



Chief Executive's Report

November 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Local Enterprise Office: Training/Mentoring

Following the launch of training for Autumn/Winter 2019, the uptake on courses continues to be strong. To date 112 businesses have availed of the business mentor programme with 244 individual mentor sessions.

National Women's Enterprise Day- NWED 2019: On the 17th October, Wexford LEO hosted a particularly successful Women's Enterprise Event in the Newbay House as part of the National Women's Enterprise Day 2019 on the 17th October. This year the theme was Making it Happen and it is the largest ever programme of events with over 80 women participating in the Wexford event which was launched by the Chairman Councillor Michael Sheehan with the National co-ordinator from Enterprise Ireland in attendance on the day.

Now in its thirteenth year the growth in popularity of NWED, reflects the growing number of female entrepreneurs across the Country. There was an 18% increase in the number of women participating in LEO training programmes last year. The programme included the following speakers and panel: Emer Doyle – International Coach; Dr. Ciara Clancy Beats Medical; Mary Walsh – Ire Wel Pallets and Aine Breen Liwu Jewellery.



Female Entrepreneurship Programme: The NWED event provided the perfect backdrop for the launch of the inaugural Wexford **Female Entrepreneurship Business Development Programme by the LEO team**. The latest global entrepreneurship Monitoring Report for Ireland shows that nearly 40% of new business owners in 2018 were women. It is within this context that Wexford LEO developed the new programme targeting female entrepreneurs. The training will commence on the 5th November with one day over 3 weeks aimed at women who are thinking of starting their own business or who have recently taken the first step.

Employment Survey 2019: The LEO is currently undertaking a detailed employment survey will all its grant aided portfolio of clients. In addition to capturing employment levels and turnover, the survey is used as an opportunity to capture training needs and in particular to capture the key issues facing SME's in relation to Brexit. The survey will be completed by the end of November.

BREXIT Support Funding for SME's: Wexford LEO has been allocated an additional budget of €50,000 to support businesses productivity particularly within the context of Brexit. Currently 5 experienced mentors are working with 30 SMES to develop a tailored diagnostic reports on each enterprise. The specific aim at the end of the process to have growth plans in place for the participating clients. To date 25 diagnostic reports have been completed. Already 3 companies are looking at implementing a Lean Programme looking at cost reduction and improvements in their business processes.

Productivity Challenge Vouchers: LEOs recently received details of a national pilot competitive fund to incentivize domestically focused small businesses to examine their current operations to identify opportunities to address productivity gaps. This is open to 50 different sectors including tourism, retail, freight etc and is open to larger enterprises employing up to 50 staff. Businesses can apply online through www.productivitychallenge.ie and if successful they will receive one of 200 productivity vouchers valued at €2,500. Vouchers can be used to engage qualified practitioners to improve existing operations through:

- Adoption of lean practices and principles
- Identification of cost reduction initiatives
- Identification of Green practices
- Introduction of waste reducing plans
- Enhancing customer experience
- Enhancing performance management

Applications need to be submitted by the 22nd November followed by an evaluation process and successful applications will be informed in the week commencing 16th December.

ECONOMIC

Launch of the County Wexford Tourism Strategy 2019 – 2023: On Monday 14th October 2019 Councillor Michael Sheehan, Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council launched the County Wexford Tourism Strategy 2019 – 2023 at Johnstown Castle. The strategy aims to increase visitor numbers by 12% and increase revenue by 18.7% over the period of the strategy. This would create 800 new jobs in the County.

The strategy sets out to work in partnership with the industry and Fáilte Ireland to strengthen, develop and elevate Wexford's range of compelling, visitor experiences, to enhance the capacity of the industry to create and promote experiences that will attract priority segments from key markets.



Liz Hore Head of Enterprise with Wexford County Council was the MC for the evening. Speakers on the night included Brenda Comerford, General Manager, Johnstown Castle Estate, Museum & Gardens, Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council Aileen Dowling, Fáilte Ireland, Colm Neville, Chair of Visit Wexford, and Councillor Michael Sheehan, Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council.

TOURISM TEAM

The launch of the County Wexford Tourism Strategy 2019 – 2023 was attended by over 100 various stakeholders from County Wexford.

Wexford.ie: The opening night of the festival with the fireworks display provided a wonderful setting in the ambiance of the Spiegeltent for the launch of **wexford.ie** showcasing the County as a great place to live, visit and do business. The wexford.ie is an online guide illustrating the unique offering that our county has for people who wish to live, visit or invest here through stunning visuals and comprehensive information.



With a packed attendance the online platform was officially launched by cllr. Michael Sheehan, Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council. The keynote speakers on the night were Michael Londra one of the Ambassadors for the County who spoke about his opportunities in America to promote Wexford and his love for the town he grew up in.

Mr. Liam Griffin -business man with the global award winning Monart hotel and spa and legendary for his sporting achievements culminating in the 1996 All Ireland winning hurling team spoke about his passion for Wexford. The portal provides a signpost to the visit wexford and invest wexford websites promoting the County.

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 23/10/2019	1180
No. of invalid applications received up to 25/10/2019	236
Extension of Duration received up to 21/10/2019	19
Exempted Development Declaration Received up to 21/10/2019	44

FORWARD PLANNING:

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy: Following receipt of submissions on the Draft RSES the Regional Assembly decided to make Material Amendments to the Strategy. These amendment were placed on public display from Thursday 12th September 2019 and Friday 11th October 2019. The Planning Section prepared a detailed submission on the Amendments. The Southern Regional Assembly are currently considering the submissions received. The Strategy may be made with or without the proposed Material Amendment or with minor further modifications.

County Development Plan 2020-2026: The preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan and other County Development Plans were paused by Statutory Instrument pending the adoption of the respective Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. Work has commenced on aligning the plan with the emerging Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

Biodiversity and Natural Heritage

Wex Bee Aware: Materials Bank for Bug/Bee Hotels - The pilot scheme for the 'Bug Hotel Materials Bank' is underway, with skip currently being filled with materials at a local builders providers and a container to be in place shortly in Homestown (where the material can be accessed by the public).

Public Talks- Wex Bee Aware gave a talk to an audience of almost 70 people at the PPN Annual Meeting on 8th October. A number of potential projects are being worked on as a result of the talk.

On 1st November Wex Bee Aware will give a talk to the Council Residents Associations representatives on managing their open spaces with a view to creating pollinator friendly areas.

Teacup Bee Hotels -The Catholics Irish Girl Guides are working with Wex Bee Aware on their January Journal which is due to go out nationally to all guides groups. The article will encourage groups around the Country to make Bee Hotels.

