



Chief Executive's Report

November 2020

Economic Development

Covid 19 Business Supports €18.6 million grant aid approved

The Economic Department implemented a range of covid 19 business supports to assist SME's impacted by the pandemic. To date **4,946 grant applications** have been received from enterprises across the range of covid 19 supports in the Economic business support unit. Currently **4,212** micro enterprises have been approved **€17.6 million** in grant aid under covid 19 supports in County Wexford.

Restart Grant Schemes

There are two schemes under the Restart Grant Covid 19 measure. The previous Restart Grant Scheme from the 22nd May to the 22nd July 2020 and the new Restart Grant Plus scheme which is closed on the 31st October 2020. To date Wexford County Council has received a total of **€19 million** to support business reopen under the combined Restart Grant Schemes and **3,781** applications.

Table 1 Total Applications under both Restart Grant Schemes 22nd May – 23rd October 2020

Total Applications Received	Total Applications Approved	Total Applications Paid
3,781	3,478	€16,335,918

Restart Grant Plus

The Restart Grant Plus (RPG) has a closing date of 31st October 2020. The scheme expanded the number of rateable commercial businesses who can avail of financial supports to reopen their business or maintain trading. The County is now in level 5 covid 19 restrictions effective from midnight 21st October. All approved restart grant businesses will now qualify for a 30% top up where there turnover has been impacted under the latest restrictions.

Table 2. Restart Grant Plus (RGP)

DATE 23 October 2020	22-May-2020 to 23-Oct-2020	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
RESTART GRANT SCHEME STATISTICS		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	1	€379.20
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,524	€5,872,024.66
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	127	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	1,652	€5,872,403.86

DATE 23 October 2020	5/22/2020 12:00:00 AM to 10/23/2020 12:00:00 AM	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL	
RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME STATISTICS		
	NUMBER:	VALUE:
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED	54	€318,019.89
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	166	€889,957.47
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,787	€9,573,558.70
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	122	€0.00
Total Number of Applications	2,129	€10,781,536.06

Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant open 25th September 2020

The Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant aims to support a business of 2 to 10 employees who could not avail of other covid 19 supports such as the restart grant. The grant is between €500 to €1,000 and has extended the closing date to 13th November. Expenditure is for protective equipment, costs of reopening or fit out to assist business impacted by the pandemic by 30% or more of their turnover. Further details are available from Wexford Local Enterprise Office.

Expansion of Trading Online Voucher Scheme (TOV's) under Covid 19

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme has extended the closing date from 30th September to the end of the year. The level of support is funding to 90% funding to a maximum of €2,500. To date LEO Wexford have received 450 applications and **365 enterprises** received financial support with **€836,094** grant aid approved to businesses to move online In Co. Wexford.

Reopening County Wexford

Under the Covid 19 accelerated measures through the Town and Village Scheme a total of €195,500 has been allocated for 6 projects under Round 3. In addition under round 1 and round 2 a total allocation of €382,500 has been awarded to County Wexford in total. The initiatives working with the Municipal Districts aim to increase footfall to towns and villages and implement covid 19 requirements to protect staff and consumers.

Table 2 : Town & Village Round 3 Approved €195,000

Project ref	Town/Village	Grant	Project
TVAC20WX16	Wexford	€40,000	Shop local campaign, shop fronts and public realm enhancement
TVAC20WX17	Enniscorthy	€40,000	Remote working, training and 3 rd level student supports hub
TVAC20WX18	Rosslare	€40,000	Village street improvement works, canopies, furniture & bike stands
TVAC20WX20	Kilmuckridge	€25,000	Sheltered outdoor space with seating and cycling facilities, planters and landscaping
TVAC20WX21	Bunclody, Ferns & Bree	€25,000	Christmas festivals & craft fairs
TVAC20WX22	Carrick on Bannow & Wellingtonbridge	€25,000	Village Centre Enhancements including Public Realm works
Total		€195,000	

Supporting Business

Wexford County Council and the Local Enterprise Office have developed a campaign to support local business to put in place safety measures to comply with covid 19 guidelines. The campaign is conscious of the need to assist in particular our retailers for Christmas and when restrictions lift support consumer confidence to support local. The programme involves training, a customer charter and branding for together Wexford and will be launched in early November.

Tourism

Wex-cation - Rediscover County Wexford

As Level 3 restrictions were introduced for Dublin earlier, the marketing campaign shifted from targeting Dublin to focus on other counties. As Wexford went to level 3 the campaign focused on staycations.

Visit Wexford, compiled a list of business in County Wexford compliant with the Fáilte Ireland COVID-19 Safety Charter that were remaining open to provide hospitality for the people of Wexford and launched a campaign with offers only available for locals to go away for a short break and become a tourist within their own county. The county is now at level 5 which is very challenging for tourism. All available business supports through the local enterprise office, Fáilte Ireland and economic section are promoted to assist the industry as best as possible in these unprecedented times.



Destination Recovery Task Force Industry Activation Group

The Destination Recovery Task Force Industry Activation Group submitted an application for the Fáilte Ireland Re- Ignite programme for an event to be held at the end of October however this application had to be closed due to the current Covid 19 restrictions that are now in place.

Planning

COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

The Planning Department is open and operational but there is restricted, by appointment public access to the Department. Most contact continues to be managed through post, email or phone.

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received up until the 20th October 2020.

Year to date:

No. of valid applications	54	996
No. of invalid applications	7	136
Extension of Duration	2	31

Forward Planning

Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Public consultation the Draft Plan commenced on Monday, 28th September 2020 and will end at 4pm on Wednesday, 9th December 2020. Six written submissions and observations have been received to date (that is the 20th October 2020 at time of writing).

Given that so many things that happen in the county are covered by the Plan, it is important that the public have their say. Notice of the Draft Plan has been published in local newspapers and on the Council's website. Notice has also been circulated to the PPN members, primary and post primary schools, infrastructure and transport providers and various other stakeholders from environmental, economic, education, social and community backgrounds. Social media platforms, such as the Council's website, Twitter and MapAlert, are being used to garner interest in, and to encourage the public to become engaged with the Draft Plan.

While the Draft Plan remains available to view, by appointment, in the Planning Department, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, the public are being encouraged to view the Draft Plan on the Council's new user friendly Online Consultation Portal <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie>. Written submissions and observations can also be made via the portal, and the benefits of making a submission using the portal are that you can start your submission and complete later, indicate areas of interest on an interactive map, after submissions are published, easily query all consultation data and get notifications and updates about the consultation. To date there have been over 3,500 users of the Draft Plan on the portal.

Hard copy written submissions can also be made and should be marked 'Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021-2027' and addressed to 'Forward Planning, Planning Department, Block B, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93.

E-mailed submissions and observations will not be accepted. Written submissions and observations **must be received by 4pm on Wednesday, 9th December 2020.**

Copies of the Draft Plan may also be purchased from the Planning Department, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn as follows:

- Bundle A Volumes 1-3 €100
- Bundle B Volumes 4 -13 €100

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report for 24 September – 20 October as follows:

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website.
- 31 property inspections/visits conducted.
- 2 properties removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- 2 property owners conducted property improvement works as requested; properties will not be placed on Derelict Site Register.
- 13 Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- 1 Demolition Notice issued.
- 1 Dangerous Structure Notices issued.
- 31 Properties appraised as per Vacant Sites / Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015; 12 submitted to DOS for approval.
- 7 properties submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.

Building Control

- | | |
|--|----|
| ➤ Validated Commencement Notices Up to 19 th October: | 92 |
| ➤ Number of Building Control Inspections up to 19 th October 2020: | 14 |
| ➤ Validated Certificates of Compliance on Completion up to 19 th October: | 45 |
| ➤ Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts: | 1 |

Heritage

Heritage Grant Schemes

Projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020 should be finalised by the end of October 2020. Of the 12 applications granted, 10 have commenced and 2 have had to forego their grant due to difficulties caused by Covid-19 such as unavailability of labour and materials.

Of the applications for grants made under Community Monuments Grant Funding 3 were successful. A total of €39,587 has been granted.

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 20th October 2020 is as follows:

- Live Cases 295
- Cases Opened 28 (monthly)
- Cases Closed 18 (monthly)

Planning Enforcement – Short Term Letting

The cumulative number of short term letting planning enforcement cases as at 20th October 2020 is as follows:

- Properties advertised on websites 59
- No. of warning letters served 11
- Cases Closed 8

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2020 up to and including 19th October, 2020, totals **76**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	10	0	2	8	0
Gorey	18	0	2	16	0
New Ross	8	0	1	6	1
Wexford	32	0	1	31	0
Rosslare	8	0	2	6	0
2020 Totals	76	0	8	67	1

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	86

Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park: Works on the park are substantially completed and the Park was opened to the public on 15/06/2020. Public lighting is now operational. Sole Sports and Leisure have been appointed to construct the skate park on a design and build basis. The design phase is on-going, with works expected to commence on site in early 2021. The works are expected to be complete by Q2 2021. The official opening, scheduled for August 29th 2020, has been postponed until further notice due to Covid restrictions.

