



Chief Executive's Report

APRIL 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

Georgia Southern University announce Irish Learning Centre in Wexford Town: Georgia Southern University is establishing a new learning centre in Wexford, which will be located in the old County Hall building in Spawell Road. Georgia Southern University's Centre for Irish Research and Teaching is the first third level institution in the United States to open an outreach learning facility in Ireland.

The Centre for Irish Research provides an opportunity for Georgia Southern faculty and students to examine the connection between Savannah and Ireland.

The announcement of an outreach facility in Wexford was made 18th March during a visit to Georgia by the chairman of Wexford County Council Cllr. Keith Doyle, the Mayor of Wexford Cllr. Tony Dempsey and Deputy Chief Executive Tony Larkin.

CG Stephens, the Irish Consulate General for Southeast US, meets with the Wexford delegation before the announcement of the partnership between Georgia Southern University and Wexford



Wexford County Council which has forged a partnership with Georgia Southern, is providing the university with space to create the learning centre for students who will travel here from the United States.

The centre will offer US students greater access to Europe, to historical documents and to the descendants of Irish immigrants who have played such a significant role in the region.

The first group of students will arrive in the learning centre in Wexford this summer. The facility will feature classrooms and student apartments built in a section of the old County Hall.

IDA launch US based European HQ for Grandpad in The Hatch Lab Gorey: US tech company GrandPad, a provider of tablet computers and support services for older people, is to create 75 new jobs with the opening of a new European HQ in Gorey, Co Wexford.

GrandPad, the first tablet-based solution designed exclusively for older people, is now available in Ireland and the UK. The high-tech, high-touch company whose mission is to improve the lives of millions of older people, as well as their family and friends, celebrated its European launch with the opening of its headquarters in Gorey, Co Wexford, Ireland Thursday, March 28 at 3 pm,

Focused on reducing loneliness and improving connectivity among those over the age of 75, GrandPad is complete with apps designed for older adults that use large, clearly labelled icons for video and voice calls, photos, email, music, games, news, weather, and search.

GrandPad's unique employment approach could also mean significant growth for small-town economies all across Ireland. In the next five years, GrandPad is projecting to employ more than 75 employees in Ireland. GrandPad's approach is to hire outstanding employees in rural communities and enable them to work from their home and avoid long commutes.

Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development visit The Hatch Lab to see Remote Working in action

A Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development from the Oireachtas visited the Hatch Lab on the 27th March to see remote working in action.

Following a presentation by Vanessa Tierney of Abodoo – the smart matching platform for people & companies who believe in flexible, co-working, hybrid & remote working options, to the joint committee in February the Joint Committee asked to visit The Hatch Lab and other co-working space in the South East as part of their work to explore policy options within Remote Working.

The visiting group consisted of:

Deputies

- Peter Burke (Fine Gael)
- Joe Carey (Fine Gael)
- Martin Kenny (Sinn Féin)
- Eamon Ó Cuív (Fianna Fáil)

Senators

- Paudie Coffey (Fine Gael)
- Grace O'Sullivan (Civil Engagement Group and The Green Party)

Staff

- Leo Bollins, clerk to the committee
- Shawn Pogatchnik, committee press officer
- Sarah O'Farrell, committee policy advisor



The visiting group spent the morning in The Hatch Lab which included viewing the Hatch Lab and the M11 Business Campus and also had a meeting with Tom Banville Head of Enterprise Wexford County Council, Vanessa Tierney of Abodoo, John O'Connor Manager of The Hatch Lab and Emer Cooney – Community Manager Bank of Ireland. Following the visit to the Hatch Lab, the group spent the afternoon in Waterford where they visited Dunhill Enterprise Centre and spoke to officials from Waterford County Council.

PLANNING

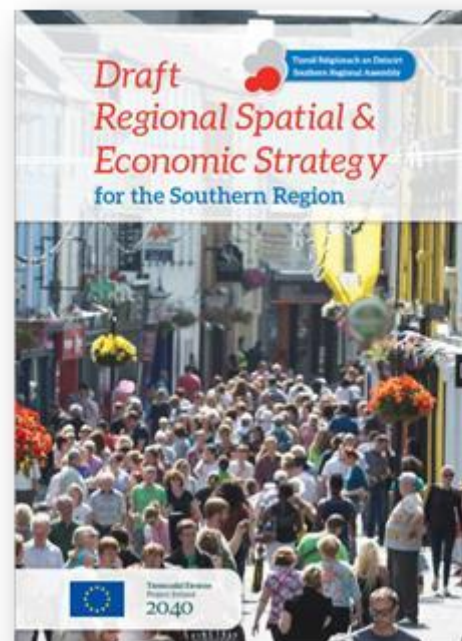
Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 22/03/2019	292
No. of pre planning requests up to 22/03/2019	82

Forward Planning:

The Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) was on display from Friday 18th December 2018 to 8th March 2019. Written submissions could be made during this time. Following consultation with the Planning SPC and the internal departments of the Council a detailed submission was made by the Planning Section. The Southern Regional Assembly will now consider all submissions made before adopting or amending the RSES. In the event that any amendments proposed are 'material', these will be placed on public display and interested parties may make further written submissions.

The Eastern Midlands Regional Authority are also preparing their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The Planning Section prepared a submission which seeks the inclusion of Eastern Economic Corridor (Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare Harbour) in that Strategy.