Natural Wexford - Site preparations have been carried out in advance of a brand new Natural Wexford information sign to be installed at Camaross geological heritage site. Work has

commenced on a Natural Wexford sign for Lady's Island and scoping for appropriate sites in all other the districts is underway.

In-house Actions: Cleaning staff are now using plant based, 100% bio-degradable products in County Hall offices.

BUILDING CONTROL: Commencement Notices

A total of 439 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 25th October, 2019 on the BCMS.

ENNISCORTHY	GOREY	NEW ROSS	WEXFORD
126	110	61	142
Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites at 24th October 2019			

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990

22

Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964

12

Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

0

Planning Enforcement:

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 24/10/19 is as follows:

- Cases Opened 142
- Live Cases 247
- Cases Closed 144

District Court Cases: No District Court Cases this Month
Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019

Protected Structure	Amount Paid to Applicant by LA €	Amount privately leveraged €	Total Cost of Project €
An Teach Oileán, Kilmore Quay	10,000	12,000	22,000
Hyde Park, Gorey	3,000	3,000	6,000
Corn Mill, Foulksmills	6,000	12,000	18,000
Sutton Cottage, Broadway	8,500	10,500	19,000
St. Mary's Church, New Ross	14,000	15,674	29,674
Robinstown House, Clonroche	7,000	7,000	14,000
Ballysampson House, Tagoat	6,500	6,649.77	13,149.77
Ballymore House, Screen	5,000	24,000.00	29,000.00
Cottage, Barnahask, Curracloe	10,000	17,000	27,000
St. Colman's Church, Ballindaggin	5,000	5,000	10,000
St. Iberius Church, Main Street, Wexford.	4,000	3850.63	7,850.63
Totals	79,000.00	102,674.00	166,674.00

Taking in Charge:

Gleann an Ghairdín (Phase 1)	Gorey Municipal District Meeting	15 th October 2019
Oahkill, Ramstown Lower	Gorey Municipal District Meeting	15 th October 2019

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC Applications validated up to and including up to and including 24th October, 2019 totals 54.

The number of DACs returned as invalid from 1st January totals 16, 1 of which remain outstanding for re-submission.

Pre-assessment of Planning Referrals to date:

LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications 100

2. Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works are progressing well, with all earthworks now substantially complete, access road well advanced and key features such as playground area, entrance works and circulation pathways at various stages of construction. The park is expected to open to the public in December 2019.

Trinity Wharf: The application for development approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 15/02/2019 and the period for submission of observations closed on 01/04/2019. A request for further information has issued by An Bord Pleanála in late July 2019 and a response was submitted on 14th October 2019.

The further information has been placed on published and will on public display until 29th November.

The related application for foreshore consent was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 01/03/2019 and the public consultation process for this application is now completed.

Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured for the scheme under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) to date.

Crescent Quay: Works commenced in January and are scheduled to be substantially completed in November. Works have ceased for the duration of the Opera festival. Works have progressed well but delays associated with the relocation of underground services have necessitated an extension to the programme. The works on the 'street' side of the Crescent are substantially complete and this area is now available for pedestrian and business access. The waterfront area is also complete and open to the public.

Ballast Office: Essential repair works are required for the Ballast Office to prevent it from falling into disrepair. An appointment for design services was completed in April and investigative and structural surveys and inspections are in progress. Works are planned to commence in Q2 2020.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have commenced and are expected to be completed by January 2020.

WCC is reviewing the options for the street and public realm works following the rejection of the Part VIII application in January 2019.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Works are now substantially complete on Phase 1 of the Technology Park with some surfacing outstanding on the walking trails and minor landscaping works expected to be completed in November.

Gorey Market House: Following discussion at their July Monthly Meeting the members of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District have requested that the development of the 2012 Public Realm plan for the Market House be suspended and that the Council re-examine options for the development and operation of a multi-functional performance venue at the site as proposed in the Public Consultation Process of 2018.

This will require advancing the design and re-tendering for a services concession contract for proposals for the development and operation of the site as a performance venue.

This work will support the preparation of an application for capital funding for the project under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Wexford Arts Centre: An appointment for design services was completed in April and investigative and building surveys and inspections are substantially completed. The preliminary design is complete and the Part VIII process commenced on the 9th October 2019. Works are planned to commence on site in Q2 2020.

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 the project and the Part VIII process is due to commence in Q4 2019 with construction planned to be completed by Q1 2021.

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. The Part VIII process was advertised in May 2019 and the CE's report approving the development adopted by the members at the July Council meeting. A consultant has been appointed to prepare a detailed design and tender documents to advance the project to construction. An application for RRDF funding approval for this project in combination with the expansion of the New Ross tourism experiences was submitted in August 2019.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: A tender for the access road, car parking and walking trail works was advertised on the 14th of June 2019 and tenders were returned by the 12th of July 2019. Tender assessment is complete and a contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks. Works is expected to commence on site in November and is programmed to be completed by Q3 2020.

An RRDF application for funding for the scheme was submitted in August 2019 seeking support for the scheme.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Alan Sherwood & Associates has been appointed to prepare the feasibility study and an application to Failte Ireland for Capital Investment funding.

The project was presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting. The propositions options report is now complete and an application for funding for the project was submitted to Failte Ireland's Pathways to Growth programme in July 2019 with a decision pending in November 2019.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Part 8 approval was obtained in February 2019. Detailed designs and tender documents have been completed and tenders for construction works have been received and are being assessed. Works on site are planned to commence in Q1 2020. An RRDF application for funding for the scheme was submitted in August 2019 seeking support for the scheme.

Gorey Town Park: Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May and are due to be completed by April 2020.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway: Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents have been completed. Public information events were held in Wellingtonbridge & Rosslare Strand in May 2019. The preparation of the EIAR & NATURA Impact reports for the proposed development is underway and is to be completed in Q4-2019. An application for funding, submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/2018 was not successful.

New Ross to Waterford Greenway / South East Greenway: Section 85 and funding agreements have been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council & Waterford City & County Council to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority for this project. Detailed design is currently underway and it is planned to tender for a Works contractor in February 2020. Site investigation and vegetation clearance works are scheduled to commence in early November. Grant aid funding of €8.0m for the project was awarded from DTTAS on 21/06/2019.

Curracloe 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 Slobbs Special Protection Area.

The Council has reviewed the decision and met with the NPWS. It has been agreed that a scoping report be prepared, taking account of the concerns set out by NPWS and the ABP Planner's report, with a view to identifying alternative routes.