Crescent Quay: Works are substantially completed with minor snagging items currently being addressed.

Carrigfoyle - Trails: Works are nearly complete on Phase 1 (access road, car park, trails and services) and substantial completion is expected in November following closure of the site in April/May due to CoVid19.

Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1: Works are substantially completed with snagging items still to be addressed. An application will be made to IW to take the on-site pumping station in charge.

Gorey Town Park: Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May 2019 and has been impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions. Work re-commenced on site in mid-May. It is now expected that the works will be completed by January 2021.

Tenders have been received for the playground equipment with the installation to commence on site following completion of the main works contract.

South East Greenway: Part VIII planning for the project is complete and a Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, and Waterford City and County Council, to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority on behalf of the other Councils. An application for funding for the project, submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018, was successful and €8.0m in grant funding was approved in June 2019. Tendering for the pre-construction rail and sleeper lifting contract was completed in June/July 2020. The Works Access Licence to progress the rail and sleeper lifting contract was received from CIE in July and the rail lifting work commenced in August and is expected to be complete by December 2020. The detailed design of the main contract works is progressing well and tender documents are expected to be completed in Nov 2020 for DTTAS review. Tendering for the main works is programmed to be completed by Feb 2021 with works to commence in March/April 2021. A Leader funding application is currently being prepared for the interpretation and animation of the entire route.

Trinity Wharf: Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf masterplan was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020 and a decision on the related foreshore application is due in the coming months. The tender documents for the proposed access road and new automated railway level crossing were advertised on the 13th October 2020 with works due to commence in early 2021. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured to date for the scheme under the 1st Call for URDF projects and a further application, in response to a 2nd URDF Call for Applications, was submitted at the end of May 2020.

Wexford Arts Centre: Funding has been approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. A design team was appointed in April 2019, the preliminary design has been completed and Part VIII approval was obtained on 13th January 2020. Detailed designs and tender documents for the works contract are complete and

tenders for works were received on the 2nd October 2020. The tender assessment is on-going. Works are expected to commence on site in January 2021.

High Hill, New Ross: The High Hill site is a strategic urban site, that is currently derelict, that connects John Street and the town centre with the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. A plan for the development of a new amenity/public space at High Hill, in keeping with the Norman history of the town, was developed by New Ross MDC. A Part VIII application was approved for the preliminary design in July 2019 and the detailed design and works tender documents have been completed. The tender document for works was advertised in August and 2 tenders were received by the closing date of 24/09/2020. Works are expected to commence in early 2021. An application for RRDF funding for this project, as part of the New Ross tourism project application, was successful.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Part VIII approval was obtained in February 2019. Tenders for construction works have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Following delays related to CoVid19 and land acquisition, the works are scheduled to commence in November 2020.

Monck Street Enhancement Scheme: Tenders were invited for design services for improving the streetscape on Monck St. in late March 2020 and tenders were received on 27th April. Roadplan Consulting have been appointed with works planned to commence on site in Q2 2021.

New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide engineering services to Wexford County Council for the removal of the oil tank structures on the quay and the development of public realm works on the site. Site investigation works and inspections of the site and tanks are complete.

A contractor is to be recommended later in October 2020 with a view to commencement on site in November 2020 to commence deconstructing the tanks.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: The Templeshannon regeneration strategy identifies a number of enabling projects required to achieve regeneration, including:

Improving the public realm and streetscape in Templeshannon area;

Establishing a new link to the town centre by construction of new pedestrian bridge;

The management and progressive transformation of the Leisure Centre Car Park;

The creation of new urban blocks for infill development.

A presentation was made to the Enniscorthy MDC July meeting setting out the next steps for the project including the development of a master plan for Templeshannon that will co-ordinate the public realm works and the development of the proposed new urban blocks within Templeshannon. A Brief for design services for the development of the masterplan, preliminary design and preparation of the required applications for planning and statutory consents were advertised on 12/10/2020. Tenderers have until 17/11/20 to send in submissions.

The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have been delayed by the Covid 19 emergency restrictions. The tender for the ground investigation works was accepted this month. The preliminary design and bridge options report will be completed following the ground investigations works now programmed to commence on site in late October / early November and will take approx. 2 weeks to complete.

An application for URDF funding was submitted for the project under the 2nd call for funding in May 2020.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: WCC was successful in securing RRDF funding to design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A design team was appointed in April 2019 and initial surveys and investigative works have been completed. A CPO drawing and schedule, for the acquisition of the necessary lands, is currently being prepared and is to issue in the coming months.

Esmonde Street: RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part VIII planning consent process was advertised on 13/10/2020. WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project.

Carrigfoyle - Activity Centre Building: The draft design drawings for the development of an Activity Centre building on the site (Phase 2) have been prepared by the WCC's Architect Department. The drawings are currently being reviewed by the Special Projects Office and a Pre-Planning application has been made. A Part VIII application will be made in Q4 2020. A brief for the provision of design team services is currently being prepared for the detailed design, procurement and construction management stages.

Gorey Market House: A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was approved in May 2018.

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender assessment process has been delayed by the CoVid 19 restrictions. The lifting of some of the restrictions in July has allowed the procurement process to advance. This tender is a competitive procedure with negotiation. The negotiation process is underway with qualified tenderers and when this is concluded, the tender assessment report will be prepared.

WEXFORDIA – Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

WCC has secured RRDF category 2 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

Design services are currently being procured to develop new visitor experiences at the INHP and the Hook Lighthouse and to bring the projects to 'shovel ready' status. This will include preliminary design, environmental assessment, preparing applications for planning and related development consents, detailed design and tendering for works contracts. The appointment of design services teams for both projects have been impacted by the CoVid 19 restrictions and these contracts are now expected to be put place in Nov/Dec 2020 subject to Government requirements in relation to Covid. Tenders for the preliminary interpretative design services for the Norman centre in New Ross have been received and Mirador Media have been appointed. An advance contract for detailed design services for the Dunbrody Ship enhancement works was tendered in July/August but no tenders were received by the closing date.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Alan Sherwood and Associates were appointed to develop a plan that will significantly enhance the tourism experience in Enniscorthy, increase visitor numbers and enhance the town's profile as part of Ireland's Ancient East.

The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report was presented to the Enniscorthy MDC at its July meeting and set out the phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on the Castle that will have the capacity to significantly improve tourism visitor numbers to the town and link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross. The project will now advance to the next stage with the procurement of design services to prepare the preliminary design and planning consent applications required for phase 1 of the project.

Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme: Following the completion of a Coastal Engineering Feasibility Study to investigate the development and provision of major infrastructural coastal works in Courtown to reinstate the north beach, tenders are being invited for the preliminary design of coastal protection structures and beach nourishment to restore the natural amenity and tourism asset to Courtown and Co Wexford.

The appointment of an engineering consultancy to undertake this preliminary design is expected in Q4 2020.

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway: Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents were completed in 2019. The EIAR & NATURA Impact reports were delayed due to CoVId19 and are now substantially complete with the drawings and schedules being finalised. Further local public information processes are underway at Rosslare and Belview which have now been completed. The planning application to An Bord Pleanála will be finalised and submitted to ABP in November 2020.

An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/2018 but was not successful.

Wexford to Rosslare Greenway: Fehily Timoney and Company has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project.

Crescent Quay – Dredging: Design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications for dredging works at Crescent Quay have been advertised on Etenders with submission due by the closing date of 13th November 2020.

Flood Defence Schemes

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme: The Enniscorthy Flood Defence scheme requires formal confirmation from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in order to proceed. This is a statutory requirement under the Arterial Drainage Acts.

The confirmation process involves a formal review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) by the DPER and a public consultation process.

The confirmation documents for the scheme, including the EIAR & NIS, were signed off by the OPW and submitted to the DPER in March 2020.

DPER has completed the public consultation in relation to the scheme (29th July to 28th August 2020). WCC are awaiting feedback on submissions received by DPER.

While confirmation of the scheme from the Minister is awaited, WCC will progress the detailed design, the shortlisting of contractors for the main construction works, and the attainment of all necessary licences and legal agreements required for the construction works. Some advance works will also be carried out, including archaeological excavations, diversion of services and treatment of invasive species.

The detailed design of the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete. Tender submissions for short listing contractors for the bridgeworks were received in June. The assessment is expected to be completed by December 2020.

Wexford Flood Relief Scheme: The project brief for design services for the Flood Relief Project has been advertised on Etenders. The closing date for tender proposals was 9th June 2020. A total of 7 tenders were received and the assessment of the submission has been carried out. The Tender Assessment Report has been issued to the OPW for approval.

RPS Ltd was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study to support the main Flood Scheme. The draft report has been issued to Wexford County Council and the OPW for review with the final report is expected by the end of October.

Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Emergency Services & Community:

HOUSING

Housing Section and Covid 19

As Covid-19 restrictions have now increased to Level 5, the Housing Section will continue to provide the critical services as follows:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services

We are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable. The Housing Staff will operate in two teams for the following reasons:-

- Allow social distancing
- Prevent any possible spread of infection throughout the entire Housing Staff
- To maintain a presence in the main office for the core working hours

Private Residential Tenancy inspections have been suspended for the time being. This is classed as non-essential. However, where there is a specific urgent request it will be considered in accordance with Covid 19 Guidelines.

HAP and Rents continue as normal. The Grants Section continues to process applications. However, in the absence of inspections actual activity is greatly reduced. The Area Housing Officers are processing all Housing Applications and the Tenant Liaison Officers are dealing with anti-social behavior issues as they arise. Housing allocations have recommenced and are ongoing.

SSHA 2020

Wexford County Council is currently carrying out a review of the Social Housing Supports List (Housing List) and has written to 434 existing approved applicants requesting that they update their details.

For applicants to remain eligible for Social Housing Supports, existing approved applicants who receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA 2020) review form must return the form with relevant documentation.

Reminder letters have been sent to those who have not returned their completed form and the date of return is **Monday, 19th October 2020**. Applicants who did not respond to the reminder letters / texts or emails they risk being removed from the housing supports list.

It is worth noting that applicants who do not receive a SSHA 2020 form, but whose circumstances have changed, can contact the Customer Service Unit or any Area Housing Officer for a 'change of circumstances' form.

It is imperative that our Social Housing Supports list is up to date to ensure the proper allocation of Social Housing Supports.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

The Technical staff continued to progress and monitor all of our Capital Projects. All of our live sites are back in action since Monday 18th May 2020, the sites have been inspected and revised programs for delivery have been or are in the process of agreement.

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete Nov 2020
The Ballagh	7	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under construction	Due to complete Dec 2020 IW delayed pump station
Taghmon	18	Rosslare	Under construction	Due to complete Oct 2020 IW delays in connections.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Construction commenced 31/08/20. Ground floor slabs 50% complete.
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary & Environmental issues unresolved (no activity) Recommend removing from List. HLO to discuss with tenants
Whiterock Hill (deliver units in 2 phases)	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved for all units	Delayed tender due to Irish Water. Tender will be in 2 phases now, phase 1 to tender in Nov 2020 for 22 houses. Phase 2 depends on IW outcome, awaiting agreement for upgrading Pump Station
Rosetown, Rosslare	23	Rosslare	Preparing Tenders	Stage 3 approved. Tenders go live on eTenders 23 Oct at 8am.
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2	Propose CPO of land for access (no activity)
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Prepare Stage 3	Stage 2 approved. DT instructed to proceed to Stage 3
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG 14 th Oct 2020.
Kileens	40-50	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 – Higher densities. To appoint team in Q4. Stage 1 in Preparation and will be submitted in Q4 2020
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 Q4 2020 Consultants appointed. Surveys complete except for ESB line
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 1	Design team appointed. Stage 2 Oct 2020 Knotweed Management plan in place.

Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Knotweed Management Plan in place. Architects selected Formal appointment in Oct 2020. Commence design development Q4 2020.
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 2	Demolitions complete, Appoint Design Team in Oct 2020. Awaiting award notice conclusion of the tender process undertaken by the OGP.
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 2	The submission of Stage 2. This may be delayed until 2021
TOTAL	249			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage Construction to commence in October 2020
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design commenced.
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 2 to submit 23 Oct 2020.
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – not approved by DHPLG (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold, no funding stream (no activity)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, Awaiting approval of costs received from tenders. Commence on Site Dec 2020.
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Under Construction Started 2 Oct 2020
Newtown	1	Ferns	Site clearance approved.
TOTAL	8		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road design.
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water (no activity) To seek clarity on available PE Sept 2020. IW say no capacity.
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 2021)
Daphney View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussion with Focus (no activity)
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once Rosbercon is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works.
TOTAL	87		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site Clearance awaiting PEP to proceed with site clean up in preparation for demolitions. Assess then for HSE build or site sale. Site clean-up tendered
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q2 2020. CPO in motion. Single stage Q1 2021 awaiting CPO finalisation
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling works 2020. Confirm capacity availability Q4 2020.
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC. Tender Q4 2020
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to a Municipal District meeting in 2021
TOTAL	14		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Due to be delivered Q4 2020
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	6 units delivered. 8 units to deliver in Q4 2020, 8 units to be delivered in Q2 2021
Clonard	6	Wexford	Delayed until Q2 2021.
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	1 unit to close by end Oct. Further 2 units to deliver by end of 2020. 2 units to deliver 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	6 units to deliver by Q4 2020
TOTAL	75		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2020
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit delivered. 18 units to deliver Q1 2021
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2021

Clonattin Upper, Goreybridge	8	Gorey Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2020
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHPLG approval received Mar 2020. To deliver 2021.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	DHPLG approval received Apr 2020. Expected to deliver Q4 2021
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	5	Wexford	DHPLG approval received Sept 2020. Expected to deliver by end of year.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHPLG approval received Sept 2020. Expected to deliver by end of year.
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	7	Wexford	DHPLG approval received Oct 2020. Expected to deliver by end of year.
TOTAL	128		

Turnkey proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by the Internal Housing Committee.

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	Delivered
Clonard Road	20	Wexford	4 to be delivered Q4 2020
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver in 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	Under construction
Springdale, Clonattin Village	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CALF Acquisition (non- new build). Sale closed but works required
Tuath			
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	14 units to be delivered Q4 2020, remainder will deliver over Q1 and Q2 2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	25 units to deliver in Q4 2020, 21 units to deliver Q1 2021 and 18 units to deliver Q2 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q1 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	8 units delivered, 16 units due to deliver in Q4 2020
Clonattin	6	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	CAS Funding. To deliver 2021

Peter McVerry Trust			
Tuskar House , John's Gate St Wexford Town	12	Wexford	CAS Funding. To deliver Q4 2020
TOTAL	354		

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

Wexford County Council's Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) was set up in October 2019 and as part of the south east regional in terms of providing services and supports to vulnerable people. The region is the biggest region in the country comprising of 5 councils, namely, Waterford (Lead Authority), Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary.

The south east region operates a regional **Homeless Prevention & Support Project**. The project priorities homeless preventions by way of applying early interventions, mediation and prevention measures to those presenting seeking homeless services/emergency accommodation.

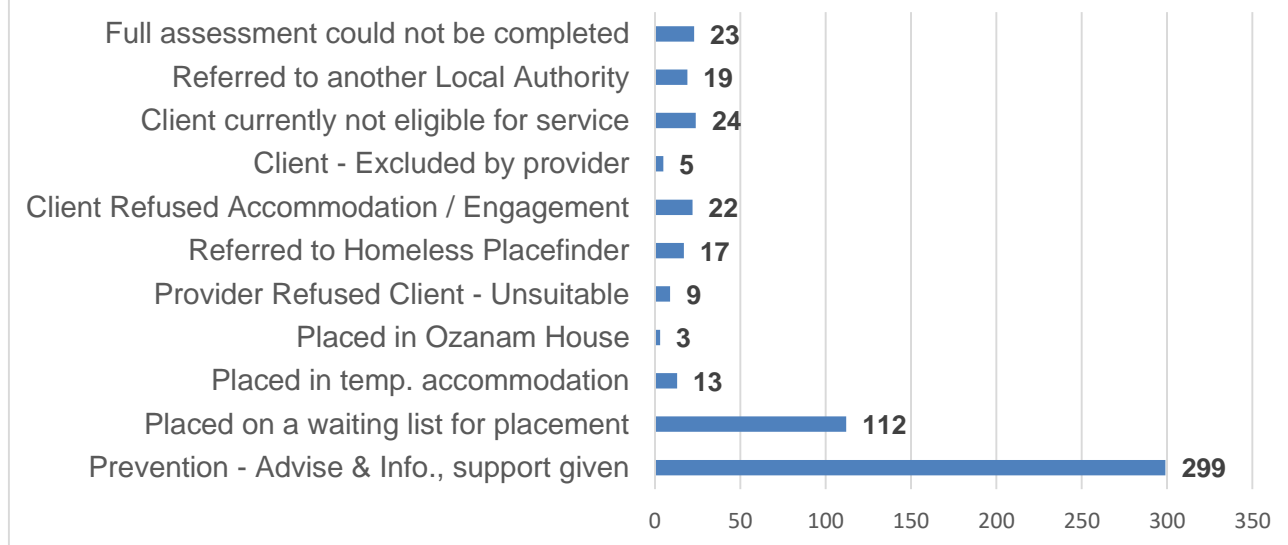
The HSSU operates between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and provides a range of services and supports to persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Co-ordinator along with a multi-disciplinary team, heads the Unit up.

