2026



NOVEMBER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council

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HOUSING



Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025 – 2030

Under the new housing action plan each local authority was tasked with creating a Housing Delivery Action Plan for 2027-2030. The Draft plan was submitted to the Department of Housing on 25th September.

The plan will encompass specific targets regarding social housing and Starter Homes (including affordable housing), housing for older people, disabled persons and members of the traveller community. The Department of Housing have provided target figures for the lifetime of the plan of 912 unit. It is proposed to exceed this target in line with the overall demand and department support.

An overview of the Plan was presented to the Housing SPC on 25th September, 2026 and it is proposed to present to the Plenary Council meeting in December 2026.

Housing For All 2022 – 2026 – Housing Delivery

Under the Housing for All Programme 2022 to 2026, Wexford County Council must deliver a minimum of 1,159 new housing units within the programme timeframe. The status of overall programme delivery is contained in the diagram below. (1,454 below includes leasing).

Housing For All 2022-2026									
1,190 Target	- (	1,298 Units Delivered	+	139 Units Projected	=	1,437 Delivery Pipeline	)	=	247 Shortfall/Over

It is the Councils intention to continue to deliver new housing, above the target provided under the programme, where demand exists and Department funding is available.

The following tables outline the current delivery pipelines and status on projects. For LA Direct Build information, please refer to the Capital Development section of the Chief Executives Report.

Turnkey Delivery - The Housing Section periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey Acquisition. **Expression of Interest ran from 29th July to 10th September.** A new EOI opened on the 28th of October. All calls are seeking targeted delivery of smaller unit types (1 & 2 beds) in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). In addition, the process also seeks proposals for purchase of land in areas of need. All proposals received by Wexford County Council under the turnkey process are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Project Address (TURNKEY)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Mangan, Hollyfort, Gorey	2 x 3-Bed	Q1 2027	2
Grattan Court, Gorey	10 x 3-bed, 4 x 2-bed apt	Q4 2026	14
Sunset Avenue, Ballinatray Upper, Ardamine	2 x 2 Bed, 3 x 3 bed	Q1 2027	5
		Total Turnkey Units	**21**

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Forest Close, Ramsford Park	2 x 3-bed	Q3 2026	2
Deerpark (Ballowen or Ramsfort Park) Gorey	6 x 3 bed, 1 x 3-bed apt 1 x 2-bed apt	Delivered	8
Grattan Court Gorey	2 x 2 bed	Q4 2026	2
Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel	1 X 2 bed hse	Q1 2027	1
Millquarter, Knockmullen	6 X 2 bed apt 6 X 3 bed apt	Q4 2026	12
Fermoyle Manor, Kilanerin	1 X 3 bed hse	Q4 2026	1
Ramsbrook, Ramstown Lower	10 X 3 bed hse	Delivering on a phased basis from Q4 2026	10
Dun Greine, Coolgreany	1 X 3 bed	Delivered Q3 2026	1
		Total Part V	37
Ballytegan Rd, Gorey (AHB)	3 x 1-bed 26 x 2-bed 52 x 3-bed 5 x 4-bed	43 Delivered Q4 2026 43 to deliver Q1 2027	43
		Overall Total	**101**

Rosslare Municipal District

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

Enniscorthy Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
The Meadows, Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy (TURNKEY)	8 x 3-bed 2 x 4-bed	7 due in 2026. 3 due in 2026	10
		Total Turnkey	10
The Meadows, Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy (Part V)	4 X 3 bed hse	2 due in 2026 2 due in 2027	4
The Hawthorn, Cnoc na Greine, Enniscorthy (Part V)	16 x 1 bed apt	8 to deliver Q4 2026 8 to deliver Q1 2027	16
		Total Part V	20
		Total AHB	0
		Overall Total	30

New Ross Municipal District

Project Address	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Grange Wood, Rathnure **(Turnkey)**	6 x 2-bed 6 x 3-bed	Q4 2027	12
Grange Wood, Rathnure **(Part V)**	3 x 2-bed	Q4 2027	3
		Overall Total	**63**

Borough District of Wexford

Project Address (Part V)	Unit Type	Est. Delivery	Total
Radharc an Chuain, Castlebridge	3 x 3 bed	1 delivered Q3 2026, 2 due in Q4 2026	3
Turners Way, Coolcotts	4 x 2 bed apt	Delivering from Q4 2026	4
An Lisin Mor, Coolballow Rd	8 x 2 bed	2 due in Q4 2026, 4 in 2027, 2 in 2028	8
Roxborough, Wexford	23 x 2 bed apt	6 due in Q4 2026, 17 due in Q2 2027	23
Carrig Mor & Meadow Av.	1 x 2 bed & 2 x 3 bed	Q4 2026	3
Kerlogue, Coolballow Road	8 x 2 bed	Delivering from Q2 2027	8
Ard Uisce	8 x 1 bed, 8 x 2 bed	Delivering from Q3 2027	16
Seaview Court, Roxborough	3 x 3-bed, 4 x 2-bed	Delivered Q4 2026	7
		Total Part V	**72**
Beechfield, Clonard (AHB)	25 x 1-bed, 23 x 2-bed,1 x 3-bed, 1 x 4-bed	Q4 2026	50
		Overall Total	**122**

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

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

District	No. of Units
Rosslare	42
Wexford	45
Total	**157**

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 01/01/2026 to 28/09/2026:

	Enniscorthy	Gorey-Kilmuckridge	New Ross	Rosslare	Wexford Borough	Total
Emergency	36	12	36	12	28	134
Routine	182	137	151	89	191	750
Urgent	1509	1163	1599	846	1503	6620
Total	**1746**	**1317**	**1798**	**955**	**1752**	**7568**

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

Department Targets for County Wexford		
Year	**No of Properties Allocated**	**No Delivered & Funding Received**
2021	54	0
2022	68	37
2023	51	146
2024	116	118
2025	120	120
Total	**409**	**421**
Status Update October 2026		
Units completed to date		106*
Works in progress		21
Contract Awarded		23
In tender process		0
Survey/Tender Doc Prep		0
	Total	**150 No.**
	2026 allocation	**130 No.**

Notes: * 17 units completed in Q4 2025

STARTER HOMES PROGRAMME (Formally Affordable Housing)

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD has announced that a new national communications campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the types of affordable supports available for people to own, rent or renovate a home.

The multi-media advertising campaign (including TV, radio, print, digital, social media and 5-part podcast series) will inform the public how to easily access Starter Homes Supports which include The Starter Home Purchase Scheme.

A dedicated website has also been setup to assist applicants with programme details including a Starter Home Support podcast which tell the stories of people across Ireland who have used Government-backed housing supports to buy, rent, or renovate a home. The first episode features The Starter Homes Purchase Scheme.
Website - gov.ie/StarterHomeSupports,
Podcast - Stater Home Supports podcast



Choice Based Letting - 300 properties were advertised on the Choice Based Letting website from 01/01/2026 to 30/10/26. Number of Views & Expressions of Interest are as per table below:-

Municipal District	No. of Properties Advertised	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4/5-bed
Enniscorthy	46	2	22	19	3
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	88	3	22	59	4
New Ross	66	10	32	23	1
Rosslare	15	5	6	4	0
Wexford	85	18	41	24	2
TOTAL	**300**	**38**	**123**	**129**	**10**

ROLLING RENT REVIEW

Rents are reassessed either periodically by the rents section or as requested by tenants on a change in their circumstances. The review by the rents section has been conducted as specific projects at different periods previously.

Starting 7th September the rents team began a rolling rent review process whereby all tenants will have their rents reviewed every 2 years. This started with tenants who have not had their rents reviewed since before October 2023. All tenants are being written to with a request for up-to-date income details and are asked to provide these within 2 weeks.

As this process will be a continual process for rent reviews there will always be a number of tenants who are being reassessed for rent based on their income.

Housing Tenancies 2026 - From the 1st January to 29th October, 2026 there were 350 new tenancies.						
Area	**Re-Lets (Incl. Bays)**	**Transfers**	**New Lets**	**AHBs**	**MTR**	**Total**
Gorey/Kilmuckridge	13	7	43	12	1	76
New Ross	25	6	1	49	1	82
Enniscorthy	13	5	33	41	3	94
Wexford	19	9	21	11	2	62
Rosslare	11	4	9	10	1	35
TOTAL	**81**	**31**	**107**	**123**	**8**	**350**

Estate Management Cases – Logged between 01/01/2026 and 02/10/2026					
Complaint	**Enniscorthy**	**Gorey/Kilmuckridge**	**New Ross**	**Rosslare**	**Wexford**
Abandonment	0	4	10	0	0
Breach of Tenancy	0	24	20	3	11
Damage to Property	1	13	8	0	4
Estate Management	65	62	38	7	22
End of Tenancy	0	0	1	0	0
Unauthorised Occupants	2	20	5	3	8
Verbal Abuse/ Violence/ Harassment/Drugs	8	41	42	2	19
TOTAL	**76**	**164**	**124**	**15**	**64**
			Overall Total		**443**

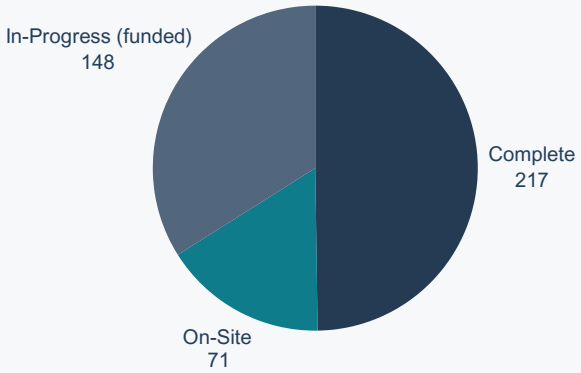
HOUSING CONSTRUCTION – CAPITAL BUILD PROJECTS



Housing for All 2022 - 2026 SUMMARY	
Dwellings Complete 2022	48
Dwellings Complete 2023	23
Dwellings Complete 2024	54
Dwellings Complete 2025	92

Dwellings to Complete 2026	71
Funded Projects for delivery 2026 / 2027	148

Construction Status



Social & Affordable Housing Pipeline (2027+)	784

Dwellings Under Construction to complete in 2026

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

Funded Projects for delivery 2027 – 2028					
Bullawn, New Ross	3	Cluain Fada, New Ross	22	Belvedere, Wexford	18
Clonard, Wexford	57	Adamstown, New Ross	4	Grogan's Road, Wexford	4
St. Walerans, Gorey (social)	40				
					Total 148

Projects in Design / Pipeline Social and Affordable Subject to Funding Approval			
Castlemoyle, New Ross (affordables)	36	Creagh, Gorey	24
Castlemoyle, New Ross (social)	46	Ross Road, Taghmon	40
The Lyre, Enniscorthy	101	Group TAP Housing	5
Bunclody, Enniscorthy (social)	65	Park, Wexford	12
Bunclody, Enniscorthy (affordables)	45	St Walerans, Gorey (affordables)	35
Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy	6	Turrett Rocks, Enniscorthy	50
Ballynagee, Wexford Masterplan *(to be phased)*	252	Kilmore Quay (10 units & 4 serviced sites)	14
Rosbercon, New Ross	50	Bride Street, Wexford	3
			Total 784

ECONOMIC



Powering the South East Offshore Wind & Regional Opportunity Conference

The 'Powering the South East Offshore Wind & Regional Opportunity' Conference took place on 9 October 2026 at The Park Hotel, Dungarvan. The conference brought together Government representatives, industry leaders, educational institutions and international experts to examine how the South East can maximise the economic, infrastructure and employment opportunities arising from Ireland's growing offshore wind energy sector. Wexford County Council was represented by the Economic section. The conference featured contributions from Minister of State Timmy Dooley TD, Danish Ambassador Ole Egberg Mikkelsen, and representatives from Wind Energy Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Port of Waterford, South East Technological University (SETU) and the National Maritime College of Ireland.



A key message emerging from the conference was that offshore wind is no longer a future opportunity but an emerging economic reality, with significant potential to transform regional economies. Speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring that the South East is well positioned to secure investment, employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the development of offshore renewable energy projects.

Research presented by the South East Energy Agency (SEEA) highlighted the scale of the opportunity, estimating that the planned 4.9GW of offshore wind capacity along Ireland's South Coast could generate between €1.7 billion and €2.2 billion in additional Gross Value Added (GVA) across the wider Southern Region, representing a significant increase in regional economic output.



The conference also showcased progress on the Tonn Nua Offshore Wind Project, a 900MW development off the Waterford coast being delivered by Helvic Head Offshore Wind DAC, a joint venture between ESB and Ørsted. Once operational, the project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power almost one million homes.

Particular emphasis was placed on the role of the Ireland South East Offshore Wind Partnership (ISEOWP) in ensuring that the South East secures the maximum economic, enterprise and infrastructure benefits arising from offshore renewable energy development through a coordinated regional approach.

Connecting Wexford Tourism Networking Event

Over 100 tourism businesses, attractions, accommodation providers, tourism agencies and support organisations from across County Wexford came together at Connecting Wexford Tourism Networking Event as part of the ongoing development of the Wexford Tourism Network. The event forms part of a wider collaborative initiative between Wexford County Council and Fáilte Ireland to strengthen tourism collaboration, build industry capacity and position Wexford as a leading destination within Ireland's Ancient East.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, Wexford County Council, hiighlighted the significant developments taking place across the county in support of tourism growth and development. Liz emphasised the importance of the Wexford Tourism Network as a mechanism for fostering collaboration, strengthening industry connections and supporting a shared vision for tourism across the county. She also referenced the tourism objectives contained within the Wexford Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP), highlighting the strategic role tourism plays in supporting economic growth, community development and destination competitiveness. The opening address set a positive tone for the day, encouraging attendees to take pride in Wexford's tourism offering, feel connected to one another as industry partners and work collectively to maximise opportunities for the sector.



The event provided a valuable platform for businesses to connect, develop partnerships and explore opportunities to enhance the visitor experience while supporting sustainable tourism growth across the county. The programme combined strategic discussion, industry insights, case studies and structured networking opportunities designed to promote greater collaboration within the sector.

Tourism remains a significant contributor to the economic and social wellbeing of County Wexford, supporting employment, local enterprise and community development. The event aligns with the Council's objectives of supporting economic development, enhancing destination competitiveness and fostering collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders.

A key objective of the Wexford Tourism Network is to create stronger connections between tourism businesses across the county, encouraging collaboration, knowledge sharing and the development of visitor experiences that encourage longer stays and increased visitor spend. The Network is structured around three regional clusters covering North Wexford, Wexford Town and Rosslare, and New Ross and Hook Peninsula, ensuring local engagement while supporting a collective county wide approach.





The event successfully strengthened relationships between tourism businesses and sector stakeholders, increased awareness of the supports and opportunities available through Fáilte Ireland and partner organisations and reinforced the importance of collaboration in developing Wexford as a high-quality tourism destination.

The strong attendance and engagement at this event demonstrated the willingness of the tourism sector to work collaboratively in enhancing County Wexford's visitor offering. The continued partnership between Wexford County Council, Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders will be critical in supporting the implementation of the tourism ambitions set out in the Wexford Destination Experience and Development Plan (DEDP) and in further strengthening Wexford's position as a premier destination within Ireland's Ancient East.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

National Women's Enterprise Day 2026

October 15th 2026, marked the 20th National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) since the original event in 2006.

A lot of changes have taken place over the 20 years of the event but NWED is still one of the best attended national women in business events in Ireland annually.

The theme of this year's event was **Growing Forward** – a proactive approach to steering your business and finances into 2027 and beyond. Over 100 women from businesses across the county came together to problem-solve, share experiences and seek opportunities. Cllr. Lisa McDonald, Cathaoirleach provided an inspirational speech on both her leadership role as the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council and as a female business owner in her own right with a successful solicitors practice and shared her own experiences.





Other Speakers included

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

Each in turn gave their personal experiences of being a woman in business, as well addressing their own specialist areas of growing businesses for the future. A number of female business owners held stands showcasing their products.

WEXFORD ENERGY EXPO

Wexford Local Enterprise Office attended the County Council's Wexford Energy Event in Enniscorthy on October 22nd, at the invitation of the County Council's Climate Action Team.





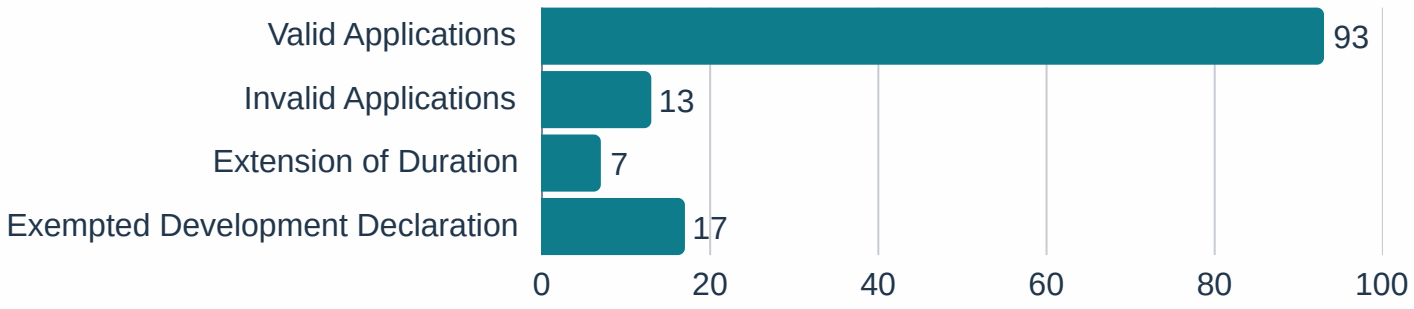
At the event Wexford LEO had an advisory stand, 1-to-1 clinics and participated in presentations and panel discussions around energy supports available to SME's across the county. They were joined in their business supports presentation by the South East Energy Agency, an energy engineer and a client who had accessed business energy supports for their business, which provided a well-rounded discussion on accessing and maximising these supports across a variety of business types.

The event was very well attended throughout the day, and both business and domestic interested clients had access to a very large range of information, demonstrations, clinics and talks on everything from EV driving, to supports for solar and wind energy generation, air quality in their buildings and homes as well as valuable trades insights and hands-on information regarding retro-fitting buildings, both domestic and commercial.

PLANNING

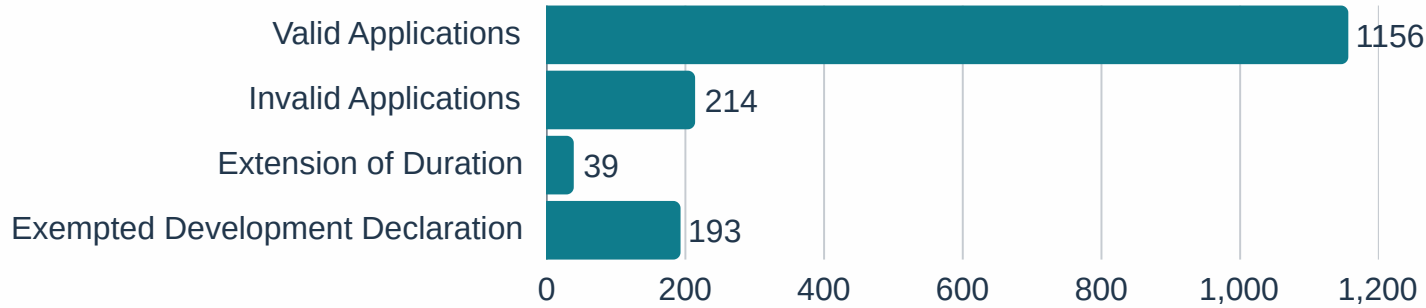


Planning applications received 28th September 2026 to the 25th October 2026



155 total number of applications

Planning applications received 1st January to 25th October 2026



1370 total number of applications

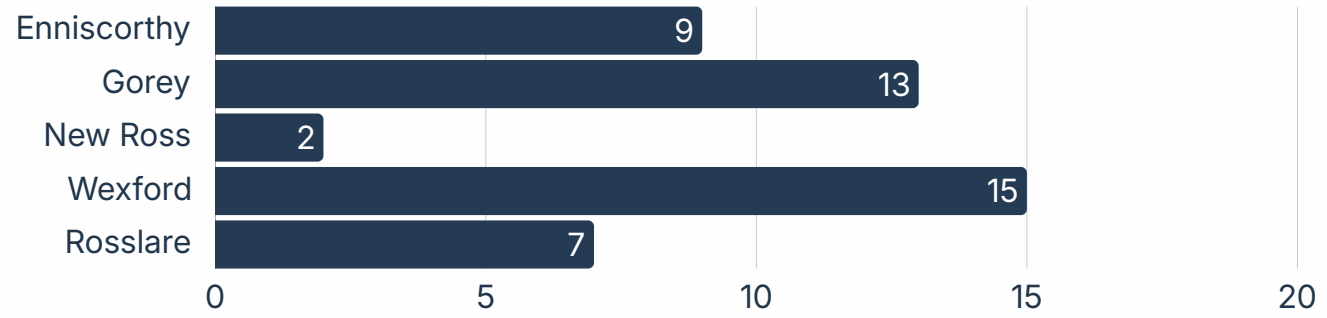
Pre-Planning - applications year to date up to the 25th October 2026

Pre-planning by District	Applications Received	Applications Closed	Open Pre-planning Applications
Enniscorthy MD	61	52	9
Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD	138	129	22
New Ross MD	75	68	6
Rosslare MD	102	91	4
Wexford BD	96	75	15
Total	**472**	**415**	**56**

Average days to pre-planning meeting is **27**

Major Pre-Planning - Year to date to the 26th October 2026

Number of meetings held by district



46 Total

Number of Housing Units: 2,997

Commercial Development (approx. sqm): 16,721

Planning CSO Returns - year to date to the 30th September 2026

2026 Permissions granted for new dwellings

Housing Developments (total units)	Apartments including self contained dwelling units (total units)	One off houses	Total number of permissions granted for new dwellings
380	**110**	**230**	**720**

Forward Planning

Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan

Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 represents a significant first step in implementing the increased housing growth targets for County Wexford arising from the Housing Growth Requirements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities. The Variation provides the revisions required to the Core Strategy, land use zoning and related objectives for Enniscorthy and New Ross. The revisions to the Core Strategy set the framework for a series of variations for other settlements in the County to increase the supply of zoned land to ensure the efficient delivery of housing.

Variation Number 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was made by the Members of Wexford County Council on the 13 July 2026, in accordance with the provisions of Section 58(17) of the Planning and Development Act, 2024 (as amended) (the 'Act'). The Variation came into effect the same day.

Forward Planning cont.

Variation No. 2 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) seeks to implement the revised Housing Growth Targets for Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane, and Bunclody. Workshops were held with the Elected Members of the Enniscorthy and Rosslare Municipal Districts prior to the Proposed Variation being placed on public display. Public information sessions in Bunclody and Rosslare were well attended and generated significant public interest in the proposed changes.

Following the initial public consultation, the Chief Executive prepared a report on the submissions received which was submitted to the Elected Members. The Members considered the Proposed Variation and the Chief Executive's Report and resolved at a Special Meeting of Wexford County Council on 21 September 2026 to place Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) on public display. The display period will run from 30 September to 30 October 2026 inclusive.

Following the close of the consultation period, a Chief Executive's Report will be prepared on the submissions and observations received. It is anticipated that the report will be submitted to the Elected Members at the end of November for consideration at the December 2026 meeting of Wexford County Council.

Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

Wexford Town Urban Framework Plan:

The Proposed Variation, which was placed on public display on Wednesday, 21st October 2026, represents a significant milestone in the plan preparation process. It is the culmination of detailed analysis, spatial strategy development, and environmental assessment.

One of the key highlights of the Urban Framework Plan (UFP) is the Urban Design Strategy. This strategy is framed around three inter-related spatial concepts:
(continued)



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF WEXFORD TOWN!

The first concept is **Place and Neighbourhoods** where communities are planned around a network of neighbourhood centres and local community hubs. This concept, which is informed by the Social Infrastructure Audit in Appendix 1, supports the 10-minute town and delivery of the 4,390 new homes allocated to Wexford Town by Variation No. 1 of the County Development Plan (adopted July 2026). The UFP provides for circa 263ha of residential zoned land, aiming to deliver the rights homes at the right locations, creating well-connected and high-quality places for people to live in, and accelerating housing delivery by identifying the servicing requirements for this zoned land in Appendix 1 Settlement Capacity Audit. This, together with the clear strategies and objectives in the UFP, will provide the plan-led approach to facilitate timely planning decisions.

Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

The second concept is the **Sustainable Routes and Movement**. This concept, together with the emerging Wexford Town Local Transport Plan, aims to deliver a connected, permeable, and accessible sustainable active travel and public transport network in the plan area which will make it easier for people to choose and use sustainable travel modes. The integration of land use and transportation and the concentration of higher density developments along public transport nodes and at strategic employment locations will also assist in achieving this aim.

The third concept, **Landscape and Green Infrastructure**, applies a plan-led approach to the protection of natural and biodiversity assets in the plan area, with a strong spatial focus on the protection, restoration and expansion of the town's green blue infrastructure. This is complemented by a landscape strategy which is focused on a network of existing and new open space across the plan area, ensuring access to good quality open space and recreational areas as part of the delivery of the 10-minute town concept.

These concepts, which have been derived from detailed analysis of the town's historical development and existing urban character, movement structure and landscape and green blue infrastructure, establish the primary spatial structure within which future development, regeneration, infrastructure, and public investment should take place. The concepts are presented at both plan wide level; and at a smaller spatial scale through the 12 individual neighbourhood plans, including the town centre, that make up the overall plan area. The UFP also includes the Ballynagee Masterplan (Appendix 4) which sits within the wider UDS and provides the framework to guide the future development of this strategic 58ha parcel of land to deliver a mix of uses including a new university campus, two schools, a football arena, housing, and a new link road.

The Plan contains a detailed analysis of the 6 identified key economic character areas in the Town and puts forward spatial strategy for facilitating and driving sustainable economic growth.

Another key highlight of the Plan is the inclusion of the first Rainwater Management Plan (RMP) prepared for a settlement in County Wexford. The RMP, which is informed by pluvial modelling and a surface water study, provides for a plan-led approach to managing rainwater across the different catchments in the plan area. The RMP is focused on delivering nature-based solutions for rainwater management, with identified storage points, catchment storage solutions, and potential open space interventions. These elements have been incorporated into the UDS and the Strategic Flood Risk assessment to provide an integrated approach to rainwater management across all components of the plan.

The Plan also includes a Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (Appendix 5), Appropriate Assessment (Appendix 6) and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 7).

The Proposed Variation, which also include some amendments to Chapter 13 of Volume 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), will be on public display from 21 October 2026 until 24 November 2026 (inclusive). Written submissions and observations must be received by 4:00pm on Tuesday, 24th November 2026. Submissions and observations received during the consultation period will be published on our Consultation Portal and will form part of the Chief Executive Report as part of the statutory process.

As part of the consultation process, two Public Information Meetings will be held in Wexford Library on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 and Thursday 5 November 2026. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to review the Draft Variation and discuss the proposals with members of the Forward Planning team.

Heritage

Historic Church & Graveyard Audit

Wexford County Council have just completed Phase 3 of their historic church and graveyard audit. The audit sought to determine the condition of these sites in the face increased climate-related pressures. County Wexford contains over 130 graveyards which are in the care of the Local Authority. Many of these sites are in poor condition and contain medieval church ruins in varying states of disrepair. A thorough understanding of the issues affecting these sites is required so that adequate planning and provision for works can be made into the future. The audit provides a baseline for future work and will support the development of a phased programme of conservation repairs. Commissioned by Wexford County Council's Heritage Section, the historic church and graveyard audit was part funded by the Heritage Council.







Conservation Management Plans

Conservation Management Plans have been completed for three medieval church sites in the care of Wexford County Council.

- Mayglass
- Templetown on the Hook Peninsula
- St. Patrick's, Wexford Town

These reports will facilitate the conservation, maintenance and protection of these important but vulnerable monuments. Grant assistance for these projects was provided by the Community Monuments Fund.







Energy Expo

The Heritage Section took a stand at the recent Energy Expo in Enniscorthy on Thursday 22nd October and Yvonne Doyle-Curtis, Architectural Conservation Officer gave a presentation about Appropriate Energy Upgrade and Requirements for Heritage and Traditionally Built Homes on the Home Energy and Retrofit Panel.



Planning Enforcement - Year to date up to the 25th October 2026

519	241	197
Live cases	Cases opened year to date	Cases closed year to date

Building Control - Year to date up to the 25th October 2026

Validated commencement notices	Building control inspections	Validated cert. of compliance on completion	Taking in Charge reports sent to Districts
439	420	230	8

Dangerous Structures and Places - Year to date up to the 25th October 2026

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

Section 3(1) Notice	Section 3(2) Notice	New Files Opened	Files Closed
8	1	15	2

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

URDF Call 3 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund

193 sites approved on the programme as of the 25th October 2026



Derelict Sites - year to date up to 25th October 2026

24	25	300	144	114
New files opened	Files closed	Live cases	Sites on the Register	Site visits carried out

Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990



67 total notices issued

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

Disability proofing - year to date up to the 25th October 2026

125	5	2
LAC/PLAC/LRD and General Planning Applications	Major pre-planning event days	Event Licences

Disability Access Certificates (DACs) Year to date up to the 25th October 2026

Applications for Districts	Total for Districts	Awaiting Assessment	Further Information	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	16	0	4	12	0
Gorey	12	0	4	8	0
New Ross	16	1	2	12	1
Wexford	22	0	5	14	0
Rosslare	11	0	4	6	1
Totals	**77**	1	**19**	**55**	**2**

REGENERATION UNIT

Croi Conaithe Applications Wexford County Council as at 23-10-26			
Applications Received	710	Awaiting Approval	0
Inspections Required (First)	4	Applications Rejected	11
Inspections Required (Final)	18	Applications Approved In Principle	7
Applications Info Requested	50	Withdrawn By Applicant	78
Applications Approved	563	Funding Issued	269
Total Funding Paid to Date			**€15,072,381**
Total Funding Approved in Principle			*€33,524,425*

Included in the above figures

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

In addition to the above figures

Expert Advice Grant applications received	6
Expert Advice Grant applications approved	6

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Town Centre First Teams Review.

Enniscorthy: Town Team delighted and welcomed €9.15m under the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund to implement first phase of Enniscorthy TCF plan.

New Ross: Town Team membership to be looked at and programme for remainder of year. Great success in New Ross with €9m for Enterprise centre for John Street.

Wexford: meeting with Forward planning team for update on Wexford Urba plan framework and Draft TCF Strategy.

Castlebridge: Secured €300,000 through TVR for Garden and public realm restoration works at Castlebridge House. Applied for €5m Grant under RRDF for Castlebridge House. Awaiting RRDF announcement on funding.

Bunclody: Parking was key issue at last number of meetings. WCC Roads Section implemented 4-hour max stay car parking. Feedback from Town Team and businesses has been very positive towards the change. Focus now on public realm improvements and issues identified in Bunclody Health Check.

Taghmon: Health check complete. Now a Clar Town, working on 2 or 3 potential projects for funding around Castle and Public realm, traffic management on main street.

Courtown/Riverchapel TCF Team. Working through the TCF Plan and working on developing Plans to shovel ready status for funding stream applications.

A small budget has also been secured and TRO will work with the Town Teams in delivering small scale improvements with this funding in their respective areas.

VACANT HOMES

Existing Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant
Work is continuing on vacant homes with €659,977.9 paid out in Grants in the last 4 weeks and €1,005,000 of initial approvals granted in this time period which is having a very positive impact on improving vacancy and dereliction throughout the County.

We are also continuing to promote the Grant and raise awareness countywide and were delighted to have a stand at the recent WCC Energy Expo in Enniscorthy where there was huge interest during the day.



WATER SERVICES



Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	**Blackstairs GWS** • Reservoir Bypass - Drawdown complete - Stage 1 payment recouped from Dept. • Majority of funding expected to be claimed and recouped by Q2 2027.
MARWP 2024-2026	**MARWP 2024-2026** • Funding approval – €1.2 million for the upgrade of 3.9km Watermain for Blackstairs GWS. • Topographical Survey carried out & Detail design ongoing • Site Investigations tender returned on 23rd October, currently under review
MARWP 2027-2029	**MARWP 2027-2029** • Applications are currently open for the Capital Funding • Completed applications must be received by the Department by close of business on Friday, 20 November 2026. • All active GWSs have been contacted
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	**Individual Well Grants** • 23 new well grant applications were registered in September 2026 • 20 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €44,704.78 • 75 inspections to date carried out in September 2026.
Group Water Scheme Subsidies	• **Subsidy A** Total of €342,008 paid to schemes. • **Subsidy B** Payable (in addition to Subsidy A) towards O&M costs associated with "bona fide" DBO contracts for GWS's). Validated figures for Q4 2025, Q1 2026 and Q2 2026 sent through from NFGWS. Payment totalling €284,643.74 made to schemes. • **MARWP Capital Replacement Costs** of the DBO GWSs have been reviewed and approved for Blackstairs, Borrmount and Mullawn GWSs. The Employers representative has certified work is complete. The 4 DBO GWSs have been paid a total of €130,232.00.
Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	**New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024** • Ramsgrange – €8.1 Million funding approved to WCC • Weekly update meetings held with the 5 Local Authorities with Measure A8 funding, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Uisce Eireann to assign responsibilities and to implement a plan for the execution of all projects in a timely manner. Draft MOU circulated for approval. • Appointment of consultants will be managed through this process. • Submitted to Planning for Part XI Planning Approval on 21/10/2026
Lead Remediation Grant	• 11 applications received to date on revised grant, 8 paid, 2 approved, 1 new application.
Compliance monitoring	• 168 private supplies on register for compliance monitoring. • Compliance testing ongoing for 2026 as per schedule. Mapping of all Private supplies for risk assessments as part of EU regulations have commenced. • EPA Private Water Supplies audit carried out on 29th September.

DPI Resolution Project					
	Name	**Towland**	**Expecting Costings**	**75% Funding Provided**	**Project Completion/ Programme**
DPI Resolution Programme 2019-2021	Cois Cuan	Arthurstown	€152,475	€114,356	Q1 2027
	Kyles Close	Oulart	€107,153	€80,365	Q2 2027
	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	€208,016	€156,012	Q4 2027
	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	€302,878	€227,159	Q4 2027
DPI Resolution Programme 2023	Beach View	Duncannon	€72,300	€54,225	Q1 2027
	Farrin Carraig	Duncannon	€202,986	€152,240	Q1 2027
	Beechfields	Ballaghkeen	€353,968	€265,476	Q4 2027

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

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

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

- Project design is progressing, with additional work ongoing to address Online Service Area requirements, Active Travel provisions, and Biodiversity considerations to inform planning consent application.
- The Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) has been submitted to MARA.
- Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application is in progress.
- Landowner consultation is ongoing.
- 4th pre-application meeting with An Coimisiún Pleanála was held on 22nd October 2026.
- Final reporting on the Connecting European Funding (CEF) to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is scheduled for the end of October.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project is currently in Phase 5 — Enabling and Procurement.

- Negotiations between the Real Estate Valuers and landowners regarding outstanding Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) compensation are progressing.
- Start-up meeting with Roughan & O'Donovan – AECOM (ROD-A) Consulting Engineers (i.e. Technical Advisories for Phases 6 and 7) is expected to be scheduled for November 2026.
- Award of the main construction contract and commencement of Phase 6 is expected in Q4/26.

SAFETY SCHEMES

N25 Tagoat

Section 38 consultation under the Roads Act completed with submissions under review. The detailed design is ongoing to prepare for procurement in Q4 2026.

N30 Leeches Bend — West of Clonroche

Works are substantially complete

N25 Larkins Cross

Part 8 planning consent process is complete and submissions are under review. The report will be presented to the November Meeting of the Council.

HIGH LEVEL COLLISON ANALYSIS NATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

10 Locations Identified 2026

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

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

N11WX_122.0 Kyle - Major N11/N25 major Scheme required to alleviate issues. (Olyegate to Rosslare)

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

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

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

N30WX_019.0 Ballymackesy - Safety issues identified included in 2025 HD28. The works are complete.

N30WX_023.0 Leeches Bend - Scheme is now complete.

N80WX_100.0 Bunclody - Restrict parking on the approaches to the existing zebra crossings.
Active travel design team consultants working on solutions to alleviate the issues which include the following:

- Remove parking on approach to Pedestrian crossings.
- Install new crossing at the top main street on the N80
- Redesign existing Bus Stop at Market square install Bus Shelter.
- Designs new Bus stop North bound on main Street.

N80WX_102.6 Clohamon - Draft Feasibility and Options report completed and approved by TII. A design report is currently being drafted

N25 Ballinabola Bus Stops and Pedestrian Crossing - Design work under way to improve bus stops in Ballinabola and design new pedestrian crossing in consultation with the T.I.I

2025 Road Safety Inspection - N25 Lot 2C RSIs P3A – N25 (Wexford) - Recent PARR (Pavement Assessment, Repair & Renewal) schemes and HD28 Pavement schemes have addressed most of the issues highlighted in the report. A small number of signage changes are outstanding.

Park and Share M11 Junction 22 - A potential Park and Share facility is being investigated at Junction 22 on the M11. Feasibility and options stage.

N30 Clonroche Village - Feasibility and options report for various village improvements currently being considered and drafted.

2026 PAVEMENT SCHEMES

Pavement Schemes 2026

- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great – Works have commenced and will be completed in November, weather permitting.
- N30 Rathturtin to Clonleigh Pavement – Tender has been awarded; advance civil works have started. Works include pavement strengthening works which are weather dependent.

HD28 Pavement Improvements 2026

The following HD28 schemes will be progressed in 2026. There is no guarantee an allocation will be provided for all works in 2026.

- N30 Ballymackesy 1.0km – Works are substantially complete
- N80 Ballycarney Cross North 1km – the contract has been awarded; works will commence in the coming weeks.
- N11/N25 New Ross Roundabout and N25 Duncannon Road Roundabout – to be included as part of a feasibility and options study to consider how vulnerable road users can traverse the junction
- N25 Duncannon Roundabout to Drinagh Roundabout – 2 separate sections, 3km in total – Civil works have been substantially completed, and pavement (night) works are well progressed, with substantial completion by the end of October.

Retexturing works

- N11 – Ferrycarrig to Kylecross 2.4km
- N80 – Clohamon 0.3km
- N80 – Scarawalsh to Tomacurry 1.5km

Contract awarded with works to commence in early November.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

Restoration Improvement €12,837,500

91 projects are included in the road strengthening programme for 2026, with 88 projects (97%) completed to date.

Severe Weather Works €13,490,000

On 1st July 2026 funding of €13.49m was allocated to Wexford County Council to repair damaged roads and structures arising from the severe weather in early 2026.
110 projects (67%) completed to date with works underway.

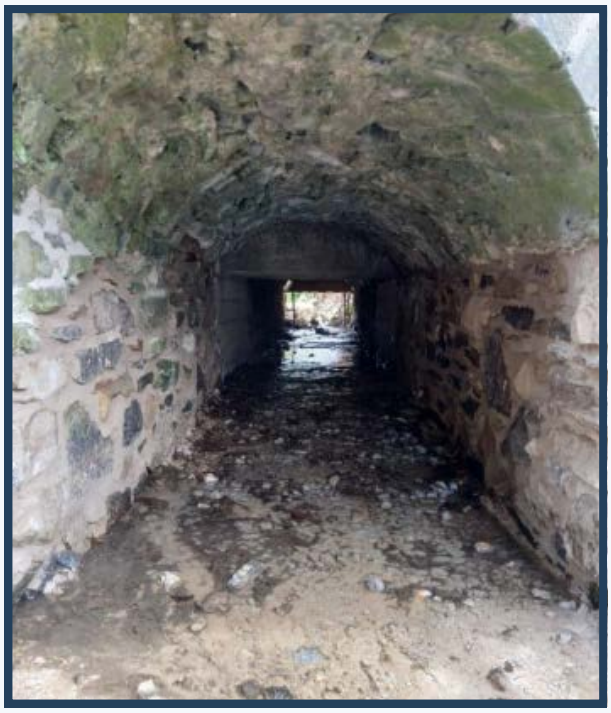
Restoration Maintenance €2,917,000

75 projects are added to the restoration maintenance / surface dressing programme. These works started on 22nd June 2026 and were completed on 14th August 2026. All works completed.

Bridge Rehabilitation €690,000

There are 9 bridges currently on the programme for completion this year. 6 bridges are completed with works underway at the remaining 3 bridges.





Completed rehabiliatation works at Raheendarrig Bridge on the L-1003 at Clone West, Monamolin, Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works €700,000

19 projects are included in this year's programme with 13 projects completed to date

Community Involvement Schemes €665,700

All 12 schemes on the programme are completed to date.

Safety Improvement Works €559,000

15 projects are included in this year's programme, 13 completed and 2 starting over the coming weeks.

Strategic Rehabilitation Roads €420,000

One road is funded in this year's programme – R772-12 Gorey (former N11). This contract is awarded and advance works have commenced to be followed by the pavement resurfacing.

Specific Improvement Grant €570,000

- Wexford, Edermine and Kildavin (Murntown) Bridge Remediation Project €270,000.
- Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are appointed to progress this scheme. The works involve bridge inspections, overseeing site investigations and undertaking necessary designs for remediation works.
- Investigation works on the 3 bridges started on 21st Sept 2026. Investigation works on Edermine and Kildavin Bridges are complete and the main investigation works on Wexford Bridge are completed.
- Approx 3 days of investigation works on Wexford Bridge are outstanding.

The findings from these investigation works will determine the extent of works required on each bridge.



Wexford Bridge, Detailed Structural Investigation Works underway.
Wexford BD

- Grange Cliff Stabilisation Works €150,000. Works completed.

- R733 Safety Improvement Project €150,000. Safety improvement project including linemarking, studs, junction improvements. Junction improvements completed at R733 / Redshire junction. Studs and linemarking are now completed at a number of key locations.

Winter Maintenance

- The 2026/2027 Winter Maintenance season officially started on 12th October 2026 and will run to 30th April 2027.
- Staff training, maintenance and servicing of vehicles for the upcoming season has started.
- No treatments have been required to date.

Clonard to Whitemill Link Road

Clonard to Whitemill Link Road construction is progressing. The utility works and the majority of pavement and footpath works are progressing well and are on programme. Works will start on the junctions at Whitemill and Clonard Rd in the coming weeks. The works should be completed in Q1 of 2027.

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Pathfinder projects	
Project & Location	Project Update
Newtown Road Phases 2 & 3	Works commenced on Phase 3, expected to be completed in January 2027. Phase 2 expect to commence in February / March 2027.
Hospital Junction Newtown Road	Land transfer negotiations ongoing. Tender expected to be advertised in Q2 2027.
Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme	Part XI Planning Application approved. Construction of phase 1 (permeability links, planting) to commence in Q1 2027.
Roxborough Cycle Scheme	Planning Part XI to be completed Q1 2027.

WX/22/0001 Wexford Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)
The final draft report to be presented to the November meeting of Wexford Borough District.

WX/23/0010 Enniscorthy Town Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)
The final draft report to be presented to the December meeting of Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Safe Routes to School Schemes (SRTS)
Construction works underway at the following SRTS Schools:

- Taghmon NS
- Rathangan NS
- Kennedy College New Ross

Three schools have been selected for works in 2027 and preliminary designs are underway:

- Ballyhack NS
- Bree NS
- Tara Hill NS

Supplementary Active Travel Schemes
The following Active Travel schemes are at detailed design stage:

- Ballycanew pedestrian scheme (due to commence construction shortly).
- Paul Funge Boulevard, Gorey – 3no. pedestrian crossings (due to commence construction shortly).
- Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy scheme resurfacing completed. Construction of the footpath realignment from Cooney Furlong to Kilcannon Garden Centre to commence shortly in Q4/26.
- The Shannon, Enniscorthy – pedestrian scheme. One pedestrian crossing has been completed to date. The remaining works scope shall be tendered in Q1 2027 pending NTA funding.

Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme

- 20 no. Shelters installed in 2026.
- 6 Shelters recently installed in Clonard x2, Whiterock Hill, Newbawn, Kennedy College, Richmond Park Wexford.
- Upgrade of 16 no. bus stops in New Ross completed

Clonroche Village Improvement works

Feasibility Report and Detail Design Report being prepared for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) review. The proposed village upgrade will include front of school improvement works, upgraded footpaths and buildouts, upgraded pedestrian crossings and in-line and off-line bus stop upgrade works. New signalised road junction planned for the centre of the village. Works will be funded through TII, Bus Stop Enhancement Programme and NTA-funded Safe Routes to School Programme.

EuroVelo 1 Cycle Route





The EuroVelo 1 Cycle Route (section from Rosslare Harbour to Ballyhack) was inspected, with fingerpost signage cleaned, realigned or replaced as required. The route is now fully signposted.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

Public Lighting Development Fund

The following are schemes are being progressed at present:

Scheme	Current Position	Detail to Progress
Maudlins to Millhouse Care Centre, New Ross	Awaiting ESB connection	Installation complete, awaiting connection and certification.
Kilhile Arthurstown	Design returned, awaiting pricing	Further information sought from contractors on design.
Coolgreaney	Civils work completed	Awaiting quotations returned
Boolavogue	Civil Works completed	Awaiting quotations returned
Broadway	Civil works completed	Awaiting ESB connection and light installation
Rathnure, Camolin, Duncormick, Bunclody, Clonroche & Wellingtonbridge	Designs are awaited for lighting proposals	Quotations and designs awaited
Belleview New Ross	Works completed	Operational
Piercestown	Civil works completed	Awaiting quotations returned
Ballyellis	Civil works planned for November	Awaiting quotations
Cushintown	Civil works planned for November	Awaiting quotations

CAPITAL PROJECTS



Projects at Planning Stages

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: November 2026
Ballast Office- a)Essential repair Work	Construction stage	Essential repair works have now been completed and the project is now in the defects liability period.
b)Refurbishment	Design Stage	The consultant services package is being prepared in order to allow the project to proceed to tender.
Ballynagee Link Road	Planning Stage	The full scheme will be submitted for development consent sought via Part 8 in December 2026. Funding for this project has been confirmed under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund.
Castlebridge House, Castlebridge	Funding Stage	A new Project, about to commence design for renovation of derelict buildings on the grounds of Castlebridge House for creative hub for artisans, resource hub & public realm. Subject to RRDF funding.
Carrigfoyle Activity Centre Building	Planning Stage	Initial enabling works to level the site and make accessible for use are complete. We await confirmation of our agreement with the WWETB before commencing the next phase of works.
Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme	Planning Stage	Submission to ACP for development consent is scheduled for end of 2026. Consultants have commenced the drafting of the EIAR chapters.
Dunbrody Centre and Extension	Detail Design	Detailed design is ongoing in preparation for issue for tender, which is planned for November 2026 (subject to Department approval) The tender package is being finalised by the Design Team. Following this a Form 2.2 application will be submitted in the coming weeks to the Department seeking approval to proceed to Tender.
Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme		
Phase 1-New River Slaney Bridge Project	Design Phase	A design workshop between WCC and the consultant engineer was held to present preliminary designs for the tie-ins with the public realm and alterations to the Quays.
Phase 2	Feasibility Stage	The OPW have completed a peer review of the consultants brief and have returned comments to the team. The comments are currently been reviewed.
Enniscorthy Technical Park Access Road Phase 2 420827	Tender Stage	The tender for construction works was published March 2026. Appointment of main works contractor is anticipated in the new earthworks season Q2 2027, subject to approval to proceed with project.

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: November 2026
Enniscorthy- (A) Town Centre & Tourism Project	Tender Stage	Consultants for detailed design, procurement and works supervision will be appointed in tandem with consultants for the Templeshannon scheme. The successful Tenderer has been identified, and letters to tenderers have been issued. It is expected to appoint the successful design team by October end, with design work to begin immediately. The Market Square and Town Centre Regeneration Project, along with the enabling and demolition works for the Castle Quarter project, have been provisionally granted €9m under Call 1 of the Town and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund.
(B) Templeshannon Regeneration Project.	Tender Stage	Consultants for preliminary design, planning, detailed design, procurement and works supervision were appointed in tandem with consultants for the Market Square scheme. A design team, led by Fehily Timoney have been appointed to progress the project. The project has been awarded €150,000 project development funding as part of the Category 1A Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund 2026.
Gorey Market House	Construction	The main works contract was awarded to B. Nevin Contracting Limited T/A Nevin Construction. Works are ongoing, due for completion in late 2027.
Gorey Relief Road, Ballytegan Avenue (St Waleran's Link Road)	Design Stage	The Irish Rail approvals process is ongoing and the project received Approval in Principal. Development consent via Part 8 was approved in July 2026. Detailed design has commenced and is anticipated to be completed in 2026. Funding for this project has been confirmed under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund, specific funding details to follow.
John Street Grain Store, New Ross	Design Stage	The application for development consents for the new public realm to the rear of the property was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála on March 12th, 2026. €9m in funding for the whole scheme (Building and public realm) has been provisionally granted under Call 1 of Town and Cities Regeneration Investment fund (TCRIF) .
New Ross Courthouse	Tender Design	A tender for the construction works was issued. It is our intention to award the contract by October end, subject to approval. Phase 1 works to be completed in 2027.
Riverchapel Community Centre	Design stage	Initial costings have been returned in excess of the original project budget. A thorough review is being carried out into the design brief as part of project value engineering. A meeting was held with the DRCDG in August, regarding the project proposal. A detailed project report and drawings were submitted to them in September for review. We await a response.
Wexford Town Public Space Improvements (Cornmarket to Common Quay)	Feasibility	TCRIF (Town Centre Regeneration Reinvestment Fund) Category 1A funding of €150,000 has been awarded to support the development of the project and allow for the engagement of a design team to develop the project in line with the objectives set out in the draft TCF Strategy.An initial site walk through was carried out on the 9th October to discuss the overall project approach. A consultant design team tender is to be prepared.

Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenways	Options Selection	Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand - Additional Flood Modelling is currently ongoing. Options Report on hold pending development of flood modelling and further assessment. Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour-Options Selection Report Peer review completed. Preferred Route Corridor agreed. A public Consultation process was conducted from 4/3/26 to 1/4/26. Phase 2 Gate Review Statement for the Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenway is complete. Pending formal approval from TII to proceed to Phase 3, WCC are making final preparations to invite tenders from Consultants for Phases 3 & 4 (preliminary design and stautory consents)

Wexfordia		
Irish National Heritage Park	Planning and Design	MARA have issued a Minded to Determination notice for the scheme. A submission to ACP for approval is scheduled for Q4 2026. Preliminary Design of the new visitor centre is now complete
Hook Lighthouse	Preliminary Design	It is expected that the full preliminary design including Environmental reports, Interpretative and Architectural Designs will be completed by Q4 2026 for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The design was presented to Irish Lights and the Board of Hook Heritage CLG in Q4 2026. Further engagement will take place with other stakeholders including Fáilte Ireland. A public consultation is also due in Q4 2026. It is planned to submit to ACP before the end of 2026.
New Ross Tourism Project:	Tender Stage	The tender process is now complete and an apparently successful tenderer has been identified. Finalising interpretetive design phase.An application for additional funding for completion of the centre was submitted to the DCRDG in July 2026 under Call 6 of the RRDF. An outcome on this funding is expected by end of Q4 2026.

Projects Under Construction

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

SouthEast Greenway		
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3, Lot 5a	Complete	
Lot 8a Rosbercon Trailhead	Preliminary Design	Part 8 submission for Lot 8a (Rosbercon Trailhead) was approved at the June Wexford County Council Meeting
Lot 4	Detailed Design	Phase 3 (Lot 4 – Red Bridge and Mount Elliott Tunnel) The return date for tender submissions for the Lot 4 Works Contract was 16/10/2026. Received tenders are currently being assessed. Works anticipated to
Lot 4a	Options Selection	No update

Project Name	Status	New Monthly Update: October 2026
Lot 5b Lot 6, Lot 7	Detailed Design, enabling & Procurement	Phase 4 (Lots 5b, 6, & 7) is currently progressing through detailed design. A tender for the construction works contract is expected to be published to etenders in Q1 2027. Construction works are expected to commence on-site in mid-2027.
Lot 8	Preliminary Design	No update
Lot 9	Detailed Design	No update
Trinity Wharf	Detailed Design Stage	Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing pending the licence agreement confirmation. As per the licence agreements with Irish Rail a new temporary security fence was erected to allow Irish Rail to undertake their works on the Trinity Wharf site. The revised Stage 1 pre-qualification for the next site development works contract (Phase 1A) closed on the 6th of February 2026 and assessment is complete. It is planned to invite tenders before the end of 2026.
Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Options Selection	The consultant is progressing with the Options Report. The draft report is to be issued by the end of Oct. A Multi Criteria Assessment workshop was held by consultant in late September with WCC and OPW
Funding & Development Schemes		
Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025	DRCDG announced the TVRS 2026 Building and Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM) on 29th April, 2026 . A max. fund of €500,000 per LA is available under this measure. Funding applications for 2no. properties were submitted to DRCDG under the TVRS 2026 Building and Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM). Funding for the acquisition on 2no. properties under the Building & Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM) was approved by Minister Dara Calleary on 30th July 2026. For reasons of commercial sensitivity, details of the properties that may be purchased must remain confidential until the conveyancing process is completed. The 2026 Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2026 was launched Minister Dara Calleary on Wednesday 16 September 2026. The 2026 TVRS is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland by focusing on stimulating town centre economic and social regeneration. A call for Expressions of Interest from towns and villages will issue shortly to select proposals to develop into full applications. The Closing date for receipt of applications by DRCDG is Friday 22nd January 2027.	
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)	Measure 1 and Measure 4 Projects approved under the 2024/2025 ORIS Fund are being progressed by the relevant Community Groups with an expected completion by Q1 2027. Measure 2 and Measure 3 Projects to be delivered by WCC - completion before scheme deadline of Q4 2027 The 2026 -2027 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) was launched by the Minister Dara Calleary TD, in June, making funds available for communities under a range of measures. Applications under Measure 1 and Project Development Measure were submitted to DRCDG in Sept 2026. An announcement re successful applications is expected in Q1 2027	
Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)	We submitted applications for Call 5 as follows: €10m - New Ross Norman Centre & €5m - Castlebridge House	
CLÁR Funding	Closing date for applications to DRCDG was 3rd July. Up to 12 applications for funding of between €5,000 and €65,000 with a further 2 applications up to €100,000 may be submitted. Community Section is administering submission of CLÁR applications.	



WEXFORD SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

Sláintecare. Healthy Communities

"Opera for All" Programme



The "Opera for All" Programme continued in October with four performances of 'The First Festival', a heartwarming and joyous celebration of love, music and a town changed forever. Under this programme a limited number of tickets were provided to disadvantaged communities who do not normally have the means to experience the uniqueness of an opera performance. 321 individuals attended performances under the programme this year.
Slaintecare participated in the event by hosting a shared information stand with the Healthy Ireland Coordinator to raise awareness of the Slainecare Programme and engage with attendees. The event provided an opportunity to connect with programme partners to support the development of future projects.

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

Rest Centres

The Community team took part in a joint training exercise with Wexford Civil Defence and the Housing Section to set up and run a Rest Centre in Bree Community Centre on Saturday the 24th of October.
The aim is to have a nominated rest centre in each district.
The exercise gave staff and volunteers an opportunity to test equipment and processes in advance of the storm season.



Public Meeting	Wex LCSP Public Meeting is scheduled for the 25th of November at the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy 2:30pm-4pm.
3-Year Wexford Local Community Safety Plan	This will be launched at the Public Meeting.
Community Safety Expo	This is also scheduled for the 25th of November at the Riverside Hotel.
Drumgoold, Enniscorthy	Works completed within time and within budget. Traveller Heritage Corner and Bin Enclosure Area





COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The Annual Youth Conference of Wexford Comhairle na nOg was held on the 22nd of October in the Council Chamber. Over 100 young people from secondary schools and youth organisations from County Wexford attended the event.

Comhairle na nÓg is a forum for young people to discuss issues that affect them and to elect their own representatives to act as the voice for the youth of County Wexford. New members were elected to the Comhairle at the conference.

We look forward to working again with Wexford Comhairle na nÓg and FDYS in 2027.



Adapted Bike Taster Sessions on South-East Greenway

16 adapted bike taster sessions took place on the SE Greenway every 2nd and 4th Friday of themonth between March and October. This project was co-funded with WCC Active Travel Team and delivered by Shielbaggan WWETB. The cohort generally targeted through this programme were older adults and adults with disabilities. A total of 58 participants took part; 24 males & 34 females.



Two older adults on one of our Adapted Bike Taster sessions on SE Greenway

Additional Sports Activities:

- **Equine Assisted Learning**

6 women from Wexford Women's Refuge completed a 5-week equine assisted learning programme in Rag Tree, Kilmuckridge. 9 Adults (5 males & 4 females) from Ozanam House Homeless Service completed a 5-week equine assisted learning programme in Rag Tree, Kilmuckridge.

- **Fit2Farm**

16 (7 women & 9 men) participants took part in the Water-based Strength and Conditioning Exercise programme at the Waterfront Pool Enniscorthy and 9/12 Men took part in the Gym-based Strength and Conditioning Exercise programme at MediFit, New Ross. This programme was delivered in collaboration with the IFA, funding by the Dept of Agriculture.

- **Gymnastics Workshops**

Gymnastics workshops were held in New Ross Educate Together N.S. and at Rathgarogue N.S.; a total of 146 children took part.

- **Post Primary Active School's flag**

Staff attended Post Primary Active School's flag Event for Southeast Region. 2 Secondary Schools will par-take in this project for the first time this school year.

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM (LAIT)

In addition to the on-going work in the LAIT clinics, here are some highlights from their work in October:

- **Weaving our Footsteps** - Rachel Sweeney provided a fun and friendly dance workshop made especially for younger children in Slaney manor. Together, learning exciting moves and rhythms from different places, including Irish Céilí, African Dakbe, and swing-style Lindy Hop!

- **Ruhama "Knowing Sex Trafficking Training"** - The LAIT attended Ruhama training on "Knowing Sex Trafficking" an important topic to always be aware of when working with migrants. Nearly 90% of women in Ireland who are sex trafficked are migrant women.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

Offer a Home Scheme

The Offer A Home scheme will come to an end in March 2027. The team will manage existing pledges and encourage Ukrainian families to enter private rental agreements with the homeowners. Where this is not possible, we will encourage families to find alternative long-term accommodation. Since 1st April 2026, 51 properties have been withdrawn from the scheme.

Pledge Type	No. of Properties	No. of People Placed
Offer a Home	242	696
Irish Red Cross	24	74

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme

Carne Accommodation Centre, Unity Court and Borrmount Lodge closed on the 18th October 2026 as accommodation centres. They are now Designated Accommodation Centres for vulnerable people who cannot live independently will be accommodated.

Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accom. Centre	41	68
Unity Court, Wexford	23	57
Michael Street, Wexford	12	19
Borromount Lodge, Enniscorthy	20	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	4	15

PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

The annual Pride of Place Awards was hosted this year in the Convention Centre, Dublin on Saturday 24th October. Wexford County Council received 15 entries for the All Ireland Competition and chose 2 Community Groups to represent us in the final. These awards recognise community groups, volunteers and local organisations for their outstanding work within their communities and their civic pride.

This year **Cottage Autism Network** received a Special Award for Inclusive Communities, an award that is made to particular stand out groups. The group are made up of a volunteers who are parents of Autistic Children. Their aim is to actively enhance the lives of autistic individuals and their families by promoting accessibility and inclusion in the community. Well done to all involved.



ENVIRONMENT



COASTAL MATTERS

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

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

Kilpatrick Beach Visit from Minister Boxer moran Saturday 19th September. OPW Funding Approved €891,875. E-Tender process now complete and contractor will be appointed shortly with works to commence ASAP, date to be confirmed.

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

Cahore Drainage Works: Emergency earthwork berms have been placed around six houses along Oldbawn Road to prevent flooding.

Ballyhack & Passage East Car Ferry Infrastructure: AYESA consultant has been appointed and progressing with environmental reports. Currently liaising with MARA regarding MAC and MUL licences.

Rosslare CRFRS: 2nd Public Participation Day occurred on 20th August at Coast Hotel Rosslare. Kellys Hotel: OPW funding now approved €566,666 working towards eTender. Mauritiustown: Application submitted to OPW to protect 4 Houses, awaiting approval.

Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement: Part 8 Planning now Approved for entire area 500m section, detailed design and tender documents are progressing towards e-tender submission for the end of November. OPW funding Approved €500,000. Additional applications submitted to OPW for extra €1.4M.

Ballyhealy Beach– Applications to OPW being prepared.

Neamstown – Consultants MWP visited the site in August and are preparing a Preliminary Coastal Risk Assessment to see if meets criteria for an OPW application.

DAFM Works 2026 – Received Approval from DAFM for 6 projects to the value of €730,000 for Piers & Harbours (75% Grant Aid)

- Duncannon Old Pier – Recommence works following design change 28th September (Additional cost expected to be between €100,000 – €150,000 due to design changes, 100% to be paid by WCC)
- Arthurstown Harbour – Wall repairs
- St Kierans wall, Saltmills, - Masonery wall repairs - now complete
- Slade Harbour – Middle Pier Wall – works ongoing on site
- New Ross Marina – Various small works – Now completed
- Courtown Harbour South – Crash Barrier ongoing

Ballyconnigar Permanent Bridge, Beach Access & Protection Works – Liaising with MWP regarding scope of works which need to be sent for Invitation to Tender to appoint consultants for the works. Estimated cost €3m.

Operations –

Fethard on Sea, Slipway. After consulting with Foreshore Dept the decision is for the application to remain with them. Dept going to public consultation to have environmental impact assessment surveys completed. Awaiting report following completion of these assessments and any requirements or recommendations. Thereafter we have preconstruction surveys to complete. Estimated timeline one year.

MARA reconciliation of New Ross Marina and debris boom. Application to MARA submitted 17th September 2026.

MARA has issued MUL 240003 for the Barrow pre-dredging surveys to be undertaken. The commencement date for the MUL was 23/03/2026 and holds a three-year term. Quotes for survey works stand the same as previously quoted circa €135 + VAT. Awaiting a decision with Management. Have suggested meeting with Port Stakeholders around their plans for estimated tonnage throughput. Currently utilisation is very low and even dredging surveys not feasible on current volumes.

DAFM funding announced and proceeding with works in New Ross Marina, Slade Harbour and Courtown.

River Basin Management funding application granted €20,000 for NbS rain water garden in Ferrybank. Commenced Nbs Rainwater garden on 28th September 2026.

River Basin Management funding application completed for pre development stage for NbS rain water garden in Kilmore Quay. Report will include drawings, drone GPS survey and pricing document. Have had approval verbally awaiting agreement and have given instruction to consultants to proceed with these works.

Preparation works for generator cargo planned for Marshmeadows in November has been completed.

Public Conveniences

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

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2026	January – September 34 applications received	2026 – Total €277,953.30 sent to finance	3 on hold for documentation

No of Verification Inspections

2025 - Verification Inspections = 97	**2026 - Verification Inspections = 79**

Court cases

- 2 cases Currently in the court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices
- 0 new cases have been issued in this period
- 12 cases closed prior to court hearing as work was already carried out. 2 in October 2026.

Ongoing Inspections
125 cases were open at the end of 2025. 64 cases closed in 2026. There are currently 151 open cases, including 2026.

- All files for 2018 & 2020 are now closed.
- 136 new inspections have been carried out for 2026. 46 passed and 90 failed. A minimum of 14 further inspections will be carried out in November 2026.
- In 2026, 21 direct discharges to surface water and 17 discharges onto the surface of the ground were noted.
- NIP inspections will continue in 2026 ·in Kilanerin & Lady's Island areas.
- A stand giving out information on septic tank maintenance was at the Gorey Agri Show on 20th June and Bannow Rathangan Show on the 9th July 2026. Climate Action nights in Clonroche and Kilanerin were also attended.

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

No. of Monitoring Submission Returns from 1/1/2026 to 29/9/2026	86

Low Smoke Fuel Areas - There have been 6 inspections of premises / forecourts / shops who are all selling compliant products.

Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)
Petrol vapour emissions (PVE) 78 Service Stations on Stage 1B register:
24 Inspections to date. 11 premises re-certified September-October. 1 new Service Station located through investigation & enforcement now Certified.
Advisory Notices issued by registered post to 5 Petrol Stations for non-renewal of Certification in September. Result: 4 of these are now registered. Advisory notice returned undelivered from remaining service station, hand-deliver notice by end October 2026. Ongoing work with Revenue and Fire Service locating new or unregistered service stations. Q3 Register updated.

DECO Paints: 55 Operators on Register. Site inspections and enforcement work are ongoing. 5 Inspections carried out in October, 2 Certs of Compliance issued. 1 un-authorised operator now certified following investigation and enforcement. Advisory Notices issued in September to 4 premises who failed to renew certification. Result: 2 operators declared to have ceased refinishing & not renewing certification; Technician is monitoring to confirm. 1 operator re-certified and 1 operator awaiting assessment. 2 Advisory notices issued in October.
Q3 Register updated.
SOLVENTS:
Dry Cleaners: 6 Dry-Cleaners on register, all Certified as Compliant.
Others: 1 Medical Device manufacturer registered & certified.
Q3 Register updated.

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

The team will undertake other agricultural inspections such as sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up inspections. A total of 380 farm related inspections have been carried out in 2026 to date with 181 of these been initial GAP inspections (target of 271) and 82 follow up inspections which are imperative to the EPA's inspection process.

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

A total of 84 agricultural related planning permission applications have been assessed to date in 2026. 9 applications were refused on failure to demonstrate compliance with the GAP regulations. 22 applications resulted in further information requested to assess the farm under the current regulations.

Lady's Island Lake Water Quality Action Plan – Following the publication of the EPA's CLEAR (Coastal Lagoons - Ecology and Restoration) report in January 2025, Wexford County Council has led on the restoration plan for Lady's Island Lake. The project clerical officer and the Senior Executive Scientist (SES) have been in place since the 1st July 2026. A total of 91 inspections have taken place under the National Inspection plan for DWWTS showing a failure rate of >60% while farm inspections under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme continue with 91% of farms inspected with a 42% non-compliance rate. The SES continues to monitor feeder streams with samples taken in March, June & September, and a final quarterly river run planned for December. WCC in partnership with the Farming for Water EIP commissioned 2 autonomous WaterSense platforms capturing real-time data on water quality. Teagasc Research has also commissioned an EXO-sonde in the main feeder stream at Kisha. An operational group was established this year with quarterly meetings taking place, and WCC has recently appointed a consultant to assist in the completion of the water quality action plan. A new website has been set up within the main WCC website to inform stakeholders of ongoing progress.



Figure: WaterSense platforms at Lady's Island lake

Waste/Litter Management

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	%Increase/ Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/ Decrease
2024	2389	Down 7%	1021	Down 3%
Jan to Dec 2025	2441	Up 3%	981	Down 4%
1 Jan to 26th October 2026	**1908**	**Down 22.4%**	**787**	**Down 19.8%**

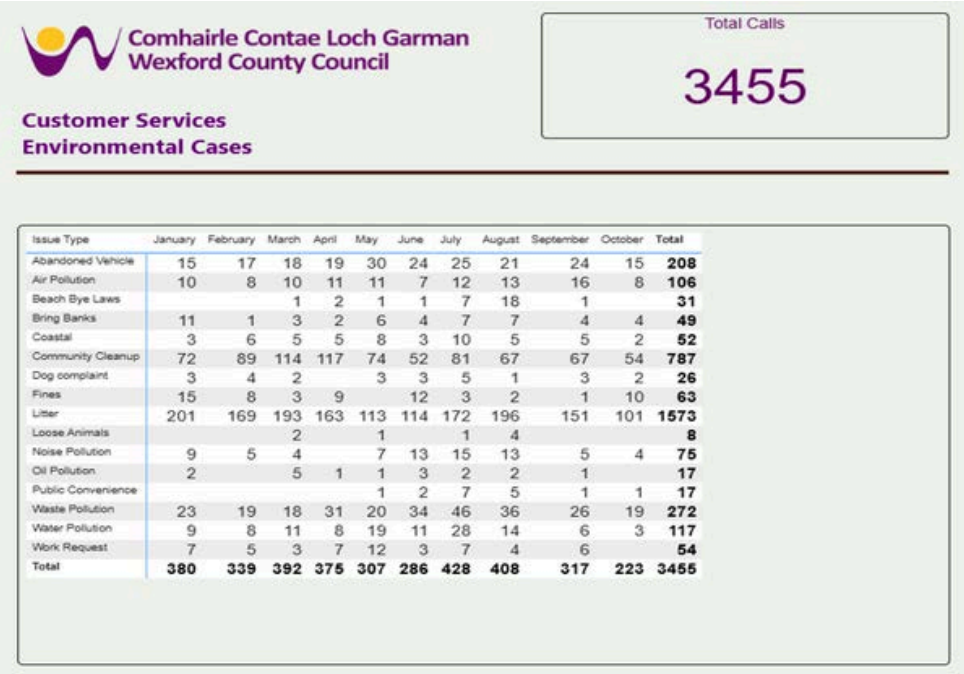
All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system. The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

	Jan to Dec 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2025	Jan - 26 Oct 2026
Incidents	3896	4235	4195	4419	3455
Closed	3721	4009	3948	4185	2883
Closure Rate	95%	95%	94%	95%	83%

Members Portal

	1 Jan to 26 Oct 2026
Incidents	141
Closed	131

Total Calls logged 1 Jan to 26th October 2026



Issue Type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	15	17	18	19	30	24	25	21	24	15	**208**
Air Pollution	10	8	10	11	11	7	12	13	16	8	**106**
Beach Bye Laws			1	2	1	1	7	18	1		**31**
Bring Banks	11	1	3	2	6	4	7	7	4	4	**49**
Coastal	3	6	5	5	8	3	10	5	5	2	**52**
Community Cleanup	72	89	114	117	74	52	81	67	67	54	**787**
Dog complaint	3	4	2		3	3	5	1	3	2	**26**
Fines	15	8	3	9		12	3	2	1	10	**63**
Litter	201	169	193	163	113	114	172	196	151	101	**1573**
Loose Animals			2		1		1	4			**8**
Noise Pollution	9	5	4		7	13	15	13	5	4	**75**
Oil Pollution	2		5	1	1	3	2	2	1		**17**
Public Convenience					1	2	7	5	1	1	**17**
Waste Pollution	23	19	18	31	20	34	46	36	26	19	**272**
Water Pollution	9	8	11	8	19	11	28	14	6	3	**117**
Work Request	7	5	3	7	12	3	7	4	6		**54**
Total	**380**	**339**	**392**	**375**	**307**	**286**	**428**	**408**	**317**	**223**	**3455**

Court Overview

Month	Heard	Outcome	Litter	Waste	Water	Air	Noise	Dogs
Jan - Sept 2026	**11**	Total fines	**€1300**	**€400**	NA	NA	NA	**€750**
		Total costs	**€1520.50**	**€550**	NA	NA	**NA**	**€250**

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

	Jan - September 2026
Fixed payment Notices issued	4 FPN WBPL 3 Waste regulations
Litter fines issued	**68**
Fines paid litter	50
FPN paid	7
Successful prosecutions	11
Legal proceedings in progress	36
Amount collected in fines	€7594.00 litter, €3000 dogs, €300 FPN, €1500 waste regs – total €12,394.00
Dog fines issued	12

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

Control of dogs	2024	2025	Jan-Sept 2026
Dogs collected	564	546	344
Dogs reclaimed	147	149	93
Dogs re-homed/transferred	442	386	194
Dogs put to sleep	31	10	11
Dog Fines	11	12	9

Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network	No. of Sites September 2026	Recycling out September 2025	Recycling out September 2026
Glass bottles		269.85	266.97
Aluminium Cans		2.31	1.74
Total	108	272.16	268.71

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Sept 2025 (t)	**Recycling out Sept 2026 (t)**	Recycling out Sept 2025 (t)	**Recycling out Aug 2026(t)**	Recycling out Sept 2025(t)	**Recycling out Sept 2026 (t)**	Recycling out Sept 2026 (t)	**Recycling out Sept 2026 (t)**
Total Recycling out	51	56	55	60	74	87	49	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	**N/A**	309	359	N/A	**N/A**
Daily Average Customers **Jan-Sept**	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	81	87	117	114	148	159	83	83

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

Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	Sep 2025	*Sep 2026*
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	173	195
Gorey *		57
Enniscorthy *		48
Wexford *		32
New Ross*		32
Rosslare		26
Total Bring Site Inspections	793	829

Environment Education and Awareness

Our aim is to promote awareness and active participation in a range of environmental initiatives. **Green Schools/ School Workshops:** Preparations are under way for the coming academic year. Workshops and school programmes will be booked and communication with all green schools will begin in September 2026.

5 schools have registered so far for the ReLove Fashion competition, and these will be entered into a regional competition to win a sewing machine.

14 schools have been selected to participate in this programme

7 secondary schools will participate and dates for workshops are being finalised. The County awards will be held in February 2027.

Information has been circulated to all schools. The Let's Fix Fashion campaign is an innovative, action-focused programme under the Green-Schools umbrella, designed to tackle the environmental and social impacts of the fast fashion industry.

Through exciting, hands-on activities—like communication takeovers, film screenings, mending and repair workshops, celebrating traditional clothing and culture, creative upcycling sessions, circular-economy webinars, and even running your own swap shop—you'll discover how fashion can be both stylish and sustainable.

This project challenges students to explore:

- The environmental footprint of clothing production and disposal
- Global inequality and working conditions in the fashion supply chain
- The rise of fast fashion and throwaway culture
- Design thinking and the Circular Economy. Exploring sustainable alternatives: repair, reuse, and upcycling.
- New skills and meet like-minded people across Ireland, Kenya and Dubai!





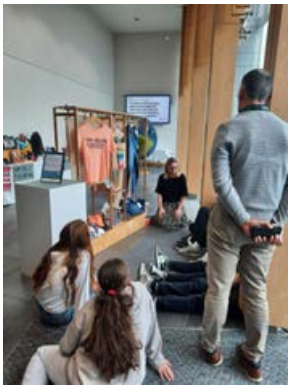
10 primary schools have been funded to participate in the composting in schools programme.



Material World: An engaging and thought-provoking exhibition exploring fast fashion, textile waste and our role in shaping a more sustainable world took place in County Hall from 5th - 17th September. 9 schools visited the exhibition in County Hall and students from each school participated in a 1-hour interactive workshop. The Exhibition will visit Gorey Library from 6th – 10th October. A series of workshops for schools and a community session will form part of the exhibition. Students will gain awareness of the environmental impacts of fast fashion, recognise the value or repair, care reuse and upcycling and learn about sustainable and circular fashion options.









Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign: The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT), in partnership with Wexford County Council, visited Wexford town as part of its 2026 Summer Roadshowon Friday 18th September. The roadshow promotes responsible gum disposal, cleaner communities.





Trees for Wexford: Applications closed at 4 pm Friday 25th September 2026. Applications are being assessed and quotations sought for the supply and delivery of trees for the 'Trees for Wexford Scheme' closed for applications on Friday 25th September at 4 pm.

Planting Grant: The closing date for groups to redeem their grant was 12th September 2026. Administration of payments to the garden centre/ retailer is in progress. Any unclaimed grant will be reallocated.

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

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

Halloween Costume Swap: The annual Halloween costume swap took place on Tuesday 29th September in Captain Wafer Hall, Enniscorthy in partnership with Enniscorthy Tidy Towns and Sustainable Enniscorthy. 28 costumes were swapped on the night.
A Halloween costume swap also took place in Catherine McCauley Junior school on Friday 9th October and over 100 costumes were swapped.









Greener Festivals & Events Practical Actions for Local Authorities: The Greener Festivals and Events – Practical Actions for Local Authorities Workshop took place on 24th September and was organised by the Environmental Awareness Officers from each local authority, with assistance from the Southern Regional Waste Management Planning Office. The workshop showcased best practice, guidance & opportunities to influence key policy areas of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. The event brought together key personnel in the delivery of festivals & events, demonstrated how national policy can be delivered locally, explored what has been successfully achieved to date and encourage more networking and information sharing to bring about lasting change.





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

Date	No. of community Clean Ups
01/08//2026 – 29/09/2026	129
01/01/2026 - 29/09/2026	728

C**LIMATE ACTION**

WCC is behind on our glide path for Thermal and Transport emissions. If HVO is not used for our fleet, in a significant way, Wexford County Council will not meet our CO2 target of 51% reduction by 2030. Currently Wexford County Council is above CO2 emissions from the baseline years of 2016-2018. Over 51% reduction in CO2 emissions is now required by 2030.

The pathfinder projects will address the thermal requirements. Regarding the transport requirement, a new fuel tank is on order for the Machinery Yard with an estimated 15% allocation in this new tank for HVO. The different compartments in the tank means the fuel mix can be altered depending on requirements. It has been calculated that half of the WCC overall diesel consumption will need to be converted to HVO in order to meet the transport targets.

This measure along with the Pathfinder projects for buildings retrofit for our Significant Energy users would meet our Climate Action targets of 51% reduction in CO2 emissions and 50% reduction in our energy usage.

1. Green Flag trial – Co. Hall Campus

Following the site visit in July and final workshop in September, the next Step in the process is for CARO to complete a report on the trial and present to the CCMA and ECCE with the hope that the sustainability award will be open to all LAs in 2027. Having taken part in this trial and gone through the whole process, Wexford is in a good position when the flag application is launched in 2027 with much of the baseline data collated as part of this pilot. It was also an opportunity to highlight challenges encountered in the process and gaps in data which can be worked on in advance of the Green Flag application opening.

2. Wexford Energy Expo – (Enniscorthy DZ Energy & EV Expo)

The Climate Action Team has introduced the Wexford Energy Expo as part of their community engagement work under the Climate Action Plan 2025-2029. Bringing together local contractors, industry experts and energy grant recipients, the Wexford Energy Expo is a one-stop-shop for everyone interested in learning more on how to reduce their carbon footprint, reduce their energy costs and avail of grant funding.

The first event was held in Astro Active Centre, Bellefield on Thursday 22nd October from 10:30 - 4pm. There were 30 exhibitors on the day and four panel discussions covering the topics of Home Energy, Business Energy, Electric & Hybrid Vehicles and Air Quality. With close to 200 attendees and positive feedback received from attendees and exhibitors alike, the event was a great success.

Enniscorthy was chosen as the first location for this new expo as it is the Decarbonising Zone for the County. The DZ Demonstrator Fund through the DCEE gives local authorities ringfenced funding to advance their DZs and demonstrate what works. A minimum spend must be used on engagement activities that seek to mobilise citizens and communities in taking local climate action, Wexford County Council's engagement funding was utilised to establish the Wexford Energy Expo and hold the October event.

The Climate Action Team plans to roll this expo out across the four main towns in the County, covering two towns per year, New Ross & Gorey will host the expo in 2027, one in March and one in October. The most up-to-date information can be found on www.wexfordcoco.ie/wexfordenergyexpo



3. **DCEE - LA CAP Phase 3 Reporting**

The Reporting Checklist was signed by DOS & submitted 21st Sept. The checklist included a adaptation and a mitigation case study. The claim date for the funding recoupment is 9th November and the checklist is a requirement for this funding recoupment.

4. **2025 Local Government Climate Action KPI Report**

The Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) provide a way of measuring and tracking progress across key areas of local government climate action, from planning and implementation to community engagement and organisational capacity.

The 2025 results show that climate action is becoming increasingly embedded across the local government sector, with evidence of growing delivery, strengthened capacity and continued progress towards climate objectives. The report covered 10 KPIs across the three themes of Mainstreaming, Adaptation & Mitigation and Internal Behaviour Change & Capacity Building. The report and associated infographic are available on

https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment-and-climate-change/climate-action/climate-action-plan-2024-2029/local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators

Live Energy Projects

Pathfinder Retrofit Programme

a) Ferrybank Leisure Centre – SEAI Pathfinder Programme Retrofit Project supported the urgent replacement of the Ferrybank Leisure Centre Air Handling Unit. A one-day handover demonstration was organised to explain the new AHU operation and controls management process to the Ferrybank management team.

b) Co Hall Lighting and lighting controls retrofit

a. Design consultants Aramark Workplace Solutions appointed
b. Contracts signed 14th September
c. Project design Stage 1 meeting 17th September
d. External contractors DMAC Consulting Engineers conducted a lighting condition survey on 29th & 30th September

Business Energy Upgrade Scheme

New Ross Harbour Office retrofit – Grant application approved & works due to start

SEAI Microgen Solar PV Application

Roof Mounted Solar PV installation for New Ross Town Park Shower and Toilet Facilities building. The Contractor site visits are complete with dates for installation to be confirmed shortly.

County Hall Solar PV installation – Power Purchase Agreement feasibility study

An RFQs issued for the feasibility design of a solar car port for the County Hall Car Park. Only one quote received which didn't fulfil RFQ criteria so it may be necessary to tender to get realistic cost estimate for this project.

Community Climate Action Programme

Phase 1

- A post-works video is being created to showcase some of the work undertaken by Wexford's communities through the CCAP
- A CCAP recognition event will be held by CARO on 2nd December in Fingal, Co. Dublin to recognise the contribution of local authorities, community groups and programme partners in achieving local climate action outcomes.

Phase 2 Allocation

- WCC allocated total of €746,066 across 23 community groups
- All projects must be completed by October 2027
- The majority of the groups have begun their project works and many have reached their first project milestone

Pathfinder Retrofit Programme

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

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



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

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

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

Biodiversity

Cherry Laurel Removal Programme Highlighted at Tintern Abbey Woodland Trails
On Thursday, 22 October, a large group gathered at Tintern Abbey Woodland for an awareness event hosted by the Tintern Trails Committee and Wexford County Council, to highlight an ongoing Cherry Laurel removal programme. The invasive species management project is being supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and by Coillte.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the significant environmental impacts of Cherry Laurel (Prunus laurocerasus), a highly invasive plant that is commonly planted as a garden hedge. While valued for its evergreen appearance, Cherry Laurel can become a serious threat to native biodiversity when it escapes cultivation and spreads into natural habitats. The plant is also poisonous to humans and livestock. The plant can grow up to 15 metres in height, forming dense thickets that block out sunlight from the woodland floor. This suppresses the regeneration of native trees and shrubs and can significantly change woodland ecosystems and habitats our native wildlife depend on.

On the day Ciaran Fitzgerald, Head Gardener at Johnstown Castle shared his learnings from the extensive Cherry Laurel removal programme undertaken at the castle gardens and Coralie Ryan, horticulturist and member of the Professional Gardeners' Guild, spoke about the substantial costs to the state associated with removing Cherry Laurel from our natural landscapes. She also highlighted the growing body of research demonstrating the plant's negative impacts on soil health, biodiversity and water quality. Biodiversity Officer, Claire Goodwin outlined the work currently underway to control Cherry Laurel within the Tintern woodland and how it would take many years of treatment and on-going monitoring to get the laurel under control.

The overwhelming message emerging from the day was a simple but important one: before planting Cherry Laurel as a garden hedge or as a replacement for a native hedgerow, consider the long-term consequences for our natural environment. By choosing native alternatives, landowners and gardeners can play a vital role in protecting biodiversity and supporting healthy ecosystems.



Group attending the Cherry Laurel Awareness Day at Tintern. In attendance were reps from Coillte, NPWS, Tintern Trails Committee, Tintern Walled Garden staff and Wexford County Council Staff



Community and Culture

Slovakian Ambassadorial Visit

As part of the Communicating Europe initiative, Wexford Public Library Service hosted an Ambassadorial Visit & Diplomatic Programme in October. As part of the programme, there was a structured official visit by the Slovakian Ambassador and diplomatic staff to County Wexford.

On Monday 19 October, after a civic welcome in the Council Chamber in the Civic Building in Gorey, Ms. Viera Motešická, Chargé d'Affaires from the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to Ireland, His Excellency Ian Devine, Irish Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Darragh McDonald, Councillors and guests attended an event in Gorey Library, facilitated by Bunscoil Loreto and the North Wexford Historical Society.

After a performance from the school ballad group, sung in both English and Irish, Ms. Motešická spoke to the students and other attendees.

John Nangle from the Wexford Historical Society then presented an introductory talk on North Wexford, focusing on the development of towns and well known business landmarks in Gorey.



Ms. Viera Motešická, Chargé d'Affaires from the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to Ireland, His Excellecy Ian Devine, Irish Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Darragh McDonald, Councillor Pip Breen, Senior Executive Librarian Nicola McGrath and Yvonne Smith, Executive Librarian Mary Kearney and members of the North Wexford Historical Society in Gorey Library.

Wexford Festival Opera: 15 - 31 October

To celebrate the 75th Wexford Festival Opera and Wexford Fringe Festival, Wexford Library held a number of events during the month of October. They included a piano recital by Terry Byrne, poetry readings by The Purple and Gold Writers Collective and Cal O'Reilly, a traditional Irish music session with James and Alice McIntyre, a talk by Karina Daly on The History of Wexford Festival Opera, a series of conversations with award-winning playwright Michelle Dooley Mahon and singer/musician Billy Roche, a performance by Imelda Kehoe which traced the coal industry and an exploration of Irish Halloween customs, beliefs and traditions with Michael Fortune.

Reading and Literacy: Right to Read at Your Library

National Children's Book Festival 2026

Wexford Library Service, in association with Libraries Ireland, have been successfully hosting Children's Book Festival each October for many years. It continues to be the central focus for library services to children at this time of the year and runs a successful programme of events for schools and families throughout the county.

Part of the Right to Read initiative, the festivals' aim is to encourage children to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reading development through engaging and fun activities and events with the very best writers, artists and storytellers.

This year Wexford Libraries' branches welcomed visits from such well known Irish authors and illustrators as Alan Nolan, Caroline Busher, Wayne O'Connor, Eve McDonnell and Amy Devereux.

There was also an online event for schools with Sheena Dempsey, author and illustrator of the "Pablo and Splash" series.



Amy Devereux in Enniscorthy Library during Children's Book Festival with her debut picturebook "A Wexford Fairytale."

Read while you wait Initiative.
Wexford Library Service is partnering with Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), WWETB, on the Read While You Wait initiative.
Wexford library service select and supply the book collections for this project, bringing the joy of reading into healthcare and community waiting areas. By encouraging parents and children to read together, the initiative helps foster a lifelong love of reading, supports language and literacy development, and connects families with the wide range of resources and services available through their local library.
The initiative was launched in partnership with Wexford Library Service at the Paediatric Outpatients Department at Wexford Hospital on Thursday 29 October in Wexford General Paediatric unit. Families are encouraged to pick up a book and read together while they wait.
The initiative is now being expanded into County Wexford. Sites already confirmed include Wexford Primary Care Centre, Gorey Health Centre, New Ross Health Centre, the Paediatric Outpatients Department at Wexford Hospital, and the Children's Disability Network in Barntown.

In Conversation with Katriona O'Sullivan
Katriona O'Sullivan is a psychologist, memoirist, and award-winning lecturer whose writing draws heavily on her personal experiences of growing up in extreme poverty in the UK with Irish parents struggling with addiction.
In October, New Ross Library welcomed Katriona for an evening of laughter, reflection and heartfelt discussion with local author Tina O'Callaghan, during which they discussed Katrionas' latest book, "Hungry: A Biography of My Body".



Author Katriona O'Sullivan with Tina O'Callaghan in New Ross Library

Book Launch
Wexford Library hosted the book launch of "Wexford Town - A Photographic Journey", co-authored by Kevin Hurley and William Roche.
It was officially launched by local historian Monica Crofton and offers a unique glimpse into Wexford's past through a collection of 1933 aerial photographs, bringing to life the town's streets, buildings, people and stories from years gone by.

The Art of the Short Story with author Sheila Forsey
In this practical and inspiring workshop, held in Bunclody Library, participants explored how to create engaging characters, build tension and shape a satisfying short story, from the first line to the final page.

Children's Services
During the last week of October all Wexford Libraries branches held Halloween themed craft sessions, workshops and storytimes.

Learning and Information

Age Friendly

Dearest Child with Rachel Uí Fhaolain
This participatory event with local folklorist and traditional singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin saw residents from Oakfield Nursing Home and the wider community visit Gorey Library to celebrate this creative project.
Rachel had worked with a group in the nursing home, recording stories and works, putting music to one poem written by George MacDonald, a former resident of Oakfield. These recordings as well as the piece were presented during this event.



Understanding Artificial Intelligence - AI for Everyday Life
This was an interactive workshop held in Wexford Library, designed specifically for older adults who want to understand and make the most of AI in everyday life. The workshop incorporated information from the Gov.ie AI Ready Initiative.

Participants in the "AI for Everyday Life" workshop with staff member Lenny in Wexford Library

Tea and Teach: Learn to Use Banking Apps
A series of free, friendly lunchtime learning sessions organised by Age Friendly Wexford in collaboration with local banks and the HSE, were held in several Wexford Libraries branches during October.
Digital Skills groups and Digital Literacy sessions continued during October in all Wexford Libraries branches.

Environment and Climate Action

Material World Exhibition and Workshops Series In Collaboration with Cliona Connolly, Environment Awareness Officer
This thought provoking exhibition is an exploration of fashion, textile waste, creativity and our connection to the natural world. On display in Gorey Library from 6 - 10 October, it also included a series of workshops offered to schools, community groups and members of the public.
Created by Enniscorthy-based circular designer, Lynn Haughton of the Upcycle Movement, the exhibition centres around a globe sculpture made from discarded clothing and invites visitors to explore the impacts behind the clothes we wear – from the resources used to make them to what else is possible when we no longer wants them.
Visitors were invited to add their own voice to the project by leaving a message to Mother Earth, sharing a thought, a wish, hope, or reflection for the future. These messages will help shape a future exhibition, allowing the voices gathered throughout the tour to become part of the continuing story of Material World.
Seed, Plant and Produce Swap
Staff member Angela from Wexford Library once again invited members of the public to bring a little green into their life by gathering seeds from flowers and vegetables to share and swap with plants and produce from the garden.

Science

Wexford Science Café Presents: Bringing new drugs to patients: the role of clinical trials.
Dr Niamh Brennan has worked in senior roles at several pharmaceutical companies, most recently joining Liquidia, which specialises in innovative therapies for patients with rare cardiopulmonary disease.
Held in Wexford Library, Dr Brennan shared her expertise and insight into the often complex journey from scientific discovery to patient care, and the vital role clinical trials play in that process.

Heritage and Local History

Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre
New Ross Library was delighted to host three Scholars' Panels as part of the Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre. The Series featured talks from leading scholars on Eugene O'Neill and Lucia Joyce.

Battle of the Pound and Tithe War in Bunclody 1831
In this talk held in Bunclody Library, local historian Barry Lacey explored how an archaeological approach can further inform our understanding of the 'Battle of the Pound' through an assessment of the people, place, buildings, memorials and other aspects of the material culture associated with the incident.

Chasing Stories the Challenge of Discovering "New" History
Enniscorthy Library hosted a talk with Christopher Power in Collaboration with Ui Cinsealaigh Historical Society during the month. Christopher Power is widely published in historical journals and has an article forthcoming in The Past. He is the author of two books on the subjects of the Carlow Sugar Factory and A History of Ferns.

In October, Wexford Library received 33 local studies queries and 23 genealogy queries.

Local Studies
Local Studies staff continue to work on a Local Studies Newsletter with information on resources available which will be distributed to all library members this Winter.

A new collection of books entitled “Surveys and History of Wexford” has been uploaded to the Digital Repository of Ireland.

Commemmoration 2026

Wexford Normandy Cultural Association held an event entitled “A Taste of Norman Wexford” in Gorey on October 13. This event combined history, food and storytelling, giving guests the opportunity to discover how the arrival of the Normans brought new foods, ingredients and cooking practices to Ireland while also getting the chance to taste some of the dishes associated with medieval food traditions and meeting members of Wexford’s vibrant food producing community.

Under the Arts Bursary, Rachel Uí Fhaoláin continues to work on a new body of Irish language composition work, both literature and song, based on research she undertook on the effects ‘Feis agus Aonach Charman 1912’ had on the changing society of Wexford, in terms of the Irish language and popular social, cultural and civic movements.

ARCHIVES

Collections Management
In addition to 38 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 9 researchers visited the Archive during October. Topics included research on dredging in Wexford harbour through the Wexford Harbour Commissioners’ archive, (1831-1940); research on environmental issues in County Wexford during the 1970s including the planned nuclear power station at Carnsore; research on the Haughton surname in the Hughes archive; research through estate rentals on the Grange area of Co. Wexford for family history; research on the House of Industry and lunatic asylum in Stonebridge, Wexford (1816-40); research on the Breen surname in Enniscorthy and Killanne; burials in St. Stephen’s cemetery, New Ross for the period 1912-30.

Outreach
To coincide with the Wexford Historical Society lecture during the Wexford opera festival, a large, framed oil portrait of Dr James Ryan, TD was temporarily transferred from the Archive to the Presentation School, Wexford on 30 October. The lecture was given by Michael Loughman, author of the recently published book, James Ryan and the development of independent Ireland, 1892-1970.
Public events like this are an invaluable way of showcasing historic items from the Archive, where appropriate.

ARTS

Richard Malone Chorus Exhibition County Hall 2026

The Arts Office of Wexford County Council, in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre has presented Chorus, a solo exhibition by Richard Malone. Richard Malone is an award winning internationally acclaimed artist and designer from Wexford. Originally studying sculpture in Carmarthen, Wales, Malone moved to study fashion in Central Saint Martins in London and is now a full-time sculptural artist. The exhibition will run in the County Hall, Carricklawn, from 12 October - 20 November 2026. There was 100 people in attendance at the opening and Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridín Murphy opened the event. There was also a conversation with Richard Malone and Sean Kissane, curator from the Irish Museum of Modern Art.



Arts Officer Liz Burns, Assistant Arts Officer Una Cahill with Richard Malone at the opening of the Chorus Exhibition in County Hall

Wex-Arts Exhibition

Art as Alchemy took place at the Westgate Heritage Centre featuring Dara Griffin (Wexford), Veronica Dooley (Wexford), Anne Martin Walsh (Wexford), Trish Kavanagh (Wexford), Natalie Doyle (Wexford), Susanne Horsch (Kilkenny), Terry Lawless (Wicklow) and Oisin Bourke (Kilkenny). The exhibition was curated by Shannon Carroll following a response to an open call in the summer. The exhibition opened on the 10 October 2026.

Wex-Arts Art Trail Map
This exhibition also featured on the 'Wex Arts Art Map' which is a visual guide to the fringe exhibitions taking place alongside the Festival Opera 2026 across Wexford town for visitors and locals to experience. The map was supported by Wexford County Council.

Artist Workspace Scheme 2026 - 2027
Artist Workspace offers funding to support professional artists from any artform to access suitable and flexible workspaces to develop their arts practices. The workspaces must accommodate at least two professional artists or artist collectives who are proposing to share resources for the benefit of their arts practices. Grants will be available in the region of €3,000 per application and must accommodate at least two artists sharing a building or part of a building for their workspaces. Grants of up to €5,000 may be awarded to applications involving three or more artists taking a lease on a building. This scheme was opened on 11 August and the deadline for applications was the 8 September 2026. Two workspaces were selected, in Gorey and Enniscorthy.

Community Dates at the National Opera House 2027 Open Call
Wexford Arts Office in partnership with the National Opera House are offering a series of subsidised community dates in the National Opera House during 2027. An expression of interest open call was held in September for community groups to apply for a subsidised community date up to worth of €3,500 for a daily hire rate in the larger O'Reilly Theatre. Closing date for applications was Friday 2 October 2026, and successful groups were selected through a draw process.

County Wexford Art Collection Tours
Wexford Arts office is hosting three guided tours of County Wexford's art collection, led by local artist Alan Robinson. These tours are free to attend and open to everyone. The first tour took place on 30 of October 2026 with 10 people in attendance.

Arts Ability Artist Panel Open Call
Wexford County Council (WCC) Arts Office, in partnership with the HSE, invites applications from professional artists residing in County Wexford working in visual arts, creative writing, dance, and drama to join the Arts Ability Artists Panel for the 2027 - 2029 programme. This panel will have two strands including Lead artists and Assistant Artists.
Arts Ability is a person-centred, participation-focused arts programme, running since 2003, that provides access to high-quality art experiences for people who experience long-term mental health difficulties and/or intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities.
Delivered by Wexford County Council Arts Office in partnership with the HSE, the programme is built on meaningful engagement between participant centre users and a team of professional artists, working together across visual arts, creative writing, dance and drama. This open call opened in October and the closing date is 19 November 2026.

Small Arts/ Failte Ireland Festivals Scheme 2026

EU Presidency Culture is showcasing twelve arts festivals / events throughout the county which celebrate the best of arts and culture from an Irish and European perspective, coinciding with Ireland's Presidency of the EU from July - December 2026.
These festivals cover a wide variety of art forms, ranging from circus, street arts to community opera, dance, live music, literature, theatre and spoken word. They will take place throughout the county in both urban and rural contexts.

The Stone Sessions
Stone Sessions festival "Scealta Samhna" took place at Johnstown Castle on 25 October. The Wexford County Council supported 'The Session' brought contemporary dance, live music and storytelling together for a performance that celebrated artistic collaboration and shared cultural traditions with storyteller Joe Brennan, musician Blanca Altable, dancer Lucia Kickham and Kelly Keesing, directed by Vivian Brodie Hayes.

The Eugene O'Neill Festival
On the 17 October local artist Zoe Conway acclaimed Irish fiddle player and singer John McIntytre performed in St Michaels Theatre New Ross for a collaboration featuring iRIhs Spanish and Georgian traditional musicians as part of the EU Presidency Cultural Programme.



Irish fiddle player Zoe Conway in St Michaels Theatre, New Ross

Still, life... by Ailís Ní Ríain - Wexford Opera Festival 15 - 30 October 2026
Supported by Wexford County Council, this is a new Wexford Festival Opera Commission with composer in residence Ailis Ni Riain combining opera, video, imagery and text and involving opera professionals as well as a cast form the local community.
Since 2023 the community opera is a growing element of the festival shining a spotlight on talented people from Wexford. This new community opera premiers on an international stage, with European and local audiences, in the offsite Grain Store building in Wexford town.

Screen Wexford

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

Screen Wexford Screening at the Wexford Arts Centre
Screen Wexford hosted New Voices 2024 and 2026 Screening and open night at the Wexford Arts Centre on 1 October, also showcasing the Professional Film Development Bursary Films. All cast and crew were present, 120 in attendance.

Crew Networking in Wexford
This took place on 9 of October and 25 people were in attendance. This is an opportunity for local cast and crew in the film industry to meet each other and learn about training and job opportunities coming up in the Southeast Region.

Creative Places Enniscorthy (CPE)

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

Ground Group Artists – Connection / Conversation series
Monthly meeting development of the Connections series that was held at the beginning of October 2026. Artists leading this series are inviting community to explore possibility through connection. The community met at the Captain Wafer Hall in Enniscorthy with 25 participants in total which was facilitated by artists Pilar Loring and Mary Doyle.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Sound/Audio project at Carnsore Wind Farm
A sound and audio art project at Carnsore Wind Farm & Heritage Trail continued in October, led by artist Connor Duggan under the Creative Communities programme. Connor engaged with people from the Carnsore and Lady's Island communities, gathering local stories and memories. During October, Connor recorded the community children and male choirs along with a local Uillean Piper, wind farm landscape, capturing the sounds of wind, wildlife and water.

Connecting Creatively- Courtown & Riverchapel
The Courtown and Riverchapel Community Textile Project is a creative initiative that brings local people together to explore, celebrate and visually represent the identity of their community through textile art.
Led by artist Trish Middleton, the project invites participants of all ages and abilities to share stories, memories and personal connections to Courtown and Riverchapel. Through a series of collaborative workshops, these ideas are being transformed into a large-scale textile installation that reflects the character, history, landscape and spirit of the area. Workshops continued in October with a launch event in Gorey Library on 19 November.

Quay Stores - Wexford Quay Community Engagement and Creative Placemaking Project
This community led creative project explores the social life, identity and lived experience of Wexford Quay. Led by Wexford storyteller Joe Brennan, people of all ages will actively collaborate in capturing the stories, memories, and everyday routines of this important public amenity. Through conversations, storytelling and workshops throughout October, the project aims to map the publics interactions with, and vision for the Quay.

Wexford Voices
Wexford Voices is a youth-led digital media and social media platform designed to amplify the stories, perspectives and creative work of Traveller and other marginalised young people across County Wexford. Starting in August and running until October, an experienced facilitator is delivering workshops with youth participants through local partner FDYS Youth Service throughout the county.
Stone Sessions
The Stone Sessions is an autumn/winter programme of heritage crafts, music and storytelling, celebrating Wexford's rich cultural heritage through hands-on, creative experiences in some of the county's most treasured heritage sites. The heritage sessions continued throughout October in Hook Head and Johnstown Castle.



Ecological awareness using theatrical storytelling, dance and interactive workshops with Rachel Sweeney
Led by artist Rachel Sweeney, during October local young people and families from IPAS Centre and schools engaged in Weaving our Ancestors Footsteps, creative movement workshops at New Ross and Wexford Libraries. This is part of a creative programme inviting communities across the county to explore the natural world through story-telling, movement, conversation and shared experiences.

Rachel Sweeney in Wexford Library

Creative Gatherings – Day Care Centre Programme for older people
Creative Gatherings is a series of creative workshops and happenings with 12 different daycare centres for the elderly around County Wexford. Led by artists, this special series is focusing on connection, memories, mindfulness and creativity.
These carefully crafted workshops will take place over 6 weeks this Autumn 2026 and will include singing, dancing, clay work, felting, painting, folklore storytelling and more. Artists include Michael Fortune, Rachel Uí Faoláin, Aileen Lambert, John O'Faoiláin, Juliet Zmorrod, Sarah Cogley, Anne Manning, Bríd Colloton, Cat Hogan, Trish Middleton, Deirdre Meehan Buttimer and Aoife Banville.





WEXFORD CIVIL DEFENCE - OCTOBER 2026



Civic Duties:

- October 4th – Athletics- New Ross - Ambulance cover & First Aid cover
- October 11th – Barrow Challenge - New Ross- Ambulance & Safety boats cover
- October 11th – Athletics- Coolgreany - Ambulance & First aid cover
- October 15th – Opening of Wexford Festival Opera- Wexford- Ambulance & First Aid cover

Weekly Training:

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

Training Courses:

- October: CISM, ADI driving assessments, Search Manager, Boat training, Food Safety & You level 1, EFR recertification
- October 24th- Emergency Evacuation Exercise- Bree- combined training- Civil Defence, Housing & Community









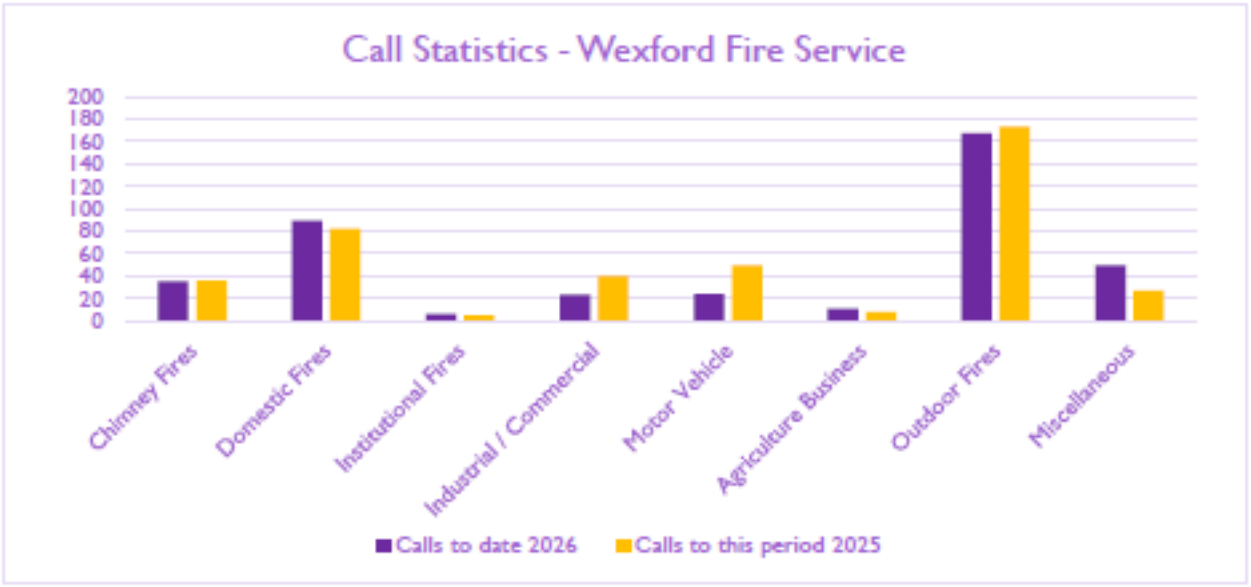


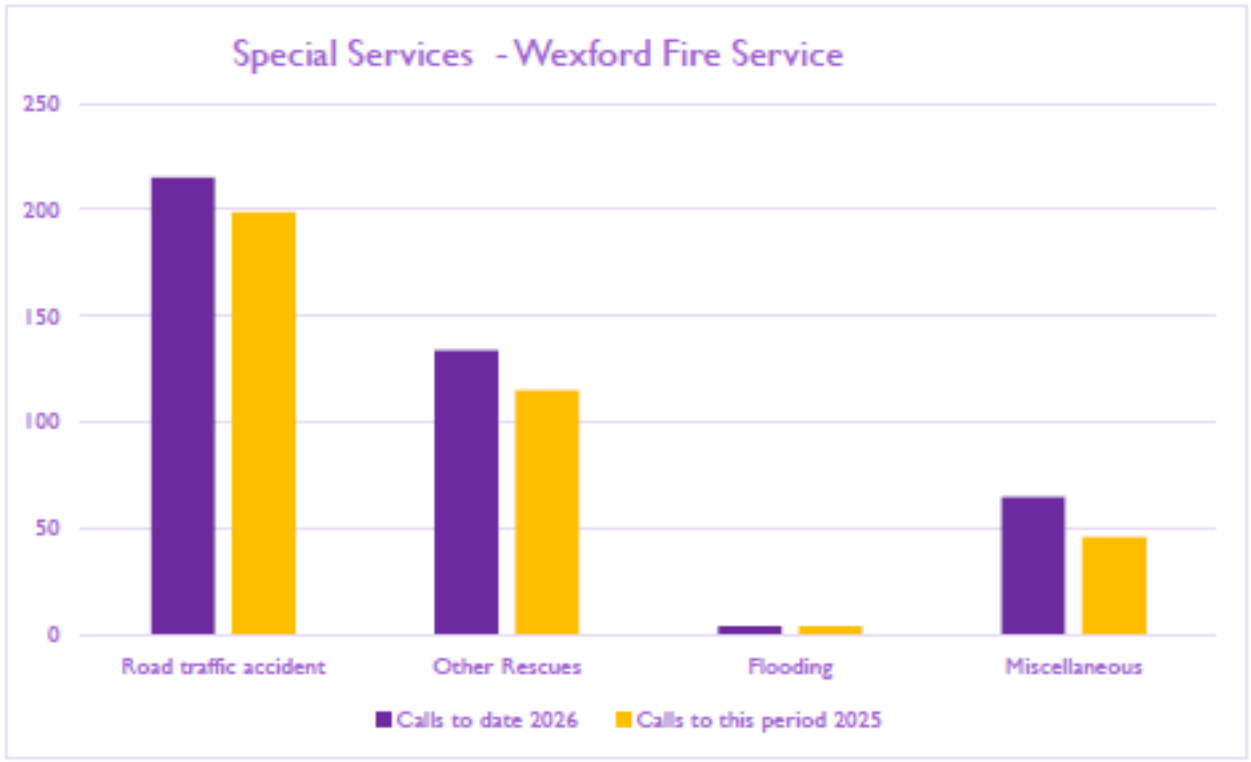


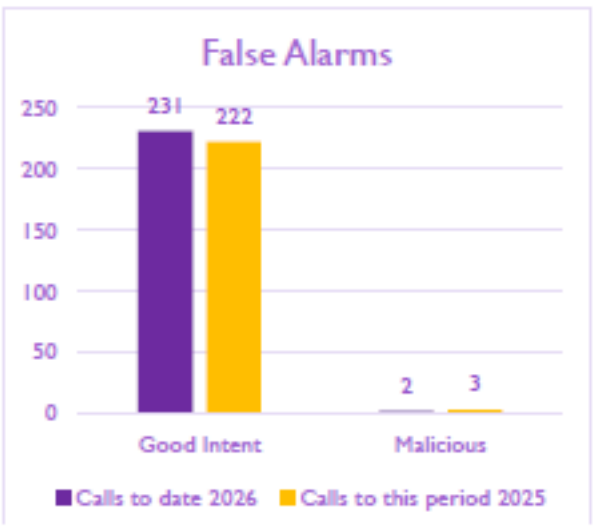
WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES 2026



October 2026









CORPORATE SERVICES



CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT STATISTICS – OCTOBER 2026

TASK	OCTOBER 2026
Phone Calls	3,314
Emails received and sent	3,275

FOI OFFICE REQUESTS OCTOBER 2026

TYPE	SEPTEMBER
Freedom of Information	26
Customer Complaint	46
Ombudsman Complaint	2
Access to Information on the Environment	3
Data Access Request	1
Total	78

FINANCE

Budget 2027

Work continues to progress on the preparation of Budget 2027. The Statutory Budget Meeting is scheduled for Monday 23rd November 2026 at 09.00am

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate with an overdraft facility; Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €15m for the period to the 31st of December 2026. An application seeking Ministerial sanction for the extension of the overdraft facility at the same level of €15m for the period 1st January 2027 to 31st December 2027 has been submitted and approved by the DHLGH following Council approval at the September meeting.

Audit

Audit of Accounts 2025 – The Audit of Wexford County Council's 2025 Accounts is now complete. The Statutory Audit Report for 2025 has been submitted by the Local Government Auditor and is listed on the agenda for consideration of Members together with the final audited version of the 2025 Annual Financial Statement.

Audit Committee - The next meeting is scheduled for 15th December 2026, and the committee will meet with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2025 Audit and Accounts. Following their meeting with the Local Government Auditor the Audit Committee will prepare their report for the Council on the Annual Accounts and Audit process.

ICT SECURITY UPDATE - OCTOBER 2026



Notable Incidents in Wexford County Council

Critical vulnerabilities in the **PHP scripting language** prompted urgent patching efforts worldwide. The vulnerabilities, which could allow Remote Code Execution if successfully exploited, saw approx. **70% of websites affected globally.** Wexford County Council followed official advice to take all affected sites offline until patched, and site availability is being restored as patches are applied.

INCOMING MAIL

- 593.4k emails in total (WexfordCoCo tenant)
- 495.3k stopped from malicious IPs
- 128 stopped with malicious links/attachments
- 7,255 emails in total (Cllr tenant)



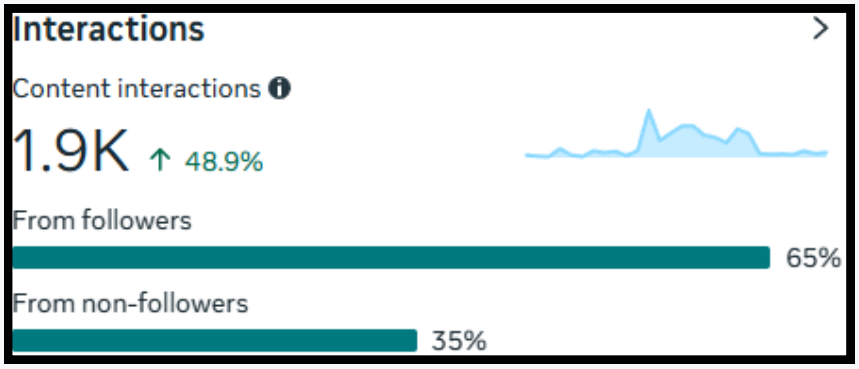
In the News

Hundreds of French **supermarkets** were hit with a **coordinated cyberattack** that saw refrigeration/freezing units remotely heated causing spoiling of food, damage to the units themselves, and fire outbreaks. The attack served to highlight the risk posed to businesses and the wider public by supply chain attacks, the vulnerabilities associated with IoT devices and risk of weaponisation of food supply in ongoing global conflicts.

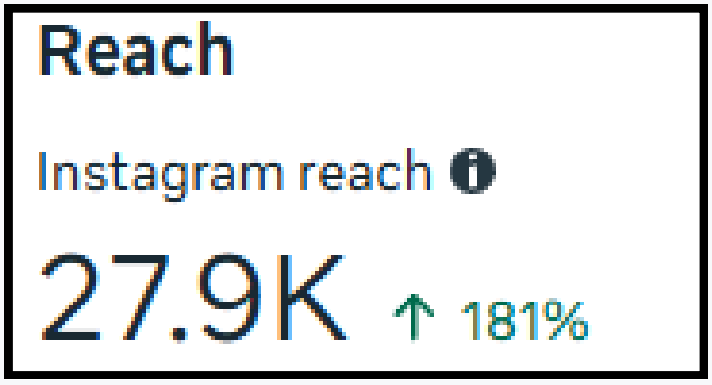
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COMMUNICATIONS - SOCIAL MEDIA











Viera Motešická, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Slovak Republic to Ireland, and Ambassador Ian Devine visited County Hall this week as part of the EU Presidency Twinning Programme.

Eddie Taaffe

Chief Executive