



Chief Executive's Report

October 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

VIKING FIRE FESTIVAL

The inaugural Viking Fire Festival was held in Wexford town over the weekend of the 28th September 2019. The festival despite the weather transformed the historical Wexford town back to its Viking heritage on the Wexford Quayside with a series of reenactors, workshops, Viking market, parade, archaeology dig and inferno fire display.

The Irish National Heritage Park was supported by Wexford County Council and Visit Wexford.



The festival will assist the tourism strategy to provide events outside the core season and improve tourism economic opportunities and visitors to the town in the off shoulder season.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Brexit Supports: The LEO participated at the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine Brexit event on Friday 27th September. The event entitled “Practical steps to keep agri-food trading moving” was held in Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. The event was opened by Minister Andrew Doyle to support SME’s in the agriculture, food and logistic sectors. Wexford LEO is currently planning to host a Wexford event next month and details to follow shortly.

Training: The schedule of training for Autumn/Winter 2019 was launched in early September and will provide 37 courses, workshops and clinics across a diverse range of training and capability supports. Programmes include the Brexit customer procedures; branding, social media.

National Women’s Enterprise Day: Wexford LEO is hosting a women’s enterprise day at Newbay House as part of the National Women’s Enterprise Day 2019 on the 17th October. There is an excellent programme of speakers including Mary Walsh – Ire Wel Pallets who is a National Ambassador as part of the discussion panel.
www.localenterprise.ie/wexford

Female Entrepreneurs: A new initiative for female entrepreneurs called” Female Entrepreneur Business Development Programme” is planned following the National Women’s Enterprise Day. The inaugural 3 day training initiative aims to specifically support women in business.

ECONOMIC

Business in the Community: The Economic Development Department partnered with Coláiste Abbain in a Skills@Work programme. This programme provides post primary school students in Transition Year with a unique insight into the world of work.

Sessions in the Skills @ Work programme involve a site visit, CV writing skills, mock interviews, Day in the Life insights and at the conclusion the class use their creativity to present their learnings.

This programme includes 4 separate sessions which provides invaluable experience for young students.

Invest Wexford: The economic team are currently carrying out a review of marketing tools to promote the County for investment.

TOURISM TEAM

Savannah Collaborates with County Wexford:

On September 4th a ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience New Ross to officially open a new attraction called “Savannah Landing Point”

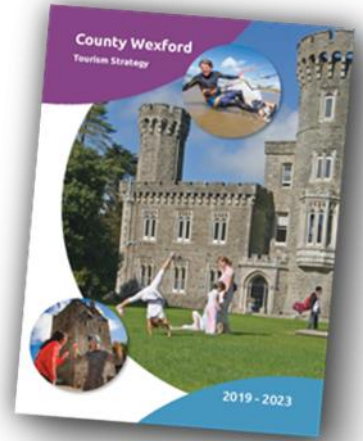
A delegation from Savannah Georgia made the trip to New Ross for the ceremony. Visit Savannah collaborated on this experience to tell a complete story of the Irish people who left Wexford during the Great Famine and arrived at the port of Savannah.



Georgia-grown cotton for the exhibit.

Led by Visit Savannah, the exhibit was supported by an array of partners in the US including the Savannah Economic Development Authority, the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, Bonitz, and Georgia Grown, with much of the factual research provided by Georgia Southern University professor Howard Keeley. Georgia Grown provided bales of real

Launch of Tourism Strategy: Wexford County Council's Tourism Strategy 2019 -2023 will be launched by the Chairman, Councillor Michael Sheehan on Monday 14th October, following the Council meeting at 6.00 p.m. at the new visitor centre at Johnstown Castle. Genesis an international strategic marketing and management group were commissioned to carry out the consultation and report the strategic plan given the importance of tourism to the Wexford economy.



The core aims for the strategy are as follows:

- Increase visitor numbers and revenue in a sustainable manner
- Provide recommendations to guide and stimulate investment and development in order to increase visitor numbers, drive economic growth and create sustainable employment
- Identify key product and experience priorities that will enable growth
- Pinpoint specific markets and segments that Wexford will target to drive growth.

BUCANIER (*Building Clusters and Networks in Innovation Enterprise and Research*)

Project Actions - September

- BUCANIER attended the Ploughing Championship, 4 companies supported to showcase their products in the Enterprise Tent, two from Wales and 2 from Ireland.
- BUCANIER had a stand in the InCarlow Tent at the Ploughing Championships where 9 of our companies showcased new products or new packaging
- 10 BUCANIER food and drink companies showcased their products at the food expo in CityWest on the 5th of September
- 49 companies now recruited
- Ongoing mentoring and support to companies on the project
- Full Irish partner meeting held in Gorey on 30th September

Planned Project Actions – October

- Filming of Innovation videos at IT Carlow 30/9 – 4/10
- Full project partner meeting 11/10
- EU project showcase at WCC 14/10 for EU week
- BUCANIER participant networking event in Carlow 16/10
- BUCANIER participants skills clinics 22/10 & 30/10

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 25/09/2019
1075

No. of invalid applications received up to 25/09/2019
221

Forward Planning: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy: In December 2018 the Southern Regional Assembly published the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) for public consultation. Following receipt of submissions the Regional Assembly decided to make amendments to the Strategy. It was deemed that a number of amendments were material and as such, would require further public display period in accordance with the requirements of section 24(8) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018.

The Proposed Material Amendments and associated Environmental Reports have been placed on public display and are available to view online at the offices of the Southern Regional Assembly in Waterford and at all constituent Local Authority Planning Department offices between Thursday 12th September 2019 and Friday 11th October 2019 (both dates inclusive). The Planning Section is currently preparing a submission on the Amendments.

County Development Plan 2020-2023: The preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan and other County Development Plans were paused by Statutory Instrument to ensure that they would align with 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: It is the overall aim of the Council to protect County Wexford's Biodiversity through actions and raising awareness. Wexford County Council is also signed up to the National Pollinator Plan 2015-2020.

Wex Bee Aware

Materials Bank for Bug/Bee Hotels: Work has commenced on the creation of a bug/bee hotel 'materials bank'. A pilot 'materials bank' is going to be set up in Holmestown Recycling Centre in collaboration with C+D providers, with the aim of rolling material banks to all other recycling centres in the County. A small disused freight container is to be 'freshened up' to store materials to make the hotels.



Work continued to support the Men's Sheds and the Girl Guides of Ireland to develop bio diversity in the County.

Building Control:

Commencement Notices: A total of 383 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 25th September 2019 on the BCMS.

| ENNISCORTHY | GOREY | NEW ROSS | WEXFORD |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 116 | 95 | 55 | 117 |

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites at 25th September 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 25/09/19 is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| ➤ Cases Opened | 139 |
| ➤ Live Cases | 267 |
| ➤ Cases Closed | 123 |

District Court Cases:

6 Planning enforcement cases were listed in the District Courts during September 2019

Wexford:

- Enforcement case 0003/2018 relating to unauthorised slurry lagoon at Bannow House, Carrig on Bannow, adjourned until 25th Nov 2019.
- Enforcement case 0012/2018 relating to unauthorised extraction of sand at Ballinra, Screen, adjourned until 25th Nov 2019.
- Enforcement case 0021/2018 relating to unauthorised car wash and shed at Ballynabola, New Ross, adjourned until 25th Nov 2019.
- Enforcement case 0038/2017 relating to unauthorised workshop / shed and log cabin at Robinstown, adjourned until 25th Nov 2019.

Gorey:

- Enforcement case 0041/2018 relating to unauthorised shed at Clonattin, Gorey, was struck out on 25th Sept 2019 following removal of the shed to comply with the Enforcement Notice.
- Enforcement case 0010/2017 relating to unauthorised advertising sign at Pirates Cove, Courtown, adjourned on 25th Sept 2019.

Disability Access:

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC Applications validated up to and including up to and including 27th September, totals **53**.

The number of DACs returned as invalid from 1st January totals **16**, 2 of which remain outstanding for re-submission.

Pre-assessment of Planning Referrals to date:

LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications **100**

2. Special Projects:

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

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 November 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 is required by mid October 2019.

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 mid-October. Works are progressing 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 associated road works (resurfacing, pedestrian crossings, etc.) and the works on the water side of the Crescent are planned to be finished by mid-October.

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 Q1 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 to be completed.

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 a Part VIII process is expected to commence in the coming weeks with works 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. Preparation of detailed design and tender documents has commenced to enable the project to advance to the construction stage.

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 mid-October 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 Q4 2019.

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 January 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 by December 2019.

An application for funding for the project was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018 and confirmation of grant aid funding of €8.0m for the project was received from DTTAS on 21/06/2019.

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 Slobs 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

WCC 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 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 | New Ross | 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 | New Ross | Under construction | On site 2 nd July 2019 |
| Ballynaboola | 1 | New Ross | Stage 3 | Boundary issues with owners not yet resolved |
| Whiterock Hill | 44 | Wexford | Stage 3 | Part VIII approved stage 3 Q3 2019 |
| Ballywish, Castlebridge | 11 | Wexford | Stage 2 Q1 2019 | Propose CPO of land for access |
| Rosetown, Rosslare | 36 | Wexford | Stage 2 (<i>with DHPLG</i>) | Stage 3 Sept 2019 |
| Maudlintown | 12 | Wexford | Preparing Stage 2 (<i>Q4 2019</i>) | Women's refuge, initial design review and costs |
| Carley's Bridge | 17 | Enniscorthy | Stage 2 (<i>with DHPLG</i>) | Part VIII approved March 2019 |
| Rosemary Heights, Ferns | 8 | Gorey | Stage 2 | Stage 2 to DHPLG Q1 2020 |
| 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 – Q4 2019 |
| TOTAL | 300 | | | |

Pre-development Stage

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| Marconi Park | 1 | Enniscorthy | Stage 1 – DHPLG approved Sept 2019 |
| 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 |
| Castlebridge | 1 | Wexford (stage 1 approved) | TAP