Wexford to Rosslare Greenway: Wexford County Council has undertaken a preliminary study to examine the potential for developing a greenway from Wexford town to Rosslare. Further route options assessment, studies and consultation are required to determine the feasibility of delivering this greenway prior to committing to preparing an application for planning consent.

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

HOUSING

Housing Supply Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Creagh	10	Gorey	Construction complete	Complete and occupied in July 2019
Danescastle	10	Rosslare	Construction complete	Complete and occupied in July 2019
Slippery Green	10	Wexford	Construction complete	Complete and occupied in Sept 2019
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in Nov 2019
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete March 2020
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing – due to complete in Oct 2019
The Ballagh	7	Enniscorthy	Under construction	On site 5 th June 2019
Taghmon	18	Rosslare	Under construction	On site 2 nd July 2019
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved stage 3 Q4 2019
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 3	Part VIII approved March 2019 Stage 2 approved
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Propose CPO of land for access
Rosetown, Rosslare	36	Rosslare	Stage 2 (with DHPLG)	Stage 3 submitted Sept 2019
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2 (Q4 2019)	Women's refuge, initial design review and costs
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG Q1 2020 consultants appointed
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	Nov 2019
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 2 Q4 2019	Consultants appointment
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 Oct 2019
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 1 approved	Part VIII Q1 2020 (reviewing Knotweed)
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 1	Stage 2 Q2 2020
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Demolitions – out to tender
TOTAL	300			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – DHPLG approved Sept 2019 in for Part VIII
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey (Buy & Renew)
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 1 –DHPLG approved Sept 2019
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (stage approved) 1	TAP house, site ownership to WCC – Land to transfer, single stage application made. Part VIII lodged
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – Funding approved from WCC Part V III August 2019
TOTAL	7		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water ongoing re upgrade
Tagoat	9	Wexford	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q4 2019)
Daphne View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussions commenced
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Early feasibility for suitability of the site been examined.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Survey and recommendations Q2 2019. Demolition and enabling works Q4 2019
TOTAL	87		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Survey 2019 (recommend sale)
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q1 2020
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling works 2020
TOTAL	7		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	10	Gorey	Delivered
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2020
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	13	Wexford	13 units to be delivered 2019
Knockmullen	18	Gorey	Delayed - now due to be delivered Q1 2020
Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 units to be delivered Q2 2020, 8 units to be delivered Q2 2021.
Hunters Hill , Gorey	3	Gorey	Delayed. To be delivered 2020.
Clonard	6	Wexford	To be delivered 2020
TOTAL	74		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin,	23	Gorey	21 units delivered, 2 to be delivered Q4 2019
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	35	Wexford	All units delivered
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	10	Gorey	4 units delivered. 3 completed to close soon. 3 units to be delivered Q4 2019.
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	Delayed. All units to deliver 2020
Riverchapel Lane	4	Gorey	4 units to be delivered Q4 2019
Michael St, New Ross	3	New Ross	3 units to be delivered Q4 2019
St. Martin's Rd, Rosslare Hbr	4	Rosslare	4 units complete. To close Q4 2019
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	Delayed. Additional 19 units to deliver 2020
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020 & 2021
TOTAL	158		

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			
Arthurstown	9	New Ross	Not proceeding
Ballyboggan, Castlebridge	10	Wexford	Occupied
Meadowfields	28	Enniscorthy	14 units occupied Q2 2019 and remainder to be occupied by Q4 2019
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be delivered Q4 2019
27 Hunters Green	1	Gorey	Occupied
Clonard, Wexford	10	Wexford	Units complete – to close Q4 2019
Oaklee			
Fearach an Cnoic, Greenville	46	Enniscorthy	All units occupied
Station Court	2	Gorey	Occupied
Respond			
Rivergate (2 Bed Units)	20	New Ross	Occupied
Cluid			
The Grange, Ferns	10	Enniscorthy	To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	Commenced Q3 2019
Tuath			
Gleann an Ghairdin	18	Gorey	To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019
Ard Uisce	7	Wexford	Occupied
Ramstown	56	Gorey	Planning Refused. Developer to re apply for 70 units.
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	10 units to be occupied by Q3 2020 remainder to be occupied as completed in 2020/2021
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	Funding approved by Department. Started on site Aug 2019. To be occupied 2020.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	Approval received for additional 9 units. To deliver 2020
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey	Approval received for additional 24 units. To deliver 2020
Circle			
Abbey Centre	10	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2019
TOTAL	382		

ENVIRONMENT

The Rosslare Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Plan was submitted to the OPW on the 18th October 2019. This is a crucial and strategic plan for Rosslare as if the proposed works are implemented the flooding risk from the Rosslare spit and the erosion threat to properties in the village in the long term will be mitigated thus protecting the future viability of the resort.

The Wexford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was approved by the elected members at the October meeting. The next phase of the plan is to start implementing the actions which will be brought before the first meeting of the new Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC.

The Pier and Harbour Bye-Laws are currently under review and the draft will be presented to the first meeting of the new Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC.

**The Annual Environment Awards will take place in the
Ferrycarrig Hotel on Monday 11th November at 7.00 p.m.**

COMMUNITY

INTERREG – Celtic Routes: On behalf of the project, the Project Officer gave a very well received presentation to the Marketing Subgroup of Visit Wexford. The Project Officer attended a Project Officers Meeting in Waterford for all EU Funded Project Officers in the South of Ireland.

The Project Officer organised and executed the EU and You day, this event was very well received both by staff and Elected Members. The Project Officer attended the Wexford County Council Tourism Strategy launch at Johnstown House. The Learning Journey applicants were advised as to whether or not they had received financial support from the Project. There were 11 successful applicants.

Carmarthenshire County Council on behalf of the Project and as Lead Partner, launched the project to trade and elected members on the 21st of October. Preparations are underway for the Irish Launch which will be on the 26th November 2019.

LEADER

There were five claims received for Article 48 check during the month of October. There were also eight claims paid out in October. These grants provided for the development of playgrounds at Monaseed and Shelmalier GAA club, the purchase of canoes by Gorey Courtown Forest Park, the addition of a new Savanah experience to the Dunbrody Famine ship, the purchase of glamping pods at Morriscastle caravan park and a training course for North Wexford Historical Society.

AGE FRIENDLY

Older People's Council AGM: Friday 18th October 2019 saw County Wexford's Older People's Council hold their Annual General Meeting in the Riverside Park Hotel. Over 70 older people and representatives of groups working with older people turned up at the meeting where they heard from Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Chairman of Wexford County Council, Kevin Molloy, Chairman of Wexford Older People's Council and Folklorist Michael Fortune.

An Garda Siochana, the Fire Service, Wexford PPN and the Housing Section were there to offer practical advice and supports for the attendees. A workshop was held to get the views and opinions of audience members on the issues facing them as well as the good things happening in the county for older people.

This feedback will be used by the Older Peoples Council Executive Committee in the coming year to determine their priorities and work plan and to assist them in their work with the local authority through the Age Friendly Alliance.

Age Friendly Alliance: The Age Friendly Alliance meeting took place on 8th October 2019 and included a presentation from Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian on the Library's services and initiatives for older people including the recently launched Age Friendly Libraries. Representatives from the various state and other agencies gave updates on progress made in their areas of work affecting older people.

Age Friendly Regional Manager: Age Friendly Ireland recently appointed Alice Corbett as Age Friendly Regional Manager and she will be responsible for supporting counties including Wexford, Wicklow, Waterford, Carlow, Kildare and Kilkenny with their Age Friendly work.

The Age Friendly Programme Managers from each of these counties met on the 11th October and formed a network to discuss ways to support each other while creating and sharing models of best practice. This work will help Programme Managers plan, prioritise and deliver according to the resources at their disposal. There will also be opportunities at regional level for training and rolling out models of best practice.

Ferns Bfriendly – Telephone Befriending Service for older people: The volunteer led service 'Ferns Bfriendly' which offers friendship and support to older people living in Ferns and the surrounding areas is now operational and making regular weekly phone calls to users of the service. A drop-in Information Event was organised in Ferns on 15th October to publicise the service and was very well attended by older people and members of the local community. This Befriending project is an LCDC initiative funded by Healthy Ireland and managed by the Community Development Section.

Cultural Companions: Cultural Companions, a volunteer led group supported by the Community Section and Arts Department of Wexford County Council continues to grow and currently has 122 members. It is aimed at people aged 50 and over who are interested in going to Arts and Cultural events but have no one to go with. It provides them with access to a network of like-minded people who attend events together as a group. Members are regularly sent a guide listing events that they can attend with other members and this is facilitated by a volunteer 'Meeter & Greeter'.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting: The LCDC meeting was held on 15th October and included presentations from Maria Lindell, Youth Officer, Wexford & Waterford ETB, Brian Toomey on Dementia Training for Businesses in Bunclody, Clare Ryan, WLD on the SICAP case study and Annette Dupuy on the PPN Annual Report 2018.

Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting: The LAG meeting was held on 15th October and included a presentation by Ciaran Lynch on his report and recommendations on the LDS Interim review. Also included was LEADER administration and programme reports.

Community Enhancement Programme – Funding for Men’s and Women’s Sheds:

Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development allocated funding of €19,634 to 16 Men’s and Women’s Sheds under the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 during October.

The Programme is administered by Wexford County Council’s Community Department on behalf of Wexford LCDC., with funding available to enable the groups to purchase equipment or to upgrade their premises through the provision of the small grant.

Comhairle na nÓg: The annual AGM of Comhairle na nÓg was held in the Council Chamber, County Hall on Thursday 24th October, 2019.

There were representatives of 20 second level schools in attendance. The theme for discussion on the day was “Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention”.

The young people have launched a hashtag campaign, #mindfulnessmonday, #tranquiltuesday, #wellbeingwednesday, #thankfulthursday, #feelgoodfriday, #socialsaturday, #selfcaresunday. This campaign was used to inspire an art campaign for positive mental health and the artwork will be displayed in a calendar. Those present at the AGM voted on which pieces of artwork will be displayed in the calendar. A workshop was also held on the day around the topic of “Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention”.

Playgrounds: Surface repairs were carried out at Assumption Terrace and Coolgreany playgrounds.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN): Wexford PPN provided further Representatives to the SPC and JPC resulting in an almost full complement of PPN Representatives. The one remaining seat will be filled when possible. Wexford PPN will advance induction for these new Reps in November.

Wexford PPN actively promoted Make Way Day 2019, which happened on 26th September. Prior to the event an email was issued to members advising them of the event and how to get involved. Wexford PPN also advised elected members of this opportunity. Through facebook, Wexford PPN promoted the opportunity for involvement in advance and activity on the day itself. Another development that Wexford PPN has promoted is the new Volunteer Centre in Wexford. We have worked with Volunteer Ireland to promote the board opportunities and highlighted the Public Meeting to members and generally through our social media.

The County Membership Meeting took place in on 8th October with a group of almost 70 in attendance. The theme was Sustainable Communities and included guest speakers from WexBeeAware and 3CEA. This was followed by a panel discussion in which our speaker were joined by other experts in the area such as Karen Finigan - Kilanerin SEC and Cool Planet Champion, Karin Dubsky- Coastwatch, and Brendan Cooney - Senior Executive Scientist, Wexford County Council to discuss ‘Small Changes we can make to save our planet’. The networking and chat continued well past 10pm, highlighting the engagement and interest in the topic.

The third National PPN Conference took place in Carlow on 10th & 11th October. Not only was Wexford PPN well represented with our Support Officer and Secretariat members but Wexford PPN was included in two of the three best practice examples presented on the day. The two day event saw a mix of agencies, Local Authority staff, Department Officials and PPN Members and volunteers engage to learn from each other and further develop PPNs.

Wexford PPN were delighted to have the opportunity to present to October meeting of the LCDC, highlighting work from 2018 and ongoing work in 2019.

Work continues on capacity building with the hope of delivering the An Cosan Introduction to Community Development programme in November.

October is both a month of re-registration and recruitment. The re-registration process began in late September with all groups required to re-register by 31st October to maintain membership and to have voting rights for 2019/20.

With limited worker resource the efforts focus on re-registration. However, volunteers have been continuing to promote Wexford PPN in an effort to encourage new registrations. Two such interactions are at the Older Peoples Council AGM and attendance at an event in Gorey library focusing on Migrants. Wexford PPN has also engaged with elected members to encourage re-registration and new registrations. Our PPN Support Officer will also present at the upcoming Residents Day organised by Wexford County Council.

Wexford Science Festival - Science Week 2019 – Award of Funding: Wexford County Council, Community Development and Libraries Sections have been awarded a research grant of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland to deliver the WexSci Wexford Science Festival. Science Week will run from 10th to 17th November, however we have extended our Festival to run from 11th to 24th November, 2019. **Wexford Science Festival with be launched on Saturday 16th November by Dr. Niamh Shaw at 10.15am in the National Opera House, Wexford.**

This grant is to organise, manage and deliver a Science Week Festival, in conjunction with the national Science Week campaign managed by Science Foundation Ireland. It will be led by Wexford County Council and will be delivered in partnership with I.T. Carlow; WWETB, EPA, BIM and Wexford Local Link and in collaboration with community groups, national, regional and local agencies.

A key aspect of WexSci 2019 will be the objective of encouraging participation from harder to reach members of disadvantaged communities, particularly in Southend, Clonroche and Taghmon. There are many events for targeted groups including Traveller Inclusion Projects, Youth Groups, School Completion Programmes and Family Resource Centres.

This year, Science Week will focus on climate action and seeks to help people to learn how science and technology can help us to create a positive climate future and also to understand the impact we, as individuals, can have on climate change.

More than 100 events for families and the general public are planned and will include a sustainability science show, Meet the Environmental Scientist career talks, a visit to a planetarium, a Rivers and Lakes talk and Cool Planet Climate Change Workshops. A range of “Meet the Scientist” career talks will provide a true insight into STEM related careers.

This year the Science Showcase comes to you from three locations, The Street at Wexford County Council, Carricklawn for family fun science events; from the National Opera House where you will hear lectures from renowned scientists Dr Niamh Shaw and Dr Sabina Brennan and artists Ann Cleary and Denis Connolly; and from Wexford Library for a demonstration and discussion on particles with Brendan Wallace where he will make the invisible visible.

There will be something for everyone and we hope you will bring your family, your school, your community group and your friends.

Healthy Ireland: Healthy Ireland – A Formal 2 Year Programme of Work was submitted for Approval on Friday the 20th September. Pobal have since sought a number of clarifications across each action ad funding stream and these were responded to.

Work is continuing on the Healthy Wexford Plan and should be ready to launch in the coming weeks. The Programme of Work was formerly approved at the LCDC meeting held on the 15th October 2019

2017 Town and Village Renewal: All drawdowns for the Community projects – Rosslare Harbour, Foulksmills and Bridgetown have been completed and received. The Contractors for the Playground in Bridgetown are currently on site and are working to complete same.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

European Week of Sport Objective 1.1: During this week tutors and gyms around Co.Wexford opened up their classes and facilities for free to the general public. Events took place in County hall for Wexford County Council staff. Total participants = 95

Sports Leaders Objective 1.2: Playmaker Primary School Training – 8 schools signed up for training until Christmas

I Can Lead – 3 secondary schools signed up
Women, Get set, Go – 1 school signed up

Staff Training Objective 1.2: Sports Active Wexford staff attended the following training during the month:

2 people - Designing Effective Behaviour Change interventions for Physical Activity
2 people – Men on the Move
1 person - Cara SIDO Training
1 person - Safeguarding
1 person – Pragmatic Evaluation

Autism in Sport Workshop Objective 2.2: 20 people trained and certified including staff from Sports Active Wexford, NGB development officers and the general public.

Community Coaching Objective 3.1: This course will start in LTI Courtown on Thursday 10th October and continue for the school year every Thursday.

Safeguarding Objective 3.2:

Safeguarding 1: 10 courses have been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 142 participants.

Safeguarding 2: 3 courses have been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 25 participants.

Safeguarding 3: 1 course has been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 11 participants.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Commemoration: Wexford County Council Library and Archive Service facilitated a consultation event on the next phase of the Decade of Commemoration in County Wexford on 24th October. A crowd of almost 180 people attended a lecture by Professor Eunan O’Halpin, Trinity College Dublin, entitled **‘Wexford and the War of Independence: who died, and why?’** Professor O’Halpin compared deaths in the War of Independence in Wexford with other counties and referenced the methods for historical research open to members of the public for the revolutionary period.

A brief overview of material for the 1919-23 period in the County Archive was outlined which included photographs and artefacts. The lecture was followed by a public consultation with the audience on suggestions as to how the next phase of the Decade of Centenaries should be commemorated in County Wexford. Attendees were requested to furnish details of relatives and any papers or memorabilia that they would like to deposit or loan to the Archive for digitisation.

Right to Read Champion Award: Mr Seán Canney TD, the Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, presented Right to Read Champion Awards to Wexford County Council in recognition of its ongoing efforts to support literacy development through the library service.

The Awards, which were hosted by the LGMA at Local Government House in Dublin, were presented in recognition of the support and promotion of literacy skills development through initiatives such as the 'Summer Stars Reading Programme' and 'Spring in to Storytime'.

The delivery of the Right to Read programme is led at local level by the public library services and the implementation is overseen by Right to Read co-ordinator. It is coordinated at national level by the Right to Read Steering Group, chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development in collaboration with Libraries Development in the LGMA.

Children's Book Festival and Maths Week: Wexford County Council Library Service had another very successful Children's Book Festival in 2019. Our five branches staged 89 events hosting approx. 2500 children and teenagers from all over Wexford. These highly interactive, educational and entertaining events took place throughout the month of October. Workshops ranged from award winning authors and illustrators to internationally acclaimed storytellers who delivered workshops with something to suit all ages and abilities from 0-18 years.

Maths Week (12-20 Oct) was another great success with more workshops offered in 2019 than ever before. These events ranged from Encryption events to Bricks4kids workshops with a large number of families and schools attending interactive workshops in all five library branches. These workshops were supported by the Maths Challenges posted on Wexford Libraries social media and these saw some excellent online engagement from the public.

ARTS

From the Mountain- Exhibition Opening County hall – 18 Oct 2019 A two venue exhibition in County hall and Wexford Art centre opened Fri 18th October to coincide with Wexford Festival Opera. This exhibition features work from the Arts Council of Ireland Collection and invited artists Orla bates, Stephen Brandes, Fran Greene, Paul Mc Kinley, Olivia O' Dwyer and Michael John Whelan. Public tours of the Tours of exhibition took place on Friday 26 October, and the Cultural companions tour is being held in November 2019.

Creative Hub – exhibitions – A two person exhibition of paintings by Oonagh Latchford and Lauren Breatnagh opened in the Creative Hub 3 October and will run until 3rd November 2019. Other Artists exhibition throughout the studios in Creative Hub for the festival include Bernadette Doolan, Helen Gaynor, Olivia O Dwyer, Tonia Kehoe, Ciaran Bowen and Kate Murphy.

WEX ART - To coincide with the Opera festival opera – The Arts Office supported a new initiative led by Tom Mooney called Wex Art – which consist of a Map of new exhibitions in Wexford to coincide with the festival, and arts, events. This is a new initiative led by Tom Mooney the aim of which is to promote and aid the sale of work of over 80 artists exhibiting

during the festival across 20 venues. 3000 maps printed and distributed to Opera House, hotels and all art / exhibition venues in Wexford.

Per Cent for Art Commissions, M11 Enniscorthy & Gorey: Christine's Mackey - 'Safe Hold – Pollinators Pastures' – Art Project: Safe Hold involves the artist working with on sites in Gorey and Enniscorthy and with local communities and bee-keeping associations in Wexford County to raise awareness about the plight of bees or wild pollinators in a project called *Safe Hold – Pollinating Pastures*.

One of the outcomes is permanent pollinating pastures developed with local communities (via Tidy Towns Gorey) in collaboration Wexford County Council Roads Department and Biodiversity Planning Offices. Fifteen public sites in Gorey town and outskirts have been cleared and planted with seeds by the artists and Gorey Tidy towns in May- June 2019. Sites in Enniscorthy have been identified and finalized in October 2019.

Creative Ireland: *Wagon Wheels* is a short documentary funded by a Creative Ireland grant from Wexford County Council. The documentary focuses on the folk art involved in painting traditional barrel top wagons in the county. The main subjects are a Traveller from New Ross, Johnny Murphy and a settled man from Wexford Town, Pipy Firman. The premiere of the film took place as part of the Fringe Festival in Wexford Arts Centre on Saturday 19th October with the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council officiating and a large crowd in attendance.

FIRE SERVICE

News: Wexford Fire Service ran a one-day On-Site Controller course designed primarily for those personnel from the three Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) who are charged with the co-ordination and control of the on-site multi-agency response to a major emergency.

Fire Operations: There were 71 incidents in September as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls Sept 2019	Calls to date 2019	Calls to this period 2018
Chimney fire	1	81	102
Domestic fire	3	45	66
Road Traffic Accident	10	78	84
Industrial fire	0	7	8
Commercial fire	0	7	4
Assembly fire	2	2	4
Agricultural fire	0	1	5
Motor Vehicles	3	33	48
Forest/bog/grass etc	6	67	191
Rubbish	4	55	49
Non-fire rescues	2	25	23
False alarms – good intent	27	192	214
Malicious false alarms	1	1	3
Miscellaneous	12	64	56
Total	71	658	857

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

Applications Received	Year to date	September
Fire Safety Certificates	95	10
Planning Referrals	783	84

Number of Inspections	Year to date	September
FSA Inspections	225	58

CIVIL DEFENCE: Duties: We completed 6 community support duties in August and September.

5th October, MMA Fight Night, Whites Hotel.
6th October, Wexford Athletics, JFK Park.
13th October, Wexford Athletics, Cross Country, Crogan.
13th October, Show jumping, Barnadown, Gorey
19th October, Barrow Challenge, Ambulance and Boat Crews
20th October, Rathgarogue, 7k Run

Weekly Training: Training continues on a weekly basis in Wexford – Monday Night Welfare, Wednesday Night Rescue, New Ross Monday Night, First Aid, Enniscorthy First Aid and Gorey Gorey Friday Nights first aid training.

Training Courses: The courses completed are as follows

5th – 6th October 2019 – Radio Course

Radio Course complete 5th & 6th October 2019, volunteers from all units attended the two day training course.

11th – 13th October – Level II Coxswains Course

We had three volunteers from Wexford complete their Level II Coxswains course in Waterford City Civil Defences training school. All three completed the course successfully.

Rescue Organisation Ireland –Baldonnel 19th October 2019: We were invited to attend a Rescue Organisation Ireland CPC event in Baldonnel on Saturday 19th October 2019. The day consisted of different scenarios from Road Traffic Collisions to pilot seats.

New Ford Ranger – Presented to Wexford Civil Defence by Minister Paul Kehoe TD:

The Minister for Defence, Minister Paul Kehoe TD, presented Wexford Civil Defence with an new ford Ranger in Wexford on Friday 11th October. The Ford Ranger was funded by the Department of Defence and the Dormant Fund accounts.



New Headquarters – Wexford Town: We continue to look for a suitable premises for a training Headquarters in Wexford Town.

4. Transportation, Water Services:

NATIONAL ROAD MAJOR SCHEMES

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme: M11, N80 Link and N30: The M11, N80 Link and N30 are now open to traffic. Works in relation to fencing, landscaping drainage and general housekeeping will be ongoing until contract completion in November 2019.

Side Roads: There are still outstanding works in relation to side roads which will involve the installation of Traffic Management on a temporary basis to enable the works to be carried out safely.

R772 (old N11 - Enniscorthy to Oilgate Road): Works are ongoing in relation to the construction of an agriculture underpass on the R772. Once these works are completed the Traffic Management will be removed. These works will be completed before the end of September.

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

N25 New Ross Bypass

Progress Update October 2019: The timeline for the completion of the design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is subject to ongoing review. Project stakeholders remain hopeful that the scheme will open before the end of the year, but recognise that this timeline is challenging and is to some extent subject to weather conditions.

Finishing works on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge are progressing well, with the installation of waterproofing, railings, barriers, drainage, kerbing and lighting all advancing on a co-ordinated works schedule. Pavement and road lining will follow along with the installation of bridge monitoring systems. Works for the removal of the three temporary piers and the temporary working platform at the river has also commenced. These works involve the planned demolition of three temporary concrete piers which were required during the construction phase and are now redundant. A schedule of inspections, audits and certifications also need to be closed out before the project can open to traffic.

Finishing works are also progressing on the mainline road and side roads. The completion of some final segments of pavement works are in progress along with outstanding fencing, drainage, signage, lining, landscaping and accommodation works. Measures are being incorporated along any areas of wide open verges on new sections side roads to discourage parking, and measures for the treatment of cul-de-sacs to discourage potential anti-social behaviour are also being incorporated. Snagging and road safety audit procedures are also being progressed to completion.

A tender competition has commenced for the upgrade of signage along the existing sections of public road network that will be bypassed.

Upon opening of the bypass signage on the bypassed sections of existing national primary roads will be changed to reflect their new status as regional roads. Consultation is ongoing with the project team leading the New Ross to Waterford Greenway which crosses over the bypass at the newly constructed Ballyverneen Railway Bridge.

Arrangements for an opening ceremony for the project are being progressed for further consultation with both local authorities and TII. Consultations are ongoing with all project stakeholders on a community charity walk prior to opening. Arrangements for a bridge dedication ceremony for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge are also currently being explored. Dates for these events will be confirmed as soon as possible following consultations with all of the relevant project stakeholders and elected representatives.