Wexford County Development Plan: Wexford County Council has been directed to suspend the statutory process for preparing its County Development Plan until the RSES is adopted. Notwithstanding background work on the plan and its strategies is continuing.

Building Control: Commencement Notices: A total of 87 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 22nd March 2019 on the BCMS.

Wexford	24	Gorey	25
Enniscorthy	32	New Ross	6

Taking in Charge: One Development was Taken in Charge in March 2019: Abbey Court, Ferns on the 19th March 2019

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites: Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	7
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	1
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	0

Planning Enforcement: The number of planning enforcement cases as at 25/03/19 is as follows;

➤ Cases Opened	29
➤ Live Cases	303
➤ Cases Closed	43

Planning enforcement cases listed in the District Courts - March 2019.

District Court Cases

- Enforcement case 0003/2018 - for mention on 25th March 2019, relating to unauthorised slurry tank and shed at Bannow.
- Enforcement case 0038/2017 - for mention on 25th March, relating to unauthorised log cabin at Robinstown.

Disability Access: Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC Applications validated up to and including the 22nd March, totals 15. The number of DAC applications awaiting re-submission due to invalid status totals 4.

Update First Quarter: Programme of Access Works: National Disability Inclusion Strategy: Incorporating the actions of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 into a disability and inclusion Implementation plan for Wexford County Council is now complete. A presentation from the Access Section was given to the Executive Team at their meeting 27th February. This presentation informed of the new method for reporting and monitoring, within each respective Directorate, on the obligatory actions of the plan. The Access Section will provide support and assistance in this regard.

Accessible Website-electronic communications as per Action 16, 17, and 23 of NDIS: Meeting to start the process of review, consultation and planning to meet with our obligations of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS), have taken place with stakeholders in Corporate, Communications and ICT a draft programme of work to include:

- an audit of our current website
- training of content co-ordinators
- installation of Browsealoud software to our site and 16 URL's connected with/supported by Wexford County Councils services including 4 heritage/visitor sites.
- the re-establishment of a corporate style for written communications, as previously adopted in 2008.

Countywide accessible parking: The Access Section currently investigating the practicability the Text Alert Pilot which was rolled out in Gorey in 2017 to roll this out in other towns in 2019.

Substantial Access Retrofit Works following Complaints Received

Ardamine Graveyard – Handrails to stepped entrance	In-Progress
Crossing point upgrade to support access to Public Transport-Train Station, Gorey	Completed

2. Special Projects:

SPECIAL PROJECTS – April 2019

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works will recommence at end of March 2019. The park is expected to open to the public in September 2019. WCC has secured €500,000 in grant aid for the project from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Trinity Wharf: The application for development approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 15th February 2019 and the application for foreshore consent was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 01/03/2019. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured for the scheme under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) to date. A request for tenders for consultancy services for detailed design and procurement for Phase 1 of the development will issue before end of March.

Crescent Quay: Works commenced on site on the 14th January, 2019 and are scheduled to be completed in July. Henrietta Street works will be largely complete by end of March.

Ballast Office: Essential repair works are required for the Ballast Office to prevent it from falling into disrepair. Architects have been appointed for a refurbishment Project, which is expected to commence in Q3 2019.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: Consulting Engineers for the preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have been appointed.

WCC is reviewing the options for the street and public realm works following the rejection of the Part VIII application in January.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Works are expected to be substantially complete in April 2019. Wexford County Council has secured €200k in funding from the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme for walking trails connecting the town with Vinegar Hill which will use the technology park site.

Gorey Market House: Currently €2.0m of WCC resources is available to fund the project. RRDF grant funding of €430k was allocated on the 15th February 2019 to advance the project through detailed design and tendering.

WCC is progressing with plans for the restoration of the building and the adjoining lands to the rear of the Market House.

Wexford Arts Centre: Architects have been appointed for design, planning and construction management services for construction of improved access and a lift. The Part VIII process is expected to commence in Q2 2019, with works planned to commence on site in Q4 2019.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: The Council has received initial RRDF funding in the value of €328k towards the acquisition and redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. Architects have been appointed for design, planning and construction management services. The Part VIII process is due to commence in Q2 2019, with construction completion planned for Q4 2020.

High Hill, New Ross: The High Hill site is a strategic urban site connecting John Street and the town centre to the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. A preliminary design, drawings and reports to support an application for development consent are currently being prepared. The Part VIII process is expected to commence in early Q2 2019.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Construction of infrastructural works such as access road, car parking and activity trails is planned to commence in Q3 2019. It is envisaged that works will be completed by Q2 2020.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018 has not been successful to date.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Wexford County Council has procured services to prepare a feasibility study to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. Alan Sherwood & Associates has been appointed to prepare the feasibility study and an application to Fáilte Ireland for Capital Investment funding. It is expected that Fáilte Ireland will be open for applications in June 2019. The baseline research is substantially completed and was presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting. The next phase is to investigate suitable tourism options for development of the area. This stage is substantially completed and is being finalised at present.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.

The preparation of the EIAR & NATURA Impact reports for the proposed development is underway.

An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/2018.

New Ross to Waterford Greenway:

Consulting Engineers for this project have been appointed and detailed design for this Greenway has commenced. An application for funding for the project was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018.

