote literacy and library membership and can be collected from all Wexford Libraries branches and both Mobile Libraries.

The My Little Library Book Bag initiative is part of the national Right to Read programme to promote literacy and reading development for everyone and is a collaboration between Libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

To date **577** children have collected their My Little Library Book Bag in the County.

Wexford Reads Festival 2026

Wexford Libraries launched the Wexford Reads Festival at the end of March. This festival of "In Conversation" events brings some of the public's favourite authors to library branches throughout the County.

Enniscorthy Library welcomed bestselling author Carmel Harrington at the beginning of July.

Carmel captivated the room with discussions about her latest novel "The Nowhere Girls," her creative writing process and her life as an author.



Library staff member Jan Doran with author Carmel Harrington in Enniscorthy Library

Our Animate World: Exploring language and perception in Manchán Magan's writing

This illustrated talk, which took place in Wexford Library explored how the Irish language helps us understand and connect with the natural world. Inspired by the work of the late writer Manchán Magan, this talk uncovered how words can bring us closer to birds, bees, badgers and the rich, living landscape around us.

Community and Culture

Community Services Family Day 2026

Families in the Enniscorthy Community and nearby discovered what happens behind the scenes at their local Garda Station, Library, Fire Station, and Civil Defence at this family fun day which took place in early August.

Participants were encouraged to collect a stamp at each stop on a Community Passport. There were locally organised activities throughout the day at each location. Enniscorthy Library held storytime and Sand Art demonstrations, families could avail of quiet spaces, sensory toys and sign up for the Summer Stars Reading Adventure.



Library staff members Beata & Emma at the Community Services Family Day in Enniscorthy Library

Heritage Week 15 - 23 August

A number of events were held in all Wexford Libraries branches to mark Heritage Week.

These included:

Little Irish History Heroes - storytelling and craft workshop with author Niamh Donnellan

Little Irish History Heroes was a gentle, fun introduction to Irish history. Niamh brought her stories to life in Enniscorthy and New Ross Libraries by reading from one of her books using fun props like St. Brigid's cloak, a Viking helmet and Grace O'Malley's spyglass.

Family Tree for Beginners with Genealogist Bernadette Walsh

Genealogist Bernadette Walsh hosted a Family Tree for Beginners workshop in Bunclody Library, which provided lots of helpful information and advice on beginning a search for ancestors.

'The Cave Inside the Rath Inside the Garden: Unpacking a surprising monument in Co. Wexford' with Dr Ronan O'Flaherty

Concealed within the structure of a circular 19th century walled garden in Ballytrent is an enormous enclosure, 120m across surrounded by double banks reaching 4.5m high. In Wexford Library, Archaeologist Ronan O'Flaherty took us through some recent discoveries which open the door to a new interpretation of this mysterious site.

'Mini Dig' Archaeology Workshops with the School of Irish Archaeology

These hands-on workshops in Wexford Library gave children the chance to become archaeologists for the day as they excavated their very own archaeological site. Participants learned about the tools and techniques archaeologists use to investigate the past and experienced the thrill of discovery through a simulated excavation.

The 1926 Census with Genealogist Bernie Walsh

Bernie advised participants in New Ross Library how to navigate the census and gave tips on how to do family research and what pitfalls to avoid.

Wexford Library also held a series of family history talks which included **‘The Wexford Invaders’**, **‘All About the Vikings’** and **‘How Anglo-Norman Identity was Set in Stone’**.

Library staff member Derek in Wexford Library during Heritage Week



Outreach

Wexford Libraries hosted an interactive stand at the Bannow and Rathangan Agricultural Show on 9 July which attracted 4,000 visitors.

A team of staff from across the Library Service worked together to promote the full range of services, resources and programmes available through libraries across County Wexford. The Mobile Library South service formed the centrepiece of the stand which welcomed visitors to browse and borrow books, explore e-resources and Local Studies, register for free library membership and join the Summer Stars reading programme. The popular Tech Tent featured 3D printing, robotics, Micro:bits and virtual reality experiences.



Wexford Libraries staff at the Bannow & Rathangan Agricultural Show July 2026

Learning and Information

Cyber Safe Workshop

The Cyber Safety Project at Munster Technological University partnered with Wexford Library Service to deliver a free Cyber Safety Workshop in Enniscorthy and Gorey Libraries.