The Homeless Coordinator assigns a key support worker to each case with responsibility for carrying out the homeless assessment. They provide a care and case management model of support to people who present by working with them on a client specific support plan. This identifies the services or supports that the clients need to help them deal with issues and improve their chances of sustaining future tenancies by bringing these supports with them.

The chart below provides a breakdown of the total number of presentations, 547 to 19th October 2020 categorised by the outcome following the initial assessment by the HSSU team.

It is important to point out that the chart represents the total number of presentations to HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may have multiple presentations.

Total Presentations (547) to Wexford HSSU categorised by initial outcome (1st Jan to 19th Oct 2020)



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

In September, our Covid-19 specific video alone reached forty-one thousand social media users and our Twitter post highlighting the Ring of Hook featuring images of Duncannon Harbour reached 19,600 users. Across our Social Media platforms and the print media articles the Opportunity to View has now reached 24,049,322.

The second photography contract has been awarded and the contract work has started. This will increase the content available to use across all social media and print media for a. These will also be available to the Visit groups in Ireland and Wales.

The Celtic Routes project has been awarded Phase 2 of almost 2 million euro and a time extension until May 2023.

Festival and Participation Event Fund

€22K was allocated under the Festival and Participation Event Fund during Sept.

Joint Policing Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 09th November 2020 via MS Teams. It is hoped that Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris will address the committee via video link and to deliver a presentation on the new Garda Operating Model.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting

A meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 29th October 2020 via MS Teams.

Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting

A meeting of Local Community Development Committee acting as the Local Action Group is scheduled for the 29th October 2020 via MS Teams.

LEADER

There were 6 LEADER claims fully paid with a total value of €67,561 with another 5 claims approved for payment with a value of €88,724.

2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Following advertisement and receipt of Expression of Interests, 10 projects were selected and developed to full applications which were lodged with the Department on Wednesday the 30th September 2020.

Healthy Ireland



Healthy Wexford was formally launched on 5th October, with a virtual launch event to allow for maximum attendance and mindful of current guidelines. The event was streamed online, from Irish National Heritage Park, where Frank Feighan, Minister of State Public Health, Wellbeing, and National Drugs Strategy personally attended.



The launch of Healthy Wexford included the formal launch of the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022 & celebration of Wexford joining the National Healthy Cities and Counties Network.



A recording of the launch, including the specially commissioned 'This is Healthy Wexford' video, is available to view on Wexford County Council YouTube channel here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4SZNrMIPDM>

Following the launch Event Minister Feighan continued to Tintern to visit the 'Woodlands for Health' programme, hosted by our colleagues in Sports Active Wexford. This visit allowed the Minister to see a collaborative programme and to meet with the partners and participants.



The Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme, supported by the Department of Health, closed for applications on 30th September. Evaluation of the applications is underway with final allocations to be approved by Wexford LCDC.

Healthy Wexford continues to highlight wellbeing supports across the county. Social media activity is ongoing, highlighting the supports and activities happening across Wexford and for Wexford people to access to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing. Offline Healthy Wexford has used networking links to highlight and create awareness of current support activity.

Healthy Ireland Fund activity is still being impacted by Covid 19 and the changing restrictions make it difficult to plan activities. However, partners continue to adapt and our Farmer Action Steering Group is currently planning for preparation of a pilot phase of Healthy & Wellbeing Support Packs to be distributed through Wexford IFA.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Dormant Account Funding 2020

Sport Ireland announced an investment package of €7.3m in Dormant Accounts Funding for a wide range of sport and physical activity measures countrywide. Sports Active Wexford was awarded Capital Supports under the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme of €17,462, Volunteer Support €12,500 and Youth Leadership €5000.

Healthy Wexford launch- Woodlands for Health

As a part of the Launch of Healthy Wexford, Minister Frank Feighan T.D visited the Sports Active Wexford 'Woodlands for Health' Programme based in Tintern Abbey.

Launch of National Resources for Disability and Older Adults

Over the last number of months Sport Ireland and the National Network of Local sports partnerships have developed a resource for physical activity exercise and plans for these identified groups. These resources enable people to access physical activity at home.

Wexford Mental Health Association Wellness Categories Wellness Pocket Guide

We have been able to support the production of the Wellness Pocket Guide launched as a part of the World Mental Health day on Oct 10th, through our IEP programme. This resource is freely available to all.



Slaintecare

The Integrated Exercise Practitioner has completed the first block of exercise programmes. 14 participants commenced interventions, there were 112 planned interventions, 75% of these planned interventions were delivered (85 delivered and 27 cancelled by clients) and there was an average rate of 80% participant attendance. 13 participants completed intervention (One dropped out due to work commitments). The IEP has begun delivering the second block of exercise programmes with a total caseload of 18 participants. This block is due to finish at the beginning of December.

Fit For All Week

Fit For All Week took place from the 12th – 18th October and four leisure facilities in the county had signed up to open their facilities during the week to people with disabilities. Some were unable to provide services due to Covid-19 but have agreed to do free entry and taster sessions at a later date. To celebrate this week Sports Active Wexford launched it's Table Cricket lending scheme for schools and centres with disabilities. There are four sets available in the county and we delivered the first two to Our Lady of Fatima Special School, Wexford Town and Croi an Tobair, Oylegate. Thanks to Cricket Leinster and their charity partner The Lord Taverners for providing the sets for free and to Herbie Honohan, Development Officer for Wexford for providing the demonstrations. Together with the Irish Orienteering Association we launched our MapRunF and Wheel-O courses in Min Ryan Park. 60 girls from TY in the Loreto Secondary School tested out the courses for us and we are now ready to make the app & maps available to the public, schools and disability groups.

ENVIRONMENT

A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

The following priorities as deemed essential works under COVID level 5, with all other work continuing where possible in a remote format:

- The operation of the Holmestown Household Recycling Centre and the Civic Amenity Centres
- Operation of the Rapid Response Crews and Environment Warden Service
- Operation of the Dog Warden Service
- Limited operation of the Harbours and Piers (Support of fishing industry and marine emergency services, monitoring of vessels, extended Declaration of Health to all vessels).
- Payment of Creditors Invoices
- Payment of Outdoor Staff Wages
- Enforcement work – this has resumed following concerns over the reported increase in illegal dumping. (All pending court cases are adjourned until the end of May).

All tasks are performed while respecting social distancing and following HSE guidance.

B. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites August 2020	Recycling out (End August) 2019 (t)	Recycling out (End August)2020 (t)
Glass bottles		2234	2911
Aluminium Cans		55	73
Total	108	2289	2984

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities

WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Aug 2020(t)	Recycling out Jan Aug I2019	Recycling out Jan - Aug 2020)	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2019	Recycling out Jan-Aug 2020
Total Recycling out	351	421	470	496	433	660	318	390
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1413	1622	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Aug	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	61	66	114	116	124	161	72	78

2. Rapid Response Crew

Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with one two-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts and a second servicing Wexford and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below.

Activity	<i>To end August 2019</i>	<i>August 2020</i>	<i>To end August 2020</i>	% +/-
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	2041	193	2234	+2%
<i>Gorey *</i>		<i>58</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		<i>59</i>		
<i>Wexford *</i>		<i>56</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>		<i>20</i>		
Total Bring Site Inspections	2903	494	3397	+97%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>49</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>37</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>131</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>33</i>		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	9366	1338	10704	+76%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>398</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>940</i>		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	3235	364	3599	+36%
<i>Gorey</i>		<i>46</i>		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		<i>114</i>		
<i>Wexford</i>		<i>138</i>		
<i>New Ross</i>		<i>66</i>		

**Including Towns*

3. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2020 inspection plan and 2019 return were submitted to the EPA on 15 February 2020. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,578 route inspections by 25 Full Time Equivalent staff member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc. The national waste priorities for 2020 are;

1. Illegal Dumping/ unaccounted for waste, which includes scrap cars sites, unauthorised Man in Van collectors, etc.,
2. Construction & Demolition activities, includes management of waste on construction sites.
3. Use the waste presentation bye-laws to check household are dealing with their waste, including ensure collectors are continuing to roll out of the household brown bins.
4. Tracking the flow of waste data submitted on AER returns by collectors and facilities.

C. LITTER MANAGEMENT

The Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018 came into effect from the 2nd January, 2019. From this date, anyone contravening the bye-laws will be liable to a fixed penalty of €75.

Complaints regarding litter are now being handled through the Customer Service Unit. Environment is the first section to use this central system.

Any evidence collected from littering incidents is used in bringing action under the Litter Pollution legislation. It has been noted that less evidence is being recovered. More transactions have moved online and people are removing waste that may incriminate them. The use of CCTV has been halted due to restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Commissioner. The local press regularly reports on such cases. We will continue to target illegal dumping black-spots and the county's roads throughout the year.

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2019	TOTAL FOR 2020 (to May 2020)
Fines Issued	341	147
Fines Paid in Full●	143	67
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	140	27
Successful Prosecutions**	13	18
Legal Proceedings In Progress	28	39
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€26,728	€10,095

* Other fines may be paid prior to the hearing or withdrawn for evidential or legal reasons.

- A large number of fines are paid in instalments and these are not reflected in the statistics.

Most Court cases are successful, but it can take up to a year or more for a case to be heard in the District Court. There is currently a backlog of cases before the courts at the moment due to the number of adjournments over the last few months.

In September two littering cases were heard. Fines of €250 were imposed along with costs of €250 in each case.

Litter Enforcement Activity 2009-2018

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)
2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338
2009	345	15	1,906

D.GENERAL

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 – Dec 2017	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	1 Jan to 30 Sept 2020
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4048
Closed	3526	4563	3720	2764
Closure Rate	98%	99%	78%	68%

Environment Education and Awareness:

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

Green Schools: An online green schools seminar will be held on 17th November and an invitation will be sent to all schools. An Tiasce will be circulate guidance documents for each of the green schools themes this month to help schools continue with their green schools programme safely.

Holmestown Household Recycling Centre: All school visits to Holmestown have been postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions. The tour outlines the energy saving technologies used, how landfills are managed, a birds of prey display and a tour of the recycling site.



School Workshops: Online workshops are being organised in biodiversity for schools who are currently working on this theme for green schools.

Annual Environment Artwork Competition: Due to Covid 19 it has been decided to postpone the competition until next year. The theme will be 'Wildflowers' and competition will be open to both primary and secondary schools.

Trees for Wexford Campaign: The trees for Wexford Campaign is now open for applications and closing date is 16th October. Applications can be made online at www.wexfordcoco.ie/trees. 154 applications were received under the 2019 'Trees for Wexford Campaign'. In total 7,857 trees were distributed (trees and saplings). On average 6 trees / hedging or saplings was given to each approved group.

Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition: The competition was announced in June and judging took place in July. 101 entries were received from 57 groups.

Community Clean Ups: Registrations for community clean ups are continuing. Registrations will be accepted from family group/ individuals/ small groups according to current government guidelines. Materials for clean ups can be collected at the civic amenity sites. 781 community clean ups were supported in 2019.

Planting Grant: The 2020 Planting Grant Scheme was advertised in June and is now closed. 54 applications were received and all approved the maximum grant of €300.

National Reuse Month: October is Ireland's National Reuse Month and is packed with events to explore reuse and repair. There will be lots of virtual workshop, online tutorials, reuse tips and much more. The calendar of events which are taking place all over the country can be viewed on www.mywaste.ie. Wexford County Council with the Discovery Centre are hosting 2 online free workshops as follows; 'Green Your Wardrobe' workshop on the 27th of October will teach you how to manage your wardrobe and cut down on closet clutter. Children's Online Creative Waste Reuse Workshop on Wednesday the 28th of October will teach children how to make creative crafts using waste items found around the home. The Upcycle Challenge is a national competition and is open for entries.

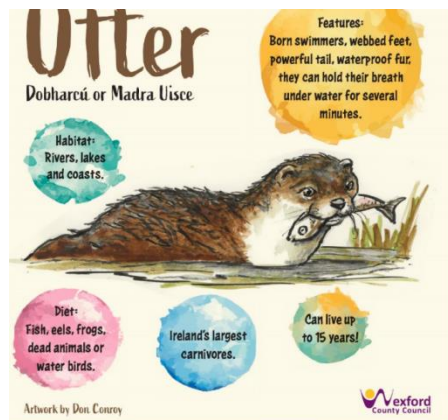


Local Waste Prevention Grant: The 2020 scheme was announced in early June. 11 applications were approved the maximum grant of €500 under the 2020 scheme. Projects funded included prevention of single use items, upcycling, food waste prevention workshops. €5,500 was funded across all projects in 2020.

Community Engagement: Community talks are postponed during Covid 19. Contact with community groups is ongoing.

Leader Funding: Leader Funding has been approved for a community training programme entitled 'Understand my Area's Biodiversity'. The objective of this training programme will be to inspire people to take action for biodiversity in their local area. It is about improving the public's knowledge of what biodiversity is and thus encourage them to consider increasing biodiversity in their local community areas like gardens, green spaces, and derelict areas and preserve existing biodiversity rich habitats.

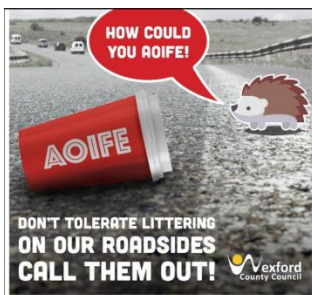
Blue Flag Education Activities: A series of social media posts depicting some of our coastal fauna was circulated on social media as part of blue flag education programme. A series of 15 posts which included otter, Common Tern, shells, whales hoped to help us engage with the coast during lockdown.



Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: A series of images and messages have been put out on twitter to encourage all dog owners to pick up after their dog and dispose of the poop bag responsibly.



Litter Awareness Campaign: ‘Call out litter louts litter Campaign’ was launched in July and images and a short animation video was circulated on social media. The campaign is part of a regional roadside litter campaign with Kilkenny, Carlow and Waterford County Councils. The campaign is calling for everyone in the South East to us help eliminate roadside litter. The “call out litter louts” campaign asks all of you who are in the company of those who chuck litter from their car window to do one simple thing “call them out” on their disgusting behaviour.



Green Dog Walker: Promotion of the Green Dog Walker is ongoing. The campaign has been highlighted on social media and individuals can apply online.



Trail Development 2020 Projects:

5 projects were allocated Measure 1 ORIS grant €81,089

- Ballycrystal Trail Extension --Under construction
- Rosslare Harbour Trail -300m extension completed.
- Courtown Burrow Trail Under construction
- Ballymoney to Tara Hill Trail - Substantially complete, signage outstanding
- Annagh Trail & Forth Mountain trailhead carpark Carpark complete, Annagh Trail signage ordered.

1 project was allocated Measure 2 ORIS grant €62,328

- Duncannon to Arthurstown Trail – Phase 1 Substantially complete, signage outstanding

All projects will be complete by end of November.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to Covid-19

Contact and Collect

All libraries in County Wexford were open for “Contact and Collect” service from 7th October until 21st October 2020 as per Government Guidelines for Level 3. From 22nd October and throughout level 5, library buildings remain closed to the public.

The following services continue to be offered during level 5 restrictions:

Book Call Delivery Service

Elderly, vulnerable and cocooning citizens can request a selection of books, dvds and other items which will be delivered directly to their door by library staff.

You can continue to use your library online!

Members of the public can access their library services online, 24/7. These online services will continue to be available as we move through the re-opening phases.

You can:

- [join the library online;](#)
- download [eBooks and e-Audiobooks;](#)
- read [magazines, newspapers and comics;](#)
- take [eLearning or language courses or download music;](#)
- watch or listen to storytimes or,
- take part in other activities like [online bookclubs.](#)

A full range of online activities and events is available to view on [Wexford Public Libraries' YouTube](#) channel. Events are publicised on library Facebook pages, Twitter and Instagram.

Library Services to Children

Parenting Today 2020 Talks Due to on-going Covid related restrictions all Parenting Today 2020 events have been moved to an online format. On Oct. 22nd ***Dyslexia Awareness and Support for Parents and Teachers*** was made available on the Wexford Library YouTube channel. The talk was presented by Jenny Byrne, Information Officer for the Dyslexia Association of Ireland, and participants were invited to email in questions in advance, so that they could be addressed in the recorded talk.

TTRS: Children and parents who access the ***Touch Type Read Spell*** programme through libraries were granted access to their unique individual log- ins so that they could use the programme from home.

A learning support class group of four students and three teachers from Gorey Community School visited Gorey Library every Monday afternoon since 14 September up to the enforcement of level 3 restrictions on 7th October.

Children's Book Festival Our Children's Book Festival offering was very different this year with all the content being online.

We hosted 15 different events/workshops from 10 different authors and illustrators. These events were a mix of storytelling sessions and workshops about creative writings, historical sources, journaling, illustration & more. There were also printable activity sheets and worksheets that were shared with the teachers.

Wexford town library had bookings from both primary and secondary level schools with 25 different classes having viewed the online CBF content. In total over 500 children from schools in the Wexford Town library catchment have participated in CBF in 2020.

Rhymetime and Storytime recordings For October rhyme time and story time continued online with weekly sessions, hosted online at the times they traditionally took place in the branch. They also remained online after those times so that viewers could tune in at a time that suited them. These videos were recorded and produced by library staff, and filmed in the library. Necessary permissions were obtained from publishers to read their titles online.

Local Studies During the month of October there were a total of 18 local studies and 10 genealogy enquiries researched by library staff.

Adult Reader Events To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Adult Literacy Agency, NALA has released a collection of short stories to encourage adults that find reading difficult to discover the joy of reading. The book titled, 'Voices' is edited by one of Ireland's best-known authors, Patricia Scanlan. This book was made available in multiple copies during Level 3 services.

Positive Ageing Week 28th September to 2nd October was celebrated with a relevant book display in the libraries and various posts on Facebook highlighting online services.

Shakespeare In conjunction with this year's Wexford Festival Opera, themed *Waiting for Shakespeare*, Library staff broadcast a series of videos of Shakespearean sonnets on Facebook page. In total there were 8 sonnets posted over 8 days to tie in with the 8 days of the festival.

Opera Festival (Eithne Scallan) Wexford Town Library joined with Wexford Festival of Arts to deliver a number of online events. However, due to Covid related restrictions and the suspension of all live events, it was decided to suspend the release of all online events until they can coincide with the rescheduled live shows.

The only exception to this was the online interview with local historian Eithne Scallan, who discussed the origins of the Wexford Festival Opera and the story of Seamus O'Dwyer. This recording was broadcast on Tuesday Oct. 13th during Wexford Festival Opera.

Collection Management & Acquisition

The Archive dealt with 37 research enquiries via email, telephone and post during October. The service continues to conduct detailed research for enquiries where possible in an effort to facilitate researchers while the reading room remains closed.

A handwritten lease dated 8 September 1737 was deposited in the Archive in early October. Transacted between the Rt. Hon. James Lord Viscount Mount Garrett and William Cliffe, a merchant from New Ross, Mount Garrett assigned part of McMurrough's Island (called Shanbally) near the town of New Ross to Cliffe for the term of 31 years, paying an annual rent of £15 sterling.

Outreach

To commemorate the centenary of local government in Ireland this year, a booklet entitled *Democracy and Change – the 1920 local elections in Ireland* was published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, with the text and images provided by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM).

Work on a small exhibition on the 1920 local elections in County Wexford is in progress which will be made available as an online resource next month.

Arts

Wexford Film and TV Coordinator

Wexford County Council's Screen Industries initiative, Screen Wexford, has announced the appointment of a new Film and TV Coordinator, Linda Curtin, who will oversee the implementation of a Screen Sector Strategic Plan for the region. This initiative is part of a drive for the development of film, TV and animation in County Wexford. The aim is to attract more international and indigenous film and TV productions to the region, and to nurture home-grown talent. Linda Curtin is an award-winning filmmaker who has been working in the industry for ten years in varying capacities from festival marketing to hands-on film production in the fields of documentary and art film.

The Living Arts in Schools Project

The aim of the Living Arts Project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Four selected primary schools have the opportunity to host an artist in residence for an 8 week residency during the school year.

Wexford County Council Arts Department, in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre, has completed the 2020-21 programmes for this project. Training for the eight Wexford-based artists selected took place on 5th October. The 4 selected schools will commence the Project in November 2020.

County Wexford Youth Film Festival.

County Wexford Youth Film Project is based in St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross. The project trains young people aged 13 – 20 in the art of filmmaking and provides them with an opportunity for creative expression through an accessible and exciting medium.

The County Wexford Youth Film Festival launched on 10th October and is funded by the Arts Department and the Arts Council in partnership with St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross. It is a film festival dedicated to young people and run entirely by young people. Highlights of the festival are:

- 212 films from all over the world screened over the course of the festival
- Panel discussions with featured filmmakers
- Free workshops and talks from industry professionals

Major New Public Art Commission for Ferns and St David's

Pembrokeshire County Council and Wexford County Council panel met in October and shortlisted 5 artists (out of 28 submissions) to develop Stage 2 proposals to create two new pieces of public art, one in Ferns and one in St David's as part of *Ancient Connections* with a total maximum budget of €175,000 to include all costs.

The artworks must be linked either visually or conceptually and be made from sustainable materials. Deadline for Stage 2 Proposals extended to end January 2021. Artists will undertake further and make and site visits to both locations (covid-19 regulations permitting) in the coming months.

Passport to Production – Screen Skills Ireland

As part of its new training initiative, Screen Wexford, in partnership with Screen Skills Ireland and the Creative Ireland programme are calling for Wexford-based applicants from all backgrounds, or those who have an interest in working in the areas of Film & TV production, locations or AD department, to take part in 'Passport to Production' which is a New Entrant Training Programme which has been developed to equip new entrants with key skills for working in the Film and TV Industry, competencies that reflect the ever-changing dynamics of the work environment for the high end TV drama space: Health and Safety, problem-solving, adaptive thinking, creative collaboration, emotional intelligence, set etiquette, script breakdown and self-management in the industry. More information on www.screen-wexford.com/training

Autumn Winter supports for Artists launched

Wexford County Council Arts Office is supporting and delivering:

(a) Friday Fixes:

Free weekly informal zoom sessions facilitated by invited guests in a broad selection of themes e.g. networking, delivering festivals etc., to support artists and creatives to meet up and share ideas as the winter approaches. While opportunities for artists to meet and showcase their work remains limited, the arts office is conscious of the need to support artists to connect now more than ever.

(b) Artist's Mentoring Workshops – 2020/2021

A series free of Mentoring Workshops for 6 artists based in Wexford County to be delivered by Curator and Cultural Consultant Eamonn Maxwell over a four month period from Nov 2020 – February 2021. These mentoring workshops support artists in their practice and aim to address artists' specific needs working in a professional environment.

Music Generation

A partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in Wexford county working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings.

- **Singing and Instrumental Programme 2020** - 18 National Schools on the programme availed of the opportunity to continue online as a result of the impact of Covid 19. 135 videos were produced and uploaded to Youtube and then the links were sent to each of the national schools weekly.
- **Blackwater Bows** - 11 violinists and 2 cellists participated in the Blackwater Bows Online Tutorial Series with violin videos.

- **Mini Maestros Early Years Music Online** – an average of 18 parents and toddlers attended online which the content was developed in consultation with Music Generation Wexford – adapting performance and participation for parents and toddlers in their homes.
- **The High Street Opera Zoom**, - 15 young people attended this online version of the children's opera workshop which explored the music, movement and song of the opera Pinocchio and the creative development of the characters with the attendees.
- **Wexford Wind Jammers Online Band Camp** for wind instrument players from ages 8-12 and 13-18 was held via ZOOM. The aims were to learn new music with the wind band, develop skills in playing wind instruments together and to meet, socialise and have fun with other wind instrument players.

Creative Ireland Programme

A number of additional funding streams have been provided to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in 2020, which have facilitated the Creative Ireland Programme, approving €75,170 in additional initiatives and projects in County Wexford:

- Funding Stream Amount Allocated July Stimulus Package – Creative Communities €50,000
- Pillar 2 Cross Sectoral and Legacy €25,170

The July Stimulus package provided additional support for the Artists' Bursaries open call process and the professional development and training support for artists and creatives living in County Wexford. It also provided for the animation of public spaces in each Municipal District through artwork, murals and light installation. The Cross Sectoral Legacy funding provides support for a pilot project to assess the impact of music concerts in mental health residential settings in Co. Wexford as a response to Covid - 19 cocooning and social isolation. It further supports a multi-disciplinary arts and health project for residents in Mental Health Intellectual Disability (MHID) Units in County Wexford.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties

Wexford Civil Defence was preparing to undertake community events in the coming weeks, with 4 civic duties applications for October agreed. Only the Beach Swim for Sports Active was completed on Saturday 2nd October, with the three other Wexford Athletics events, cancelled due to COVID 19

Weekly Training

We have completed COVID Induction Training for most volunteers as a return to training module. Weekly training has recommenced in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.

Social Distancing measures are in place to ensure volunteer safety.

12 new recruits completed CFR and Induction on 10th October, they will meet again on 24th October to receive uniform and be assigned to their units.

Training Courses

12 Members completed their Manual Handling and People Handling course on 3rd & 4th October in our Training HQ Ardavan.

Covid 19 – Response

Wexford Civil Defence has been tasked to provide support to the Community Forum helpline in County Hall, HSE and Department of Defence since week 23rd March 2020.

October Tasking's

Patient Transport Support: 3 requests

HSE Test Centre PPE: We are continuing to help pack PPE kits for the Wexford COVID Test centre, with 3,250 packed to date.

IBTS: Volunteers helped with the Irish Blood Transfusion Service blood bank in Wexford on 4th, 5th, & 6th October and again on 12th and 13th October.

New Ambulance: Wexford Civil Defence will receive a 152 Reg Mercedes Sprinter ambulance from the Department of Defence shortly. The ambulance is donated by the National Ambulance Service to DOD. The 04 Ambulance currently located with the Enniscorthy Unit. The vehicle will be disposed of at Auction in November.

FIRE SERVICE

Fire Station Priorities for 2020.

Wexford County Fire Service has received confirmation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to proceed with the appointment of the successful building contractor for New Ross fire station following the completion of the tendering process.

COVID-19

The fire service continues to return to all operational training and service delivery with Covid-19 precautions in place to maintain operational preparedness.

National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management

The final capacity review meeting of Wexford County Fire Service operations during the Covid-19 pandemic took place with the NDFEM on 16th September 2020. A final implementation report is due from the NDFEM.

Fire Operations

There were 84 incident responses in September as detailed below.

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls September 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire	3	93	81
Domestic fire	6	40	45
Road Traffic Accident	14	65	78
Industrial fire	0	9	8
Commercial fire	0	5	7
Assembly fire	0	2	2
Agricultural fire	2	4	1
Motor Vehicles	2	39	33
Forest/bog/grass etc	8	85	68
Rubbish	5	69	55
Non-fire rescues	5	40	25
False alarms – good intent	34	212	192
Malicious false alarms	1	2	1
Miscellaneous	4	37	64
Total	84	702	660

Fire Safety

The number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Fire Services Acts inspections for the month of September were as follows:-

August 2020

Applications Received	Year to date	September
Fire Safety Certificates	79	11

Number of Inspections	Year to date	September
FSA Inspections	81	24

Water Services



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation



COVID -19

- Water Services is carrying out its activity in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA.
- Office operations are continuing with staff working both remotely and in the office and so are available to answer any queries. General queries still go through Irish Water 1850 278 278.

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey works are now complete and design of the hydraulic model for the sewerage network is underway ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will follow in Q4, 2020.
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ Dates for tender and construction are not known until an Irish Water commitment on funding is known.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Deferred survey works due for completion Summer 2020.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. ➤ Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. A new delivery date is yet to be decided.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gorey RWSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. ➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ Onsite Reservoirs complete and new treatment plant under construction ○ Borehole works commencing September 2020
Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor selected. ○ Planning permission granted. ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded until November 2020 at the earliest which will impact on delivery of the scheme ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scheme design complete and ready to tender. Tender documents are being finalised and we expect to issue shortly. ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded in 2020 and a new delivery date is yet to be advised.
Wexford Town Water Main Rehab and Gas Network	Irish Water has advised it is no longer funding this project.
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The direct labour crew have commenced the find and fix programme. At present they are connecting the new main on the old Dublin Road in Enniscorthy which allows the find teams the opportunity to build up a body of work for the fix teams. The current works are being funded through the Government stimulus package.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design works are on hold subject to funding being made available from Irish Water.

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disinfection Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disinfection upgrade project at 98% complete county wide excluding snagging. ○ Snagging ongoing at various sites.
-------------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treated Water storage programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy. ➤ Kilmallock Bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be submitted for planning by summer 2020
IW Minor Wastewater Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trinity Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generator Upgrade works expected to take place Q4 2020. ➤ Fairgreen Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works to decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP are 50% complete on site and expected to be completed during Q4 2020. ➤ Rosetown Village Pumping Station, Rosslare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civil, mechanical and safety upgrade works on-going, expected completion November 2020. ➤ Pumping Station Rationalisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several proposals for rationalisation and decommissioning of pumping stations located close together were submitted to Irish Water for review. ○ Two have been awarded funding and works will progress on site during Q4 2020 at La Rochelle, Rosslare Harbour and New Haven, Rosslare Strand. ➤ Rosslare Aeration Upgrade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting held on site with Irish Water to discuss proposals, and a specialist contractor has completed a design report. Works expected to take place Q4 2020. ○ Funding approved from IW under Government Stimulus Package

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coolgreaney WWTP Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding approved by Irish Water for upgrade to PLC controls of the WWTP, with works to take place Q4 2020. ○ Government Stimulus Package funding approved for upgrade to the inlet works which are now 50% complete on site. ➤ King's Bay WWPS, Arthurstown Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor appointed for Phase 1 of upgrade works including site fencing and new valve chamber, expected to take place Q1 2021. ➤ Ballywilliam WWTP Repair Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding awarded under Government Stimulus Package for essential repairs to the reed bed and inlet works at Castan Close WWTP. Works to commence on site November 2020.
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide. ➤ Additional budget of 390k was awarded for expenditure this year under the Government Stimulus Package ➤ 825K of works have been approved to date with 753k of expenditure committed.
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 applications received for Water Connections ○ 6 applications received for Wastewater Connections
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Delayed due to COVID 19. Expected completion now Q4 2020. ○ Rising main works are now completed. ○ Pumping station works to commence November 2020. ➤ O'Rahilly View WWTP (TIC), Gusserane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q4. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow during Q4.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Radharc na bhFánaíthe WWTP (TIC), Killanne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works to take place during Q4 2020 and Q1 2021.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some Water Services staff continue to work from home where possible

3. Rural Water Programme



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mullawn GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turbidity Meter was installed by EPS on the 26th May. Works have been completed and inspected by WCC and payments for works have been approved. ➤ Killaneran GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awaiting quotations for the engagement of a Hydrogeologist. Contact made with NFGWS for recommendations regarding appropriate Hydrogeologist.
Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021. ○ Investigative works for the relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir are on-going with consultations with Planning Dept.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendation to the Department at the end of the month on decision on progression, awaiting a response from the Dept. ○ Agreement to be reached in regard to Road Re-instatement before Site Investigation quotations can be sought. Site investigation quotations expected to be sought once confirmation of numbers is received. ○ Discussion with Planning proposed on results of findings of appropriate AA Report.
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Battletown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader that scheme not expected to proceed. ○ Alternative solutions to resident issues currently being investigated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader scheme not expected to proceed ➤ Crosstown GSS Scheme/Orchard Lane GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Irish Water are in the process of Taking in Charge the Crosstown GSS Scheme ○ There are no plans to Take in Charge the Orchard Lane GSS scheme at the moment.
--	---

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Countywide consumption for September 2020 was on average 42.61MLD, this is a decrease of 0.87MLD from Aug 2020. ➤ This is currently outside our 2020 YTD monthly target of 41.84MLD. However, Wexford is subject to seasonal demand from Tourism, Agriculture and Industry sectors.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 76nr leak repairs were inspected and completed by operations staff in September 2020. ➤ Planned Leak detection and subsequent repairs were undertaken in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Kilmuckridge, Rosslare and Gorey areas.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current Projects – Enniscorthy BYS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffey Northumberland recommenced works on Bellfield Rd in September 2020. This work is planned to be completed in November 2020. ➤ Stimulus Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional funding for 6nr Telemetry Loggers and 3 nr kiosks was received in September 2020. This package also is funding 3nr PRV installs and the Old Dublin Road transfer of services as detailed below. These works will be completed in 2020. ➤ Rehab Submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved Old Dublin road transfer of services and decommissioning of the problematic 3" PVC main will be progressed in November 2020 by the Direct Labour Crew. ○ Tranche 5 proposals are being prepared to be forwarded to IW in October for 2021 funding.

➤ **Find and Fix:**

- Find and Fix resources were concentrated in Enniscorthy, New Ross and South Regional during September 2020.
- 12nr finds were recorded by the Find Crews, and the assigned LA Fix crew completed associated enabling works and 11nr repairs. These works saw savings of 3.5m3/hr.
- The Find crew has current ongoing investigations in South Regional area, and will be returning to complete another sweep in Enniscorthy.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme

Covid-19 Site Closure

Works are still being impacted by the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 resulting in a slippage of the program for closing out of minor works. It is expected that any outstanding works will be completed in mid-September, subject to an updated programme from the contractor.

M11, N80 Link and N30

The M11, N80 Link and N30 are now open to traffic. Works in relation to fencing, landscaping drainage and general housekeeping will continue until contract completion.

Side Roads

Any outstanding works in relation to side roads will involve the installation of Traffic Management on a temporary basis to enable the works to be carried out safely.

Liaison Office

Wexford County Council is continuing to liaise with the public in relation to the scheme.

N25 New Ross By-Pass

Outstanding minor works and snagging have been completed on 15 of 27 side roads in Co. Wexford and these roads have been taken over by Wexford County Council. Any remaining minor outstanding works on the other 12 side roads are being completed in strict accordance with guidelines for construction sites under the current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

Works for landscaping and other amenities will be completed at the project art site in the coming weeks in advance of a launch date.

The PPP Company continues to provide operation and maintenance services in accordance with covid-19 guidelines. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies. Wexford

County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the final completion of all outstanding works and final close out of all project related matters.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

Initial consideration of the 8 primary scheme options presented in the public consultation event in July and August has been completed taking into account public feedback received during the consultation. These eight options intersect at various locations and the initial assessment identified 97 separate possible combinations for further assessment. An assessment of these 97 separate scheme options combinations has been undertaken in terms of environment, economics and engineering. The detailed assessment process will continue through the remainder of 2020 and into early 2021 and it is currently anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed in March 2021. All project services are being delivered in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines and the delivery programme is being monitored on an ongoing basis for potential impacts.

An Option Selection Report will be published which will describe the assessment and selection process and outline the rationale for the selection of the preferred option. This Option Selection Report and preferred scheme option will be published on the project website (<http://oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie>) and will also be displayed for public information. Arrangements for public engagement on the preferred scheme option will be made subject to guidelines in place at the time to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Rosslare Europort Access Road

The detailed appraisal of the three scheme options is currently being finalised to identify the option that best meets the project objectives. It is anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed in early November. The project continues to consult closely with Irish Rail and Rosslare Europort as the scheme develops in parallel with plans for the future development of the Port. The project is also consulting closely with the Rosslare Europort to Waterford Greenway project to ensure the full integration of high quality facilities for cyclists and pedestrians in Rosslare Harbour.

An Option Selection Report will be published which will describe the assessment and selection process and outline the rationale for the selection of the preferred option. This Option Selection Report and preferred scheme option will be published on the project website (<http://rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie>) and will also be displayed for public information. Arrangements for public engagement on the preferred scheme option will be made subject to guidelines in place at the time to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

2020 National Road Pavement Schemes

Allocations were received from TII for the following pavement improvement schemes in 2020:

- N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme
- N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme
- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great Pavement Scheme
- N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the newly constructed Mountelliot roundabout to the R731 Ballyanne junction in New Ross.

This scheme was tendered in May. The contract was awarded in August.

Preparatory works commenced on 28 September. Civil works should be substantially completed by the end of November.

Surfacing works will be weather dependent but should be completed by the end of December.

N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the Ferrycarrig Bridge to the Maldron roundabout on the N11.

This scheme was tendered on 19 August with a tender return date of 11 September.

A Letter of Acceptance was issued on 19 October. Works should commence in early November with a 12 week construction programme.

N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from Holmestown junction to Tomcool junction on the N25.

This scheme was tendered in October with a tender return date of 29 October.

A contractor should be appointed in November.

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

Preliminary archaeology investigations were carried out in 2019. Further archaeological investigations are underway. These are required to be carried out in advance of the pavement scheme going ahead. These investigations were completed in July.

It is expected that the pavement scheme will be tendered in November.

Construction is likely to commence in the first quarter of 2021 with an 8 week construction programme.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 21 January 2020. Wexford's allocation was €17,088,007, up €2,646,207 on 2019.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 21 February. It was postponed from 30 March to 18 May due to public health measures. The first phase of the Machinery Yard programme was completed on 18 June.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month were:

Adamstown, Bradley's Hill (New Ross District), and Sinnottstown Lane (Wexford Borough District).

Roads completed (clause 804) in the last month were:

Kilgarvin to Moodybeg and Adamstown to Misterin (both in New Ross District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 22 June.

The surface dressing programme (110km of road surfaced) was completed on 3 September 2020.

Community Involvement Schemes

Roads completed in the last month were:

Tobergall Lane, Boolavogue (Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

Local Improvement Schemes

Roads completed in the last month were:

Kilcotty Beg; and Island road, Bannpark (both in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District)

Bargy Commons; Yolegre, Taghmon; Tilladavins, Tomhaggard; and Newtown, Kilmore (all in Rosslare District).

Harristown Big (Wexford Borough District).

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Bridges that had repairs completed in the last month were:

Adamstown Bridge and Aughaport Bridge (both in New Ross District).

Active Travel Measures

Co. Wexford received € 1,351,098 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 28 projects. The following are complete:

Pedestrian crossing points on Ross Road (Enniscorthy District).

Pedestrian crossing near R733/R736 junction at Wellingtonbridge (Rosslare District).

Belvedere Road footpaths; Improvement of green area footpaths on 1798 Street; and Estuary walk at Ferrybank Point (all in Wexford Borough District).

Climate Change Adaptation Measures

Co. Wexford received € 460,000 funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 31 August for 16 projects. The following are complete:

Lacken Hill road drainage; and Monart East road drainage (both in Enniscorthy District).

Mullaun road drainage; and Ballyedmond Village road drainage (both in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

Kellistown Cross drainage; and Moodybeg road drainage (both in New Ross District).

Specific Improvement Works

Ballywilliam Culverts Replacement Project. The village was flooded in 2015. The service station had to close for a period. Roads in the village were also impassable. Following a competitive tender process Glas Civil Engineering Ltd. was awarded the contract for €435,423.00 excluding VAT. Construction works commenced on site in mid-September. The works primarily entailed replacing undersized concrete pipes with two large precast concrete box culverts. The two box culverts have been installed and local natural stone parapet walls are being constructed at present. The works are expected to be completed by the end of November.

General Maintenance

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non National Roads)

Over 7,000 lanterns have been upgraded to Led since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to upgrade the remaining 5,700 lanterns on non-national roads and housing estates in 2020.

Design works are underway with 80% of the lanterns already designed.

66% of the lanterns have been delivered with 60% of the lanterns installed to date.

The scheme should be completed by the end of the year.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting has been or is being installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund.

- Newtown Road Wexford Town (Completed).
- Clonard Village, Clonard, Wexford Town (Completed).
- Castlebridge Village southern end (Completed)
- Castlebridge Village -Crossabeg road. (Completed).
- Ferns Village – rear of funeral home (Completed).
- Puddle Lane, Ballycanew (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Fishers Row, Trinity Street, Wexford Town (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Marian Terrace, Camolin (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Tomhaggard Village (Contractor due to commence week commencing 21 September.)
- Kilrane Industrial Estate Access road (Lanterns installed. ESB connection applied for. Cabling due to commence in October).

TII Energy Efficiency Schemes

Wexford County Council applied to TII to upgrade the remaining lights on national routes to LED in 2020.

The locations are listed below;

- N11 Oilgate
- N25 Kilrane and Rosslare Harbour
- N25 Ashfield cross Roundabout
- N25 Barntown
- N25 Larkins Cross
- N25 Balinabola
- N30 Clonroche
- N80 Ballycarney
- N80 Bunclody

TII approved all schemes on 16 April. Lighting designs have been completed. These 9 schemes were tendered in 4 separate lots. All 4 lots have been tendered and awarded. Work on upgrading all 9 sites was completed on 28 October.

Finance:

COVID -19

The COVID 19 emergency continues to impact negatively on the finances of Wexford County Council across all income sources when compared to 2019. The decline in Income levels had slowed but were still much lower than pre-Covid levels. It is now expected with the Level 5 restrictions being put in place that we will see a further deterioration in the figures for the remainder of 2020. In addition unplanned emergency expenditure on our response to the crisis is now in excess of €1m and continues to be incurred.

The 6 Month (27th March to 27th September) Rates Waiver scheme for eligible businesses as set out in circular Fin 11/2020 has been notified to ratepayers. The process is almost complete and the total cost of this waiver scheme will be over €10m. The council receive an initial payment of the government funding for the scheme, this first tranche totalled €3.8m. A departmental circular is now awaited in respect of the additional 3 month Rates Waiver recently announced as part of the National budget announcement. Credit Control are also now engaging with ratepayers to make arrangement for the payment of remaining balances on their rate accounts.

Budget 2021

Preparatory work is progressing on Budget 2021. The delivery of an adequate budget to maintain services for 2021 will be challenging and we currently await notification of potential government support funding as part of the national budget for 2021. The decision by members to retain the 10% local variation factor on Local Property Tax is welcome and a positive start to the budget process. The Draft Budgetary Plans for the Municipal Districts (GMA) which were scheduled for discussion and decision by Municipal district members as part of the October MD meetings were postponed and will be rescheduled. Draft Budgetary Plans will need to be decided on within 10 days of the statutory budget meeting. In the meantime the detailed work on budget 2021 is progressing and the CPG/Cross party group will be updated on the budget strategy for 2021 at the meeting scheduled for 2nd November. The statutory budget meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th November at 10am.

While it is expected that Budget 2021 will be a difficult process in light of the ongoing impact of the COVID public health emergency every effort is now being made to work with the various service sections of the council to ensure, in as far as possible, that a budget can be delivered that will allow services to be maintained within the constraints presented by the financial difficulties facing the council and the county.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is now in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €30m to assist with potential COVID related potential cash flow difficulties that might arise for the remainder of 2020. It will be necessary to seek council approval for borrowing by way of overdraft for 2021 and this is included as an agenda item for the November meeting.

Audit Committee/Audit

The Audit Committee scheduled for Wednesday 21st October was postponed in light of the worsening Covid situation and it is hoped to rescheduled this meeting as soon as possible following the current level 5 restrictions.

The 2019 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service formally commenced on 10th July and is ongoing. This year's audit will be completed in line with government restrictions and guidelines as a result of the COVID-19 situation. The audit is now nearing completion and the statutory audit report for 2019 will be submitted to the council for consideration at the next available meeting following receipt of same.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**