Curraclloe to Wexford Greenway:

Permission for the development was refused by the Board in a decision issued on 17/10/2018 citing, in particular, concerns in relation to the potential impact of the development on the Raven Point Nature Reserve Special Area of Conservation and Wexford Harbour and Slob's Special Protection Area.

The Council has reviewed in detail the decision of An Bord Pleanála and is currently examining other route options for delivering this important element of greenway Infrastructure.

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

Housing Supply - Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Oilgate	2	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Special Needs Housing
Cherry Orchard	8	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Includes 4 special needs houses
Cois Mara, Rosslare	2	Wexford	Construction complete	Complete and occupied
Baile Eoghain	9	Gorey	Construction complete	All houses completed in December 2018 (see photo below)



Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete October 2019
Creagh	10	Gorey	Under construction	Due to complete in May 2019
Danescastle	10	New Ross	Under construction	Due to complete in July 2019
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in Sept 2019
Slippery Green	10	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in June 2019
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Stage 4	TAP house currently looking at alternative
Taghmon	18	New Ross	Preparing Stage 4	March 2019
The Ballagh	6	Enniscorthy	Stage 4	March 2019
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues.
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Preparing Stage 3	Part VIII approved December 2018
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Consultants appointed, in discussions with neighbour for more land - ongoing
Rosetown, Rosslare	39	Wexford	Dept reviewing Stage 2	March 2019
The Faythe	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2	Women's refuge, initial design submitted to stakeholders for review
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 (stage 2 Feb 2019)	Part VIII approved March 2019 Consultants appointed
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 1 approved	Part VIII Q2 2019
Ballyhine, Barntown	6	Wexford	Stage 1	March 2019
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1 Q1 2019	Consultants appointment
Creagh	12	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Consultants appointed, ESB cables
TOTAL	295			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Castlemoyle	40	New Ross	Land Aggregation Scheme Phase 1 – Feasibility – not proceeding at this scale
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 December 2018 – review drainage
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey (Buy & Renew)
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 December 2018, awaiting DHPLG approval
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Special Needs Housing, Stage 1 application March 2019
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 December 2018
Castlebridge	1	Wexford	TAP house, site ownership to WCC (sketch design) – Land to transfer
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – rebuild, surveyed by Structural Engineer Stage 1 April 2019
TOTAL	67		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water ongoing re upgrade
Tagoat	12	Wexford	Site cleared, addressing boundaries
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Gorey	Feasibility study, preparing Stage 1 Q2 2019
Daphne View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – on hold
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Early feasibility
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Survey and recommendations Q1 2019
Newtown, Ferns	1	Gorey	Housing for demolition and rebuild
TOTAL	109		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	11	Gorey	11 units to be delivered 2019
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2019
Ard Uisce	14	Wexford	14 units to be delivered 2019
Knockmullen	18	Gorey	Due to be delivered 2019
Mulgannon	6	Wexford	Delivery date awaited
TOTAL	51		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	22	Gorey	12 units occupied, 10 to be occupied 2019
Ard Uisce	35	Wexford	12 units occupied, 23 to be occupied 2019
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	10	Gorey	4 units completed, all 10 units to be occupied in 2019
TOTAL	70		

Wexford County Council has received a number of other turnkey proposals which are currently being assessed.

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Hunters Hill	36	Gorey	13 units completed. All units to be occupied in 2019
Arthurstown	9	New Ross	Delays due to legal and financial issues
Ballyboggan, Castlebridge	10	Wexford	Occupied
Meadowfields	28	Enniscorthy	14 units completed to be occupied by Q2 2019 and remainder to be occupied by Q3 2019
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be occupied 2019
27 Hunters Green	1	Gorey	Occupied
Clonard, Wexford	10	Wexford	Approval received. Construction underway to be delivered by end of 2019
Oaklee			
Fearach an Cnoic	46	Enniscorthy	34 units completed to be occupied by Q2 2019 and balance to be occupied by Q3 2019
Station Court	2	Gorey	Occupied
Respond			
Rivergate (2 Bed Units)	20	New Ross	Occupied
Cluid			
The Grange, Ferns	10	Gorey	To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019
Tuath			
Glean an Ghairdin	18	Gorey	To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019
Ard Uisce	7	Wexford	Occupied
Ramstown	56	Gorey	In planning process
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	10 units to be occupied by Q3 2020 remainder to be occupied as completed
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	Funding approved by Department. To be occupied 2020.
Circle			
Abbey Centre	10	Enniscorthy	Funding approved by Department. To be occupied 2019.
TOTAL	418		

ENVIRONMENT

Our Lady's Island Lake: At a recent meeting of the Our Lady's Island Drainage Committee the Engineering Solution for lake level was approved by the committee and a formal proposal for funding the scheme will be sent to the OPW and The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

National Spring Clean: The Environment Section will be assisting approx. 400 community groups during the month of April in cleaning up local areas, beauty spots, beaches etc.

Litter: In the latter part of March there were 4 successful prosecutions under the Litter Management Act, with fines averaging €500 and costs awarded of €400 in each case.