This interactive workshop covered a range of practical topics, including handling online scams and fraud, creating and managing secure passwords, protecting your privacy online, responding to cyber incidents, staying safe while shopping online and understanding AI and misinformation.

Positive Parenting Programme - Barnardos Information Stand

During July and August, Geraldine from Barnardos hosted drop-in information sessions in Wexford Libraries branches to provide information on Triple P, a positive parenting programme that is a flexible, practical way to develop skills, strategies and confidence to handle any parenting situation and on the various other services Barnardos provides in the community.

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

Health & Wellbeing

Ambient Book Club

Thunderclap Murphy's "Ambient Book Club", which took place in Wexford Library, offered a unique one-off reading hour accompanied by live music. The result was a calming experience that blended literature, music and mindfulness.

Gentle Dance and Movement for over 50s

Vivian Brodie Hayes is a dancer and choreographer with over 20 years' experience. She lead a welcoming, inclusive movement class in Wexford Library, focusing on creativity, wellbeing, and the joy of movement.

Wellness Hour

Local mindfulness facilitator Katie guided library patrons through an hour of mindfulness meditation and gentle movement in New Ross Library.

Environment and Climate Action



Plant Swap

Staff member Angela from Wexford Library invited members of the public to bring a little green into their life during the Summer. The plant swaps were the perfect chance to share cuttings, seedlings, or full plants with fellow plant lovers in the community.

Library Staff member Angela at the Plant Swap in Wexford Library

Wexford Birds Through the Seasons

Ornithologist Cian Cardiff took participants in New Ross Library through each season and what to expect and where to observe it.

The New Ross Swift Survey with Birdwatch Ireland

Tara Aldridge gave participants in New Ross Library information about the work Birdwatch Ireland are doing in New Ross and how to help protect and preserve swifts, by making small changes to homes and outhouses.

Wexford Queer Shed Public Consultation

Wexford Library held a drop-in information and brainstorming session with Arts Officer Liz Burns, to plan for a new Queer Shed initiative in Wexford Town.

Ladybirds and Friends - Adult Biodiversity Art Workshop

This inclusive workshop held in Enniscorthy Library celebrated creativity, biodiversity, community, and conversation through the theme of ladybirds and other insects. This activity invited adults to connect and explore ideas around diversity and biodiversity in a welcoming space.

Heritage & Local History

Old Ross and The Palatines

Local historian Bernard Browne, gave New Ross Library patrons a breakdown on his findings of the Palatines in Wexford, with particular focus on Old Ross.

Founded by Vow and Vision: William Marshal, the Sacred Feminine, and the Birth of New Ross with Helena B. Scott

In this talk in New Ross Library Helena explored the early history of New Ross, and the culture and beliefs of William Marshall and Isabel de Clare.

In July, Wexford Library received 40 local studies queries and 31 genealogy queries.

In August, Wexford Library received 13 local studies queries and 6 genealogy queries.

Commemoration

A historic lecture under the theme of Commemoration took place on August 27 in Gorey Library:

The Vanishing Irish: Emigration and Modern Irish History by Professor Diarmaid Ferriter

In this wide-ranging talk, Diarmaid analyses Irish emigration, its historical roots in the Famine, and its impact on social, economic, and cultural life. He explores the "vanishing" of populations from various parts of Ireland and the long-term impact of emigration to the US.

Diarmaid Ferriter is Professor of Modern Irish history at University College Dublin, and the author of multiple books on Irish history, including the bestsellers *Judging Dev*, *The Border*, *Between Two Hells: The Irish Civil War and The Revelation of Ireland 1995-2020*. He is a regular broadcaster with RTÉ and a weekly columnist with *The Irish Times*.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 42 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 15 researchers visited the Archive during July and August. Topics included research on the RIC in County Wexford during the revolutionary period, 1916-22; research on the Sir John Ivory endowed school, New Ross (1847-93); family history research through correspondence and rentals of the Leigh estate, Rosegarland (1860-1900); research on anti-nuclear activism at Carnsore Point (1978-81); research through extant records of Wexford County Council's Civil Defence section (1950s-80s); research through local newspapers on abolitionism in County Wexford (1870s); tenants on the Boyse estate, Bannow principally in the townland of Blackhall (1881-91); family history research through the Haughton and Houghton genealogical files in the Rosbottom archive (1800s).