1. River Barrow Bridge – View from top of Pylon 4.





2. River Barrow Bridge – Aerial View from Pink Rock Downstream.

NATIONAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Overlay Schemes:

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney: This scheme was tendered in July. A contractor was appointed in August. This scheme will commence on September 30th and will be completed in the first quarter of 2020.

N11 Ballynaslaney to Kyle Upper: This scheme was tendered in July. A contractor was appointed in August. This scheme commenced in mid September and will be completed by November 15th.

N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne: This scheme is at design stage. TII Bridge Section has to carry out site investigation works in advance of tendering this scheme. It is hoped to tender this scheme before the end of 2019.

HD28 Schemes

Pavement repair Camolin Village: This pavement repair is due to be completed in November.

Pavement Repairs N25 Ring Road Wexford, N25 Orristown Junction Killinick: This scheme was tendered in October. A contractor will be appointed in November. This scheme will be commenced in the first quarter of 2020

HD17 Schemes

Junction Safety Improvements – N25 Tagoat: Safety Improvements funded By TII safety division commenced in October and will be completed in early November.

Other Schemes

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2: Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present. This scheme has been postponed until 2020.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

The 2019/2020 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 14 October. There has been one call out up to Monday 29 October.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Resurfacing/Strengthening: The strengthening programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 13 February.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month were: Campile (New Ross District).

Roads completed (Clause 804) in the last month were: Kilmyshall Rocks Road (Enniscorthy District). Cushenstown; Newbawn towards Carrigbyrne; (both in New Ross District).

Surface Dressing: The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 10 June. The county's surface dressing programme of 100km was completed on 6 September.

Community Involvement Schemes: Preparing roads for Community Involvement Schemes

Local Improvement Schemes: Preparing roads for Local Improvement Schemes in all Districts

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING LED UPGRADE

Public Lighting LED Upgrade (Non National Roads): Works have been completed on the 2019 upgrade which involved the replacement of up to 3,400 lanterns in Gorey, Courtown, Riverchapel, Ferns and Enniscorthy.

TII Energy Efficiency Scheme - N25 Killinick: 46 no. Son lanterns have been replaced with 23 no. LED lanterns reducing the energy consumption by 75%.

TII Energy Efficiency Scheme - N25 Tagoat: 26 no. Son lanterns will be replaced with LED lanterns reducing the energy consumption by 40%. This scheme will be completed by early November.

WATER SERVICES

A. Irish Water - Asset Delivery:

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade: Surveying work is continuing 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: New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. Planning permission was submitted by Irish Water Consultant, Nicholas O'Dwyer in May, 2019. Additional Information requested from WCC Planning for an additional environmental report. Tender documents being compiled by the Consultant with additional requirements from Irish Rail to be incorporated. New infrastructure expected to be operational in 2022.

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 have commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. Survey works originally due to be completed in December 2019, but manhole and other surveys deferred by Irish Water from August 2019 to restart in Wexford in January 2020.

IW Asset Delivery: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme: The preliminary design for the project is now complete and can be issued to the appointed Consultant / Contractor for design & build. Discussions with land owners are due to commence shortly. We will be in a position to issue a construction schedule shortly which will indicate a start & completion time scale.

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. The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. The contract has been awarded to Glan Agua with works expected to start on site in October/November 2019. Plant expected to be operational in early 2022.

IW Asset Delivery: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS): Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon: The project has been tendered and a preferred contractor has been selected. An application for planning permission has been granted by Wexford County Council. It is envisaged that construction will commence in early 2020 with the new plant operational by 2021.

Kilmore Quay: The scheme design is complete and ready to tender. Land acquisition is now finalised and a planning application will be lodged in November.

IW Asset Delivery: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network: A significant de scope of works by Gas Networks Ireland was issued in September which will affect the quantity of both gas mains to be installed and water mains to be rehabilitated under this contract. We are currently assessing the impact of this de scope to establish what works will be done and what may get delivered under alternative Irish water funding.

Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew: The crew has commenced a Water Main Rehabilitation Project in Askinamoe, Ferns approximately 1km long.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan: This project has successfully passed into Phase 2 Gates 2-3 detailed design which has commenced.

B. Irish Water Minor Schemes & Special Schemes

IW Asset Management: Murntown Pumping Station - operational 14th February 2019

- Proposed decommissioning works at Redwood Park WWTP – quotations with Irish Water for review.
- WWPS remedial works (snag list) and landscaping works ongoing on site. Contractor defects liability period in operation until May 2020.
- Installation of SCADA telemetry approved by Irish Water, with works to begin on site late in Q4 2019.

DPI Scheme: Somer's Way Rising Main, Ballycullane

- Contractor in place for rising main, formal contract pending agreement of insurances.
- Road opening licence application submitted.

DPI Scheme: Somer's Way Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ballycullane

- MEICA works (pumps and associated equipment) for conversion of WWTP to a pumping station – tender assessment ongoing.
- Associated civils works – tender assessment ongoing.
- New 3-phase electrical supply agreed with ESB, currently pricing associated civil works.

IW Asset Management: Fairgreen Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ballycullane

- Invest to save application for conversion to pumping station with rising main to Ballycullane WWTP main plant issued to Irish Water for review.

IW Asset Management: Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station

- Re-commissioning of the odour filter completed.
- HSQE works in foul sump being priced.
- Generator - Installation of fuel line and engine heater on-going on site, with completion in October.
- Generator - Switch-gear replacement prices returned and under review by Irish Water.

IW Asset Management: Sinnottstown Lane Wastewater Pumping Station

- New pump design and PS review completed based on actual current on-site flows including current on-going developments upstream. Business case approved by Irish Water, and contractor appointed, and expected on site November 2019.

IW Invest to Save Schemes (WW)

- New bulk storage systems for phosphorus-removal chemical dosing at Ballaghkeen and Ballymurn WWTPs installed and commissioned.

IW Asset Management: Telemetry Upgrades (WW)

- SCADA upgrades (IP radio) for Rosslare Strand and Enniscorthy WWTP and network WWPS's approved and contractor preparing programme of works.
- Additional telemetry signals at Trinity St WWPS, Ballymurn WWTP, Distillery Road WWPS, and Rosslare Strand WWTP approved by Irish Water, and contractor preparing programme of works.

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

Project is at final account stage. The upgrade works have enabled automated water treatment at both plants. Following the upgrade works Kilmallock has removed from the EPA's Remedial Action List.

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Disinfection works at Chestnut Grove, Woodview Drive, Raheen, Edermine, Monagear, Davidstown, Ballinellard, Boolavogue Camolin, Terrerath, Clonroche, Ballyhogue, Bree, Kilmuckridge Coolgreaney, Camolin, Castledockrell and Ballindaggin commissioned but require process proving.

Vinegar hill and Newtown commissioned. Some minor works outstanding at those locations. Works partially complete at Creagh, Carrigbyrne and Kilagooly .

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) are appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. To date works have been carried out in Enniscorthy in Bellefield and St Aidan's. Reinstatement works are currently underway for sites that have commenced. Additional works will continue on these sites in 2020. Works in Gorey at McCurtain St are complete, permanent road reinstatement will be carried out in 2020. Other sites in Enniscorthy, Taghmon and throughout County Wexford are at design stage with construction not expected until 2020. This WNP project will continue through 2020 with works to start on additional sites.

GMC Sierra are continuing to work on the WNP contract in Wexford town. New watermains have been installed in Bernadette Place, St Aidans Villas, Wygram, Bishopswater, Corish Park and Clifford Terrace to date. New connections for the properties at this locations will be provided by Irish Water's contractor subject to consent and agreement with the householders. Works are progressing at design, consent and construction stages at additional locations in Wexford town to provide new connections and remove shared services: St Ibars Villas, St Enda's Terrace, Hill St, Mannix Place, St John's Avenue, Barrack St, Fishers Row, Francis St, Glenna Terrace, Grogan's Rd, Carrigeen St, High St, Mary St, John St, Michael St, Kevin Barry St, Swan View, Rowe St Lower, Trinity St, The Faythe, Casa Rio.

Capital Maintenance Budget: CM is operating on a rolling budget since 2017. Current approved spend from IW is 2,795,971. Total commitments to end of July was €2,724,314. Capital maintenance funding is on hold for the remainder of the year except for emergency replacements.

B. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021:

- **Measure 2 Public Health Compliance:** €72,912 (Mullawn GWS €11,500/Kilanerlin €20,000/ Knockmarshall GWS €3000/ balance is for DBO Capital Replacement which has been claimed)
- **Measure 3 Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation (GWS Sector):** Measure 3 Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation (GWS Sector) €156,956 (Blackstairs GWS 2 No. projects €67,533 & €59,673 and €29,750 for Kilanerlin 2019)
- **Measure 5 Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes:** €834,638 (Bing GSS)
- **Measure 6 Community Connection Networks (Water):** €160,650 Connection to Public water Battletown CWC & Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC)
- **Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme:** Awaiting confirmation from Irish Water on takeover of both schemes.

WATER CONSERVATION

Water Conservation:

- Countywide consumption for September was on average 41.39 MLD, a reduction of 1.60 MLD since August 2019.
- New IW Leakage Management software, supplied by Crowder, is now live for Wexford County. Water Services staff are currently undergoing software training.
- Acoustic logger trial in Enniscorthy Low Level DMA is ongoing with HWM and EMR Solutions.

Leak Detection and Repair:

- 48nr leaks were detected and repaired in September 2019.
- An Enniscorthy pressure issue on the Old Dublin Road is now resolved with a saving of 8.0m³/hr.
- An Enniscorthy commercial internal leak, has also been resolved with a saving of 12.0m³/hr.
- Carrigbyrne leak detection and repair works have achieved a saving of 7.5m³/hr.

Water Network Programme with Coffey Northumberland/GMC:

- **Gorey:**
 - Reinstatement works on Grattan Terrace is to be completed by Coffey Northumberland.
- **New Ross:**
 - Charlton Hill has outstanding reinstatement works to be completed by DLC.
- **Wexford:**
 - GMC have completed BYS and mains rehab survey works in Wexford town in Bernadette place, Bishopswater and Wygram.
- **Enniscorthy:**
 - Private side lead replacement works in St Aidan's Villas has decommissioned the 2nd block. Leakage savings of 18.0m³/hr in total has been achieved on these works.

Find and Fix Scheme:

- DMA's have been selected for intensive leak detection works under the Find and Fix scheme, including Enniscorthy - Low Level, Enniscorthy - 7", Gorey - Fairy Lane, Gorey - Pollshone sth, Wexford - Rathaspeck, New Ross - Town Centre and South Regional - Duncannon/Arthurstown.

Pressure Management:

- Water Network Program pressure management works of new PRV's, chambers and kiosks will commence in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross areas.

SCADA-Telemetry:

- Works to the SCADA system are ongoing.
- Disinfection program works being uploaded as available.

Global Information System:

- Corrections to system are continuously being surveyed and digitised on the Arc GIS.

5. Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2018 - Audit

The 2018 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) formally commenced on 30th August and is now nearing completion. The statutory Audit Report will be brought to members and the Audit Committee once the audit is complete.

Audit Committee

The inaugural meeting of the new Audit Committee took place on Wednesday 16th October, 2019. Ms Madeleine Quirke was elected as chairperson of the committee. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 11th December and it is expected the committee will meet with the Local Government Auditor at that meeting to discuss the outcome of the 2018 Audit.

Rates Revaluation

The final date for submission of appeals by ratepayers to the Valuation Tribunal against revaluations received was 14th October. Since that date a total of 278 appeals have been notified to the council. The total value of rates currently under appeal amounts to €13m. This may not be the final figures for appeals as we understand the Valuation Tribunal are still dealing with a back log. The progress of these appeals will be monitored closely in light of the potential income loss that might arise to the council. It is likely to take some time for all appeals to be finalised.

The Rates Limitation Order (RLO) is still awaited. This order is required in order to formally determine the final ARV (Annual Rate on Valuation) to be applied in the county for 2020. One of the principles associated with the process is that the local authority cannot increase the total Rates Value in the year immediately following the Revaluation except by criteria as determined by the Rates Limitation Order associated with the Valuation Acts governing the process. The RLO is to include a factor for potential loss following appeals to the Valuation Tribunal and will be a critical factor in minimising the risk to the county's rating income. At the moment it is anticipated that the RLO will be known in early November. This is a critical element of budget preparation for 2020 and will inform the final Annual Rate on Valuation for 2020. Once the final ARV is determined by the Rates Limitation Order the council cannot approve any additional increase/decrease in 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.

Budget 2020

The Draft Budgetary Plans setting out proposed 2020 GMA Allocations for each of the Municipal Borough/Districts have all now been approved without change and will now be included in the 2020 Budget. Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2020 Budget and the Statutory Budget meeting will take place on Monday 25th November.

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. The application for borrowing by way of overdraft for the 2020 financial year in the amount of €13m has been submitted for Ministerial Sanction following approval of the council to this borrowing at the October meeting.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**