Sheep Worriyng: The dog wardens are working with the IFA and local Gardai and farmers to curtail the incidents of sheep worrying press and adverts have been placed in local newspapers on the matter

COMMUNITY

Community Action Plans for New Ross and Enniscorthy Towns: Work will commence in April 2019 on the Development of Community Actions Plans for Both New Ross and Enniscorthy Towns. The projects will undertake an analysis of the community development activity on the ground in both towns, the establishment of a steering group and the development of Action Plans for both towns. The key focus of both Action Plans will be on collaborative working to deliver on the identified and agreed actions.

Age Friendly Parking: Wexford County Council working in partnership with Enniscorthy Municipal District Council and the County Wexford Older People's Council will during April 2019 be launching Age Friendly parking spaces which will be located both in Enniscorthy Town and County Hall HQ, Carricklawn, Wexford.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN): In late February Wexford PPN was one of the organisers of a regional event entitled Creating a Local Sustainable Future – Practical Actions for your Community. This event brought together 120 people from across the South East to explore ideas and actions that can be replicated in their locality, whether at home or in the community.

The **County** Membership Meeting of Wexford PPN took place on 4th March 2019, with over 70 people attending the event. This event included a Showcase of previous members' projects under the Creative Communities Scheme Peter Boland of Alliance for Insurance Reform made a presentation on their work.

A collaborative event with Wexford County Council on 12th March on **Understanding Local Government** saw an attendance of over 50 people hear about how local government works. Requests have been made to roll this out to the districts and Wexford PPN is currently working with Wexford County Council to see if this is possible.

INTERREG – Celtic Routes: In mid-March, the Project Partners met in Wicklow. This meeting primarily dealt with the submissions from contractors Heavenly. This Branding of the Project was very well received by the partners and the Local Authority Tourism Officers. As a Project, the date for launch to the Tourism Market was moved from January 2020 to September 2019, with a view to launch at the National Ploughing Competition in Carlow this year.

The branding and engagement with the tourism sector will be scheduled for April 2019. This is a major advancement for the Project in its entirety as it is bringing the project forward by six months. As a result, the Operational Milestones have been revised.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Bunclody Urban Adventure Hub: On Tuesday 26th February the Cabins were placed at the site and programmes are now planned for the spring. The official opening of the Hub will be Friday 3rd May @ 2.30pm in Bunclody.

Learn to swim Pilot Programme: This programme is now at its mid-point of the three year term, Meetings were held with Wexford Swimming Pool and The Apex and overall the feedback is positive. Training for staff is an issue and we hope to support this in the coming months once the centres have agreed dates.

Healthy Ireland Funding: CAHMS: The Healthy Ireland funding has enable the physical activity support to this group continue with gymnastics Ireland,. A recent review meeting has highlighted the affect this is having on this group of young people. We will also be running a swimming programme at the Apex with this group.

Schools swimming programme. This is again being supported by Swim Ireland and at present we have over 20 schools availing of support to attend swimming lessons.

International Women's Day: 25 attendees took part in St Joseph's a physical activity event in support of this day and also supporting the 20x20 campaign led by the federation of sport

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Decade of Centenaries: The County Librarian attended a Decade of Centenaries Local Authority Forum organised by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Collins' Barracks on 13th March. The forum provided an outline of response to the Decade of Centenaries to date and overview of the advice of the Expert Advisory Group, opportunities for collaboration with the National Cultural Institutions and advice on remembering ethically and authentically the struggle for independence and the Civil War in a local context. Consultation will begin shortly on the development of a comprehensive programme of commemoration for the next phase of the decade.

Fighting Words: There has been a phenomenal response by schools to ***Fighting Words Wexford***, a new writing and story making programme for children in Wexford Library. ***Fighting Words*** was established in Dublin by Sean Love and Roddy Doyle and Wexford Library service is the first library service in the country to host the programme.

The programme aims to help children and young people to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. ***Fighting Words*** offers creative writing workshops to all primary schools in County Wexford from Wexford Library with the support of library staff and a team of adult mentors. Already all available sessions have been booked up until June 2019. Wexford stories created to date can be found at <https://www.fightingwords.ie/stories/>

Engineers Week: Building on a comprehensive STEM programme in Wexford Libraries in 2018, a series of events was held in all libraries to mark Engineers Week. Attended by more than 200 children and young people, events gave an insight into the various aspects of

engineering as a career from software engineering and coding to civil and mechanical engineering.

Seachtain na Gaeilge: Bhí Leabharlann Loch Garman páirteach i “Wexford Trad and Folk Weekend” 2 March. Bhí dhá eachtraí ar súil, ceolchoirm Ciaran Tourish agus Kevin Doherty agus “Telling the Story of Women Uilleann Pipers le Louise Mulcahy”

Seoladh Leabhair Filíochta "Ré na n-Úll Mingle-Mangle agus Gallamaulfrey" le Máire Ní Bhriain I leabharlann Loch Garman.

Launch of book of poetry, "Ré na n-Úll, Mingle-Mangle agus Gallamaulfrey", by local poet Mary O'Brien. Cainteoir: Briain Ó Cléirigh, staraí agus údar. Speaker: Briain Ó Cléirigh, historian and author. Attendees 62

CREATIVE IRELAND: Professional development for artists and creatives – spring 2019 in partnership Visual Arts Ireland (VAI) Funded through Creative Ireland to deliver professional development/ business support workshops for Wexford artists. (Jan – April 2019) Workshop includes 'How to apply for funding', (4 March) 'Managing your accounts' & individual finance clinics, (1 April) Digital marketing (4 Feb) and Visual artists network café (31 April). Workshop is being delivered between County Hall Wexford and Gorey School of Arts. Good interest and workshops are booked up.

Creative Ireland As part of Wexford's 2019 Creative Ireland programme, Wexford County Council invites will open applications on the 9th April for bursary awards that will develop bodies of work with a creative public interface/engagement in the following themes with communities of place or interest

- Well being
- Sense of place
- Heritage (which may include historical exploration and engagement)
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics)
- Irish language

ARTS: Small Arts festival/ Experimental Events fund in its 2nd year running aims to promote new and high quality arts festival and experimental art events 54 applications received representing nearly 50% increase on last year and competition was very high. Selection Panel met in March and 12 festivals/events of which seven were completely new arts initiatives. The total fund is €22,000 and festival/ event are awarded between of €1,000 - €3,000.

Creative Community Programme –Closing date for applications from Community groups is Monday 8th April 2019. Online applications only accepted. This annual arts fund is valued at €50,000 and supports on average 20 community groups to work with an identified artist (s) on an arts project ranging from 1week – 6 months. Average award €2,000 – 3,000 per group. 26 artists selected for panel across visual arts, literature, music, dance and puppetry/circus skills. Arts officer Liz Burns presented on the Creative Community Scheme at the Wexford PPN meeting in Enniscorthy in Riverside Hotel on 4th march 2019.

'Art Ability' Exhibition – Biennial exhibition of artwork , writing and music participants form the Art Ability programme ' Rainbows and Bandaged Skies' opens Tues 26 March in County Hall at 1pm. Curated by Catherine Marshall this year's exhibition features over 60 art works , and writing as well as live music from over 80 participants in the Art Ability programme - long term art programme partnership between Wexford art office and the HSE and centre CUMAS,

(New Ross) WRIDS and KTAC (Enniscorthy) and Wexford mental health Association via Music exploration programme with 3 artists in residence. Exhibition runs 26 March – 25 May 2019.

Wexford Short Film Award – the winning team of the Wexford Short Film Award in 2018 Zanzibar Productions (Edwina Forkin) with Wexford Writer Hannah Mc Given and Director Brian Rossney are currently in pre-production with the short film ‘ The Bog Lady’ which will be shot over 2 days in Mount Leinster and north Wexford. This new short film fund consists of €10,000 award and the aim is to support local talent and film production in County Wexford.

Art & Bio diversity residencies Wexford, Fingal and Dublin city council.Wexford Arts Office was awarded €71,000 as part of Arts Council’s ‘Invitation to Collaboration Scheme’ in 2018. 3 artists’ residencies valued at €20,000 each exploring art & biodiversity/ Climate change – to take place in Wexford, Fingal and Dublin City council. A national call out took place in January 2019, 54 applications received. 7 artists shortlisted by panel and invited for interviews which took place in Dublin on 22 March 2019. Three artists selected who will start residencies in Wexford DCC and Fingal 1st May- to run until 31st July 2019. Public outcomes/ events are planned for Oct/ Nov 2019.

Per Cent for Art Commissions – M11 – Enniscorthy & Gorey –Three awarded art commissions valued at €20,000 each underway and contracts signed with all artists.Christine Mackey – - working with Bee Keeping Associations in Gorey and Enniscorthy, Gorey Tidy Towns & WCC Biodiversity & Environment Offices to raising awareness around bees their relation to food, place and people. Artists Collective Ciara Roche, Astrid Newman and Becks Butler- are working with community groups in Enniscorthy and the Men’s Shed to construct a pop up social space in the form of a Post Office over 2 weeks in Enniscorthy Town, to coincide with the annual Strawberry Festival on June Bank holiday weekend. Maria Mc Kinney –will work with local farmers & Teagasc exploring farming past and present .Outcomes will include a photographic exhibition, book and public parade /event that link with a local festival.

New Leitrim Sculpture Residency award – new partnership between Wexford County Council and The Leitrim Sculpture Centre (LSC) in Manorhamilton Co Leitrim. Offers a residency to Wexford based visual artist, with the space, time and comprehensive technical facilities for practice and research towards the development of new work. Closing date for applications, 15th April, 2019. www.leitrimsculpturecentre.ie

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary enables two artists in all art forms who are resident in County Wexford to spend two weeks at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists’ workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a two-week period, plus the use of a studio if necessary and a stipend of €300 towards expenses. Closing date for applications, 15th April, 2019 www.tyroneguthrie.ie

Drama League of Ireland – call out Open call took place in March for this annual award by Arts office in partnership with Drama League of Ireland which provides two scholarships to Wexford applicants for the Drama League’s 54th Residential Summer School in University of Limerick (27th July – 3rd August 2019) 2019. Local amateur participants and members of drama societies are invited to apply for this scholarship. Guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Arts/ Closing date for applications Tuesday 23rd April, 2019

‘Creative Hub – Opens calls, Exhibitions: Open Call Studios/ work units – 2019-2020 Wexford Art Centre & Arts office did open call_In March for work spaces in the Creative Hub starting July 2019 – to run to July 2020. Closing date for applications 18 April 2019. Seven units available for rent. The units can be used for private work space as well as public

gallery/shop/open studio, art workshop space, which will contribute to cultural tourism offer in the town. See floor plan and rates for units that range from €100 per month to €500 per month including light and heat. For further info and to apply go to www.wexfordartscentre.ie

Music Generation is a partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation. A youth music programme is planned with Orchard studio and musician Laura Hyland called Room to Create to take place 15-19 April 2019.

FIRE SERVICE

News: Wexford Fire Authority is currently developing a national technical fire safety officer competency and development plan under the auspices of the Fire Safety Task Force.

Fire Operations: There were 56 incidents in February as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls February 2019	Calls to date 2019	Calls to this period 2018
Chimney fire	12	41	43
Domestic fire	5	11	17
Road Traffic Accident	5	17	24
Industrial fire	2	3	1
Commercial fire	1	1	0
Assembly fire	0	0	1
Agricultural fire	0	1	2
Motor Vehicles	1	8	5
Forest/bog/grass etc	1	2	4
Rubbish	0	9	6
Non-fire rescues	1	3	1
False alarms – good intent	21	44	38
Malicious false alarms	0	0	2
Miscellaneous	7	20	15
Total	56	160	159

Fire Safety: The number of applications for fire safety certificates, planning referrals and Fire Services Acts inspections for the months of February were as follows:-

Applications Received	Year to date	February
Fire Safety Certificates	26	8
Planning Referrals	134	44

Number of Inspections	Year to date	February
FSA Inspections	49	19

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties: We had five duties for March 2019

- 10th March, Barnadown Schools Showjumping
- 17th March, New Ross St Patricks Day Parade, Ambulance Cover
- 17th March, Wexford St Patricks Day Parade, Ambulance Cover
- 17th March, Gorey St. Patricks Day Parade, Ambulance Cover
- 24th March, Wexford Athletics, Ballymurn Road Race

New Ross Unit – Recruitment Night 25th March 2019: We are holding a recruitment night in New Ross on Monday 25th March 2019. The night will commence at 2000 in the Adult Education Centre (WWETB) New Ross. The CDO will make a presentation on Civil Defence and explain the recruitment process.

4. Transportation, Water Services:

COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

N25 New Ross By-Pass:

Progress Update April 2019

The overall design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is currently scheduled to be complete in quarter 4 of 2019.

The construction of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge continues apace, with deck segments and cables being added from each of the three central piers continually. Of a total of 36 deck segments that will make up the main river span between piers 3 & 4, 21 segments have now been completed, and 7 of 18 cables at Pier 4 have been installed.

Works to the mainline road are significantly advanced with final elements such as signage, road markings and landscaping well underway. Final elements of accommodation works including any remaining fencing, gates or access tracks will also be closed out in the coming weeks. The L4026 Stokestown Road is closed to traffic from the 19th of March to the 15th of April to facilitate the completion of realignment and tie-in works. Diversion routes are signposted and local residents, businesses and bus operators have been consulted with.

Over 300 transition year pupils from four secondary schools in New Ross attended a project event in St. Michael's Theatre during Engineers Week. The event included a film on the design and construction of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge, a 3-D Virtual Reality experience of the bridge for pupils and talks on the engineering profession and the project.



1. Glenmore Roundabout & Ballyverneen Road Underbridge.



2. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge from Pink Rock.



3. Deck and cable installtion at Pier 4.



4. Mainline & Ballymacar Junction



5. Mainline & R733 Junction at Camlin



6. Mainline at Lacken

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update Program

The contractor has stated during the last progress meeting that their program is on target and the M11, and N80 will be open to traffic in July 2019 with minor works taking place up to the contract end date of November 2019.

Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in Dec 2016	Progress Reported in Dec 2017	Progress Reported in Dec 2018	Progress Reported in Feb 2019	Progress Reported in March 2019
Fencing	85%	86%	93%	94%	94%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	30%	92%	96%	96%
Earthworks	23%	75%	98%	98%	98%
Structures – Main Bridges		56%	95%	97%	97%
Structures – Culverts	29%	96%	99%	99%	99%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	84%	96%	96%	96%
Kerbs Footways & Paved Areas			74%	78%	81%
Safety Barrier			36%	43%	57%
Pavement			70%	78%	79%
Traffic Signs and Road Marking					6%
Road Lighting and Electrical Works					2%

Notification of Major Road Works

Roadwork Element	Ongoing Works	Completion Date
M11 Frankfurt Junction	Contraflow and traffic restriction north and southbound lanes for the construction of the interchange	July 2019
R744 Tomnafunshoge	Traffic Lights to allow for the construction of the tie in	10/04/19
N11 Scurlocks bush	Lane Restrictions to allow for the construction of the roundabout	July 2019
N30 Templescoby	Lane Restrictions for the propriety works for the new roundabout	June 2019
R702 Milehouse	Traffic Lights to allow for the construction of the tie in	26/04/19
N11/ N80 Clavass Roundabout	Lane Restrictions to allow for the construction of the New N30 Roundabout	April 2019

Applications submitted to WCC by the PPP Co.:

Road Closure Applications

The following road closures are to be submitted for statutory procedure:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (Weeks)	Opening Date
L2008, Old Dublin Road, Clavass	18/02/19 (closed)	5 weeks	29/03/19

2019 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

The 2019 TII road improvement allocation has been received from TII.

The following schemes will be carried out in 2019:

- N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.
- N11 Maldron roundabout to Ferrycarrig bridge (Killeen to Newtown Phase 2)
- N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

2018 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

The following schemes were ongoing in March

N25 New Ross By-Pass Residual Network

N30/ R700 Roundabout

Works commenced in July. This scheme is due to be completed in March.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 1

This scheme runs from Ferrycarrig Bridge to just south of Kyle Crossroads. Works commenced on September 12th. Pavement works will be completed by the end of March.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2

Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present.

The timeline for construction works are dependent on the outcome of the site investigation works. This scheme should be tendered in the April.

N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

This scheme should be tendered in April.

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.

This scheme should be tendered in April/May.

Public Lighting LED Upgrade

Works have commenced in the 2019 upgrade which will involve the replacement of up to 3,400 lanterns.

Installation of the lanterns should commence in March and should be completed by September.

Winter Maintenance

The 2018/2019 Winter Maintenance programme commenced on Monday 15th October. There have been 27 call outs up to Sunday 24th March.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District) - The final surface was laid on March 20 and 21. The roundabout is now substantially complete. Remaining works include landscaping and some public lighting on Cherries road.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 13 February.

Roads completed in the last month were Coolnahorna/Ballyorrl and Graigue Beg (both in the Enniscorthy District) and Clonmines (New Ross District).

Preparation for strengthening is in progress in the Gorey and Wexford Districts.

Macadam resurfacing completed at Pirates Cove to Riverchapel (Gorey District) and Ballycogley to Walshestown (Wexford District).

Drainage Improvement Works

A drainage improvement grant of €732,500 was received for 2019. The grant has been allocated equally to the four districts. Drainage improvement works are in progress throughout the county.

General Maintenance

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

A. Irish Water – Asset Delivery

Irish Water Capital Schemes

IW Asset Delivery: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme

Works are progressing ahead of programme and the plant is now fully operational. Handover to Irish Water Operations is currently underway.

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade

Surveying works have commenced in the Enniscorthy area to enable a hydraulic model of the sewer network to be completed. Once the model is complete, design works on areas requiring rehabilitation / upgrade will commence.

IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S.

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following elements of work on this Scheme:

New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.

Site Investigation Works were completed in November, 2018. Planning consent has been given by the landowner for planning permission to proceed. Planning permission is scheduled to be submitted by Irish Water Consultant, Nicholas O'Dwyer in April, 2019.

Wexford Drainage Area Plan

This project will produce a complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.

A full detailed hydraulic model will be produced identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. Nicholas O'Dwyers have been appointed as Consultants by IW. Drainage infrastructure survey works are due to commence in Wexford Town in early April to be completed by December, 2019.

IW Asset Delivery: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Foreshore application was lodged. The land acquisition by CPO has also commenced for the selected WWTP site and Pumping Station site. Irish Water is changing the form of contract for this project, which has lead to a delay in progressing the final design, however this is now being resolved and progress is expected to resume shortly.

IW Asset Delivery: Gorey Regional Water Supply – South Wellfield

The Gorey RWSS will be upgraded and a new 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m³ reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. Planning permission was granted by WCC to upgrade the borehole sites and build a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun. The hydrogeological investigations show that remedial works will be required to most of the boreholes and the contract documents are being revised accordingly. The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. Tenders were received from two contractor and the contract award is waiting on Irish Water Board approval.

IW Asset Delivery: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment scheme for the villages of Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon. These designs are currently underway. A Scheme for Kilmore Quay is also currently being designed. These have progressed from the Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS) to identify areas of the highest priority requiring treatment. Detailed design works are underway. Land owner engagement has started and site

investigation works are now complete. The treatment standard for the schemes has been increased to both primary and secondary treatment.

The CPO for Duncannon, Arthurstown and Ballyhack has been advertised. Tender assessment is now complete and it is expected that a planning application will be lodged in April. It is also expected to have a pre planning meeting for the scheme in Kilmore Quay in April, May. It is intended for both projects to be complete and operational by 2021.

IW Asset Delivery: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

Design works are currently underway for the remaining water main and gas mains, as well as design to eliminate back yard services around Wexford. A new hydraulic model for Wexford town is being updated to allow for the design works to progress. Landowner engagement has started. Returned tenders are currently being assessed.

Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew

The crew has commenced a major 2.5km rationalisation programme to link the village of Kilmyshall to the Bunclody Water Supply Scheme.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following for a feasibility study on this Scheme.

Atkins have been appointed to carry out preliminary design works for an upgrade to Ferns waste water treatment system.

The feasibility study report on options to upgrade the plant has been completed and is currently under review.

There have been a number of smaller studies commenced lately on Gorey waste water, Enniscorthy waste water and Wexford waste water capacities.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

IW Asset Management: Murntown P.S. - operational 14th February 2019

- Transferring load from Redwood Park to New Murntown PS end of March 2019 (i.e. decommissioning Pump Station next to No. 1 John Paul Park)
- Remedial works ongoing (snag list)

Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station

- Delay of the Repair to 4th number Storm Pump:
 1. Motor has been rewound but delay due the manufacturing of specific replacement pump parts
 2. To be assembled and tested - provisional completion date now end of April 2019 and installation 1st week May 2019

Carcur Pumping Station

- Awaiting quotation for passive stone trap, Face on Valve etc.
(note IW to draw up spec for new control system, pumps variable speed drive - 3 pumps running – duty, duty assist, duty assist assist)

Rosslare Harbour Pumping Stations

- Scada IP Digital upgrade works completed at 6 number pumping station sites at Rosslare Harbour (St Brendans, Barrackscross, St Aidans, Ballygilliane lane Big, Ballygilliane lane Small, Ballygerry)

Rosslare Strand PS

- Awaiting approval from Irish Water to upgrade 7 number pumping stations (Iona, Kapunda, Haven, New Haven, Southfield, Rosehill & Mauritiustown) from RTU to IP Digital

Somer's Way, Ballycullane Rising Main and Pumping Station

- Discussions with stakeholders – ESB, Contractors and Iarnrod Eireann

IW Asset Management: Newtown WTW (pumps, blowers etc.)

Works complete at Edenvale and Newtown with the exception of minor snagging.

IW Asset Management: Kilmallock & Taylorstown WTW (new pumps, automated treatment, replacement of chlorine gas etc)

Project is at substantial completion and now in the defects period. Staff training has been completed and works are at snagging.

IW Asset Management: Coagulation automation at Creagh, Vinegar Hill and Newtown WTW

Commissioning at Creagh complete and operating in automatic mode since mid January. Newtown WTW in automatic mode with manual override since May 17th. Vinegar Hill in automatic mode since early November.

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Disinfection works at Chestnut Grove, Hollyfort, Ballinellard, Clonroche, Bree, Kilmuckridge Coolgreaney and Ballindaggin commissioned.

Works nearly complete at Vinegar Hill. Mechanical works almost complete at Newtown and Kilagoley.

Works partially complete at Creagh, Camolin, Edermine, Carrigbyrne and Ballindaggin boreholes.

Bolabeg, Raheen and Tellarought boreholes added to IW Disinfection Programme.

IW Asset Planning: Treated Water Storage

Additional reservoir storage to bring schemes up to the required 24 hours of storage of treated water has been approved for Camolin, Kiltealy and Kilmallock. Currently at site selection phase.

Water Network Program

Coffey Water (CNL) have been appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. CNL have work orders for public side lead replacement works in Enniscorthy and Backyard Service replacement in Wexford, Gorey and Taghmon. This work will be ongoing throughout the year and new work orders issued for other identified works. First fix leak repairs are ongoing on a daily basis around the county. 1400 non-domestic meters are due to be replaced in bulk with drive-by meters.

IR issues around works are being resolved by dealing locally with crews. Works can proceed on PRVs and flowmeters in Gorey and Enniscorthy and kiosk only works in Wexford. Negotiations are ongoing with Irish Water for Wexford County council to carry out PRV installation works by direct labour in Wexford District.

Capital Maintenance Budget

CM is operating on a rolling budget since 2017. Current approved spend from IW is 2,593,464. Total commitments to end of January was €2,051,218. Level of budget increase for 2019 has yet to be announced.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

Submissions forwarded to the DHPLG on 13th March 2019.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Connection offer received from Irish Water on the 6th March for the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Takeover Process ongoing.

WATER CONSERVATION

Leak Detection and Repair:

- 42nr leaks were detected and repaired in February 2019. Area breakdown is as follows:
- New Leak detection operative has started with the Water Conservation Office
- Water Network Programme with Coffey Northumberland –
- First Fix scheme:
- Irish Water free first fix to customer supply side has commenced in Co. Wexford. There are currently 3,048nr properties identified as receiving disproportionate volumes of water, equating to approx. 3293m³/day.
- Coffey Northumberland are working throughout the county with customers to repair customer side leaks.

5. Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2018

Work on the 2018 Accounts is now complete and the Accounts are being prepared for printing and publishing. A copy of the 2018 AFS (Annual Financial Statement) together with a full overview report on the outcome and main points informing the accounts will be included on the County Council Meeting agenda for the May meeting.

Audit Committee

The final meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 6th March 2019. A new committee will be established following the local elections in May.

Rate Revaluation

Letters containing Provisional Valuation Certificates were issued to an initial group of rated occupiers in the county by the Valuation Office in the week commencing 19th March.

The remaining ratepayers will receive letters in late March/early April. At the same time Wexford Co Council published an indicative ARV (Annual Rate on Valuation) or multiplier to assist ratepayers in determining their estimated rates bill for 2020. This indicative ARV was determined at 0.257.

Walk in Clinics were arranged by the Valuation Office throughout the county with the assistance of Wexford County Council. These clinics should allow ratepayers to source answers to queries directly from Valuation Office personnel. In addition there is a specific element of the Valuation Office website focused on the Wexford Revaluation Exercise and Wexford County Council also has information on the Revaluation Process published on the website

All Ratepayers will have 40 days to make representations to the Valuation Office in respect of the valuations received if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of their revaluation. Once all representations have been assessed and determined by the Valuation Office a final Valuation Certificate will be issued in September 2019 when ratepayers will have a further 28 days to lodge an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. In September the council will also move to publish the final ARV in line with the regulations governing the Rates Revaluation Process.

Once the final ARV is determined the Rates Limitation Order does not allow the Council to increase/decrease the ARV as part of the Budget process.

The result of the Revaluation Exercise i.e. revised valuations and ARV will be applicable for rating purposes from 1st January 2020.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m for the period to the 31st December, 2019.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**