Acquisition

Two volumes of national significance were deposited in the Archive in August. A calendar of events related to the revolutionary period in County Wexford and across Ireland during the years 1916-18 and 1920-22 and handwritten by John J. Doyle, formerly of 28 John Street, Enniscorthy provides a compendium of fatalities and injuries sustained during the revolutionary period.

The second volume comprises the first minute book relating to the establishment of Enniscorthy branch of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland. Compiled by John J. Doyle, scoutmaster, it features original scout photographs and newspaper cuttings (1926-36).

Outreach

The National Archives' 1926 census travelling exhibition, *The Story of Us* was opened in Carricklawn on 4 August with its official launch performed on 6 August by Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr. Lisa McDonald. A programme of events based on the 1926 census was held to accompany the exhibition over the three-week period including a lecture by Dr Ida Milne, two genealogy sessions by genealogist, John Nangle and an event to celebrate two centenarians, Dote O'Neill and Kathy Staunton as part of the National Archives 1926 census ambassador programme.

The Archivist contributed an article to *History Ireland* based on the recent exhibition, *Plucky Ladies* – female representation in local elections in County Wexford, 1899-2024. A permanent slot in the publication for local authority archivists allows the group to highlight collections and public outreach projects. The article will feature in the Jan/Feb 2027 issue of the magazine.

ARTS

Artist Workspace Scheme 2026 – 2027

Artist Workspace offers funding to support professional artists from any artform to access suitable and flexible workspaces to develop their arts practices. The workspaces must accommodate at least two professional artists or artist collectives who are proposing to share resources for the benefit of their arts practices. Grants will be available in the region of €3,000 per application and must accommodate at least two artists sharing 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 the 11 August and the deadline for applications is the 8 September 2026.

Gorey School of Art (GSA) Exhibition

Funded by Wexford Arts Office, *PeripheriesOPEN "No Intentions"* was an exhibition that took place in GSA showcasing the work of nineteen artists who met since April 2026 through a mentoring programme at Gorey School of Art. Over several months, they have come together to think about their practices, developing towards an exhibition. The artists were mentored by professionals Emma Roche, Damien Flood, and Brendan Earley. The exhibition opened on the 31 July and ran until 3 August.

Wexford Public Arts

Public Arts Now Seminar at the National Opera House 1 July 2026

Wexford Arts Office hosted a seminar and publication launch of the *M11 x 3* publication made after the completion of the 2019 Percent for Art Scheme for the M11 motorway. Artists from the project spoke about their work – Ciara Roche, Maria McKinney, Christine Mackey with Arts Officer Liz Burns, and local artist Lar O'Toole spoke with Assistant Arts Officer Una Cahill with public art specialist Ruairi O'Cuiv in a second panel discussion in the second half of the day.

Small Arts/ Failte Ireland Festivals Scheme 2026

GAP Arts Festival 6 – 9 August

16th Gap Arts Festival took place in Ballythomas North Wexford from the 6 – 9 August. The festival included performance of the play 'The Kiss' by Jimmy Murphy, a family fun and art day, Gap talks around planting and bees and an outdoor film screening.

Once Voice Festival, Wexford Arts Centre

Festival of eight short plays performed across three events at Wexford Arts Centre took place on the 6 – 8 August. The festival theme for 2026 was inspired by 'Memory of a Free Festival' exhibition taking place at the Wexford Arts Centre about the Carnsore Point Anti-Nuclear Festival from 1978 to 1981. The festival is directed by Paul Walsh.

FuddleFest

Multi-genre Festival took place in Fuddletown on the 15 – 16 August. This was a two-day festival with music from Irish classical and contemporary music, trad sessions with art installations and staging of plays for children. Overnight camping was available at the festival.



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Fuddlefest 2026

EU Presidency Culture Programme - County Wexford received additional funding from the Department to mark Ireland's Presidency of the EU (July- December 2026) with arts and cultural activity . Following an open call by the arts office in March, 11 festivals across the 5 municipal districts received additional funding of between €2,000- €3,000 to add a European cultural element to their programmes.

New Ross Guitar Festival – 16 – 19 July - The festival featured educational workshops led by renowned national and international guitarists and showcased performances by youth bands in New Ross Library Park. Solo guitarists had the opportunity to open for established performers like Dom Martin or Something Happens. The festival's aim was to celebrate the art of guitar with performances, workshops, and community events.

Rí Rá Festival of Children's Arts - The Rí Rá Festival of Children's Arts took place from July 24 to 26 and is one of Ireland's leading events dedicated to children, young audiences and families featuring a vibrant programme of performance workshops and participatory events. The festival hosted national and international circus companies from Italy and France.

So Say So - This is an event that spotlights poetry, storytelling, and music and took place at the Wexford Arts Centre on the 30 July. It was curated by the poet, Stephen James Smith. Each event featured a distinguished national and international poet. They were joined in July by a German Spoken word poet and local musicians Basciville for a unique, collaborative performance.

Cuisle Cheoil - The Cuisle Cheoil Weekend is an annual festival from the 20 - 23 August celebrating traditional Irish Music and Culture taking place in Gorey. The event featured recitals, workshops, set-dancing and various performances by local musicians. There was also an event to celebrate European Union Presidency, involving the musical members of the Gorey Polish community.

Artists in the Community Scheme

Wexford Women's Collective Exhibition – Our Collective Grief

An exhibition took place at the end of the Artist in the Community Project with textile artist Josephine Whitmore. They held their exhibition at Sigginstown Castle, Tomhaggard on the 28 August from 11am – 1pm. 14 women took part in the project where they met weekly to learn how to create a piece of textile art around the theme of grief.

Wexford Mental Health Association Music Exploration Programme live music event

Funded through the Arts Ability Programme by the Arts Office, Wexford Mental Health Association held a community day in Ballygarrett with live music, food and singing for residents and day care centres across Wexford with professional musicians Emily Redmond, Luke Cosgrove and Fara El leading the session.

Wex-Arts Festival Open Call 2026

Wex-Arts the fringe festival 2026 held the open call for the opera festival exhibition that will take place at Westgate Heritage centre during the Festival Opera 2026 in Wexford town with support from Wexford Arts Office. Deadline for applications was Monday 17 August. 82 applications by artists were received for this group exhibition which is a huge response. Approx. 8-10 artists will be selected by this years invited curator Shannon Carroll.

Screen Wexford - An arts office, economic department initiative to support the development of the film / screen industry in Wexford.

Crew Networking in Gorey - This took place at The Hatch Lab in Gorey. 20 people were in attendance, and Southeast Film Hire gave a talk on film equipment they have available to rent. Castlebridge Inspire gave a talk on the Guinness Book of Records longest debate for 2027 and filming opportunities.

Intellectual Property Rights for Productions Workshop - This workshop took place on the 13 August and was held in WWETB Film & Television Centre, Whitemill, with 18 people registered. Hadyn Price a writer, producer and film director hosted the session.

Maya Butterfly filming at National Opera House - Screen Wexford has been supporting the film production of an Irish/UK Feature Film 'Maya Butterfly' being shot in the National Opera House and across Wexford County in August over 5 weeks. Over 70 people are employed on the film, including local film crew and local interns. Screen Wexford contracted Local Crannóg media to make a short promo film on the film, interviewing key people, advocating for more regional investment in film with its clear benefits to the local economy.

Caoineadh Film, winner of New Voices Bursary 2026 film complete - This Irish Language film was one of the successful films from the New Voices Bursary 2026 award, which is a Screen Wexford Initiative in partnership with Wexford Arts Office. The film has been entered into film festivals for 2027.

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE)

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



The Men's Choir Together in Harmony at St John's Amphitheatre

The choir performed their first outdoor concert, performing two of their own songs that they co-created with local musician Paul O'Reilly in July. There was an audience of 150 people.

Play Day in the Peace Park - took place in July - CPE working in partnership with Enniscorthy Municipal District to advise and curate Play Day in the Peace Park. Now in its 2nd year partnering with FDYS. Local artists Anita Petry, Jeni Roddy and Elder Trindade led the day for children and families and approximately 200 attended.

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

Crash Ensemble with the Windjammers - Ed Bennett's Everything is connected, performed by Crash Ensemble and Wexford Windjammers.

Young Voices – Songwriting and Performance Camp - In July, young people from Wexford had a week to come together to write and perform their own original songs and learn from experts Emily Furlong, Tom Bates and Karen Dunbar.

Kenetic Avenue Music Generation Band Rathgarogue Field Day - The band followed mummers' dancers and a pipe band, the young people performed alongside Musician Educator Steven Cullen.

Cool School of Rock Wexford - August 11 - 14 at Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts. A weeklong camp for young people to learn from professional musicians on rock music skills ending with a gig at the Wexford Arts Centre.

Wexford Wind Jammers Bandcamp - Wexford Music Rehearsal Space August 4 – 7. This Bandcamp was for young brass and wind musicians to play together, to learn music and perform as a band, to meet and socialise with other musicians. This was led by musician educators Louise Malone and Jenna Larsen.

Creative Ireland

Community Placemaking and Heritage Project in Killanne

The Community Placemaking and Heritage Project in Killanne continued in July and August 2026, bringing together artists Mick O'Dea and Liz Rackard with local residents to develop the "Great Book of Killanne." Workshops were held, supported by a calligrapher, where participants of all ages and abilities contributed ideas. The project continued with a live portrait painting session by Mick O'Dea featuring well-known local figure Gloria Binnions, which attracted strong community participation. Further activities will continue throughout the year as part of the ongoing placemaking and heritage initiative for the village.



Sound/Audio project at Carnsore Wind Farm

A sound and audio art project at Carnsore Wind Farm began on 3 June, led by artist Conor Duggan under the Creative Communities programme. The initial phase included a site visit and walk-through with the District Manager from Rosslare Municipal District, the Creative Communities Engagement Officer and local community representatives. This engagement provided an opportunity to explore the site, gather community insights, and shape the early direction of the project. Further engagement and development work will continue as the project progresses.

Connecting Creatively- Courtown & Riverchapel

The Courtown and Riverchapel Community Textile Project is a creative initiative that brings local people together to explore, celebrate and visually represent the identity of their community through textile art. Led by artist Trish Middleton, the project invites participants of all ages and abilities to share stories, memories, observations and personal connections to Courtown and Riverchapel. Through a series of collaborative workshops, these ideas will be transformed into a large-scale textile installation that reflects the character, history, landscape and spirit of the area. Workshops started on the 1 July and will continue throughout the year.

Artist in Residence for Eadan's Glen Housing Estate, Ferns

A creative social engagement process in Eadan's Glen, Ferns, Co Wexford exploring the concept of a 'Spirit of Eadan's Glen'. Led by artist Jeffrey Gormly, the activity will comprise of a series of focus groups, public engagements, digital survey and culminating in a high-quality publication and new iconography to be deployed throughout the new estate.

Groups ranging across all ages, will be accessed where they gather and at public locations, and asked to imagine, describe, discuss, and draw a picture of the spirit of Eadan's Glen.

Wexford Quay – Community Engagement and Creative Placemaking Project

An open call was publicised in July seeking applications from creatives or collaborative creative teams to develop and deliver a participatory arts project exploring the social life, identity and lived experience of Wexford Quay. A selection panel will meet in late August/early September to select the project.

One Sea | One Sky – Kilmore Quay

This is a week-long community creative project led by Tomhaggard Clean Coasts, bringing together local volunteers, families, schools and community groups in Kilmore Quay to celebrate and care for their coastal environment through creativity, learning and shared action. From 17 – 21 August, this project brings together four artists, Jeni Roddy, Caoimhe Dunne, Lynn Haughton & Therese Maddock (Seashore Explore), Tomhaggard Clean Coasts and other local volunteers, and members of the public together to explore the connection to the coast, our responsibility to care for it, and the wonder that exists above us in our night skies.

Wexford Voices

Wexford Voices is a youth-led digital media and social media platform designed to amplify the stories, perspectives and creative work of Traveller and other marginalised young people across County Wexford. Starting in August and running until October, an experienced facilitator is delivering workshops with youth participants through local partner FDYS Youth Service, in a number of venues throughout the county.

WEXFORD CIVIL DEFENCE - JULY & AUGUST 2026

Civic Duties:

- July 4th & 5th Relay for Life- Wexford- Ambulance & First Aid cover
- July 7th & 8th – EU presidency Events x 3-Wexford town- Ambulance & First Aid cover.
- July 9th -Bannow & Rathangan Show- Killag- Ambulance & First Aid cover
- July 18th & 19th- Edermine Regatta- Ambulance & First Aid cover
- July 25th- Courtown Colour Run- Courtown- Ambulance & First Aid cover
- July 25th- Wicklow mountain bike - Wicklow- Ambulance cover
- July 26th- Pink Rock 10km- New Ross- Ambulance & First Aid cover
- August 15th- Wexford walled town- Wexford-first aid cover

Weekly Training

- July- Weekly training continues in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.
- Summer break- August 1st-31st

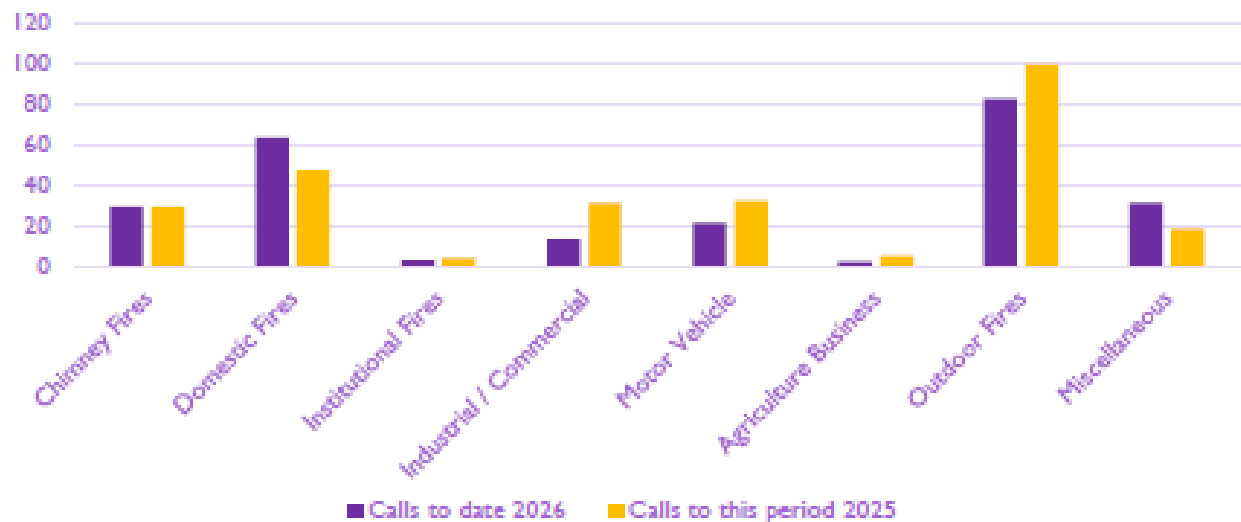
Training Courses:

- -August: Search manager course- ACDO attending

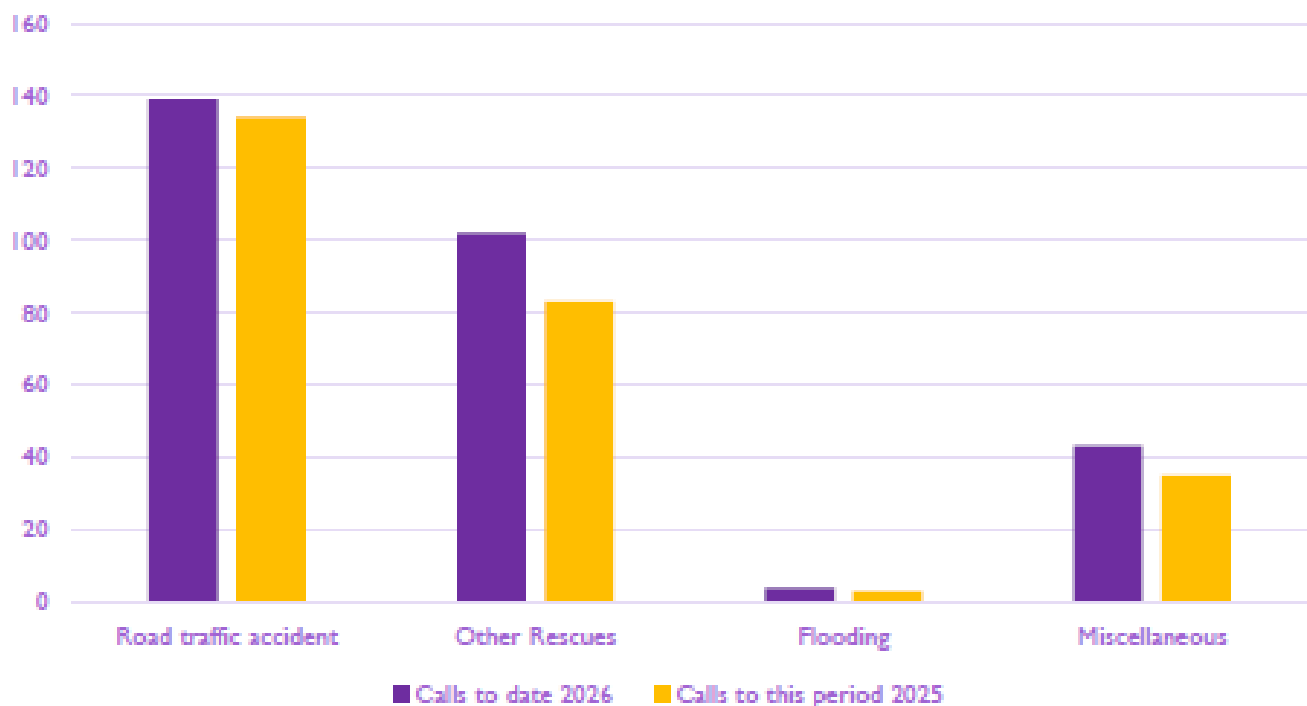


WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES JULY 2026

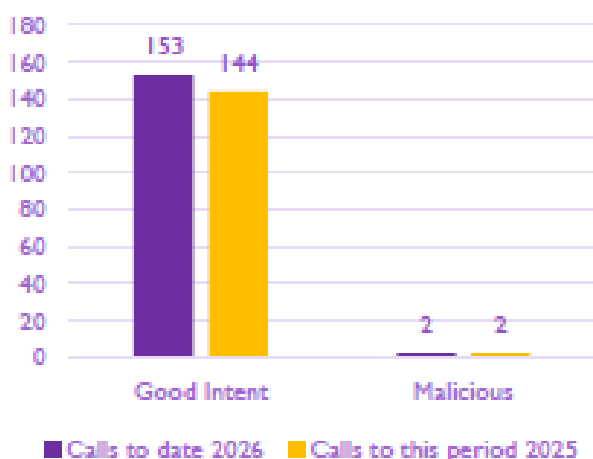
Call Statistics - Wexford Fire Service



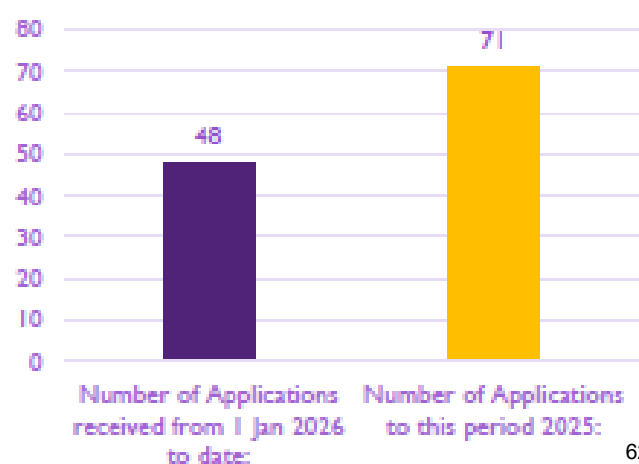
Special Services - Wexford Fire Service



False Alarms



Fire Safety Certificates



CORPORATE SERVICES

CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – AUGUST 2026

Task	August 2026
Phone Calls	3066
Emails received and sent	3325

TOP 5 CSU PHONE QUERIES

(25%) Housing Maintenance	(12%) Housing Grants	(12%) Environment	(6%) Area Housing Officers	(3%) HR
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FOI OFFICE REQUESTS JULY & AUGUST 2026

Type	JULY	AUGUST
Freedom of Information	16	19
Customer Complaint	56	33
Ombudsman Complaint	4	5
Access to Information on the Environment	4	2
Data Access Request	3	2
Total	83	61

FINANCE

Q2 Finance Report – to 30th June 2026: - The Q2 Finance Report has been circulated to members. There is a modest surplus reported for Q2 of €12,442, but this mid-year figure should be considered with a note of caution, especially in light of the ongoing cost increases. This reported surplus is directly attributable to the confirmation of Government funding to cover costs incurred as a result of the severe weather event experienced in January of this year. The financial position of the council continues to be monitored very closely to ensure, in as far as possible, there is no slippage back into a deficit position. Within the reported financial position to the end of June, there are a number of income accruals which include grant income in respect of emergency spend relating to the Ukrainian crisis.

Budget 2027: - Preliminary work has commenced on the preparation of the 2027 budget. The prescribed periods for the holding of the statutory budget Meeting and GMA Meetings in the districts have also been notified with the issue of Circular Fin 08/2026. A draft schedule of meetings has been included on the agenda of the September meeting for consideration by the Members.

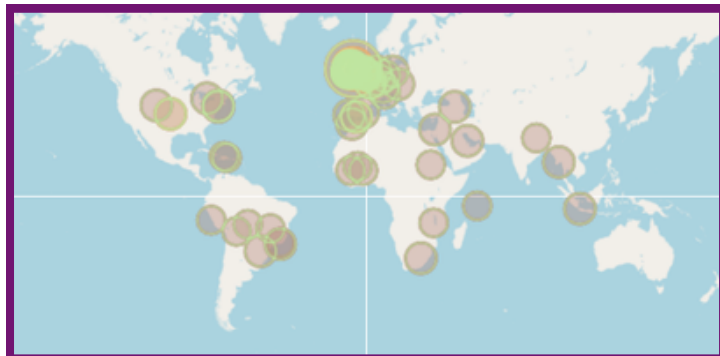
Cash Flow/Overdraft: - The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €15m for the period to the 31st December, 2026. The requirement for ongoing overdraft facilities into 2027 requires a formal application which is included in the September meeting to secure Council approval and Ministerial sanction for an extension of the facility into 2027.

Audit: - In accordance with the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Local Government Auditor has formally commenced the Audit of Wexford County Council Accounts for 2025 on the 24th August 2026.

Notable Incidents in Wexford County Council

A fraud campaign across Ireland has customers receiving mail purporting to be from their local Council staff, but using the @mail.com domain and information publicly available via that Council's website to make the email very believable. Wexford citizens were reminded via social media to check mail they receive, and CSU have been notified in case anyone reports receiving fraudulent mail.

- 469.2k emails in total (*WexfordCoCo tenant*)
- 404.7k stopped from malicious IPs
- 194 stopped with malicious links/attachments
- 4,670 emails in total (*Cllr tenant*)



In the News

Seven US states saw a coordinated cyber attack target water systems in late July/early August. Hardest hit was Minnesota, which reported 30 local systems affected. Boil-water notices were issued in many areas, with facilities forced to switch back to manual operation. The coordinated attack remains unclaimed by any group or state actor, but is widely suspected to be an Iranian-backed effort.

ithelpdesk@wexfordcoco.ie

053 9196297

COMMUNICATIONS

TOP 3 POSTS FOR JULY/AUGUST 2026

145k+
Views

1246
Likes &
Reactions

52
comments
112 Shares



Clone Beach

78k+
Views

960 Likes &
Reactions

107
comments
39 Shares

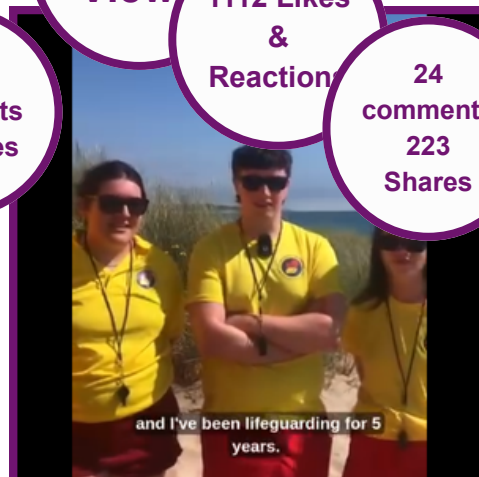


Wexford Street Clean

115k+
Views

1112 Likes &
Reactions

24
comments
223
Shares



Beach Guards - 4 short videos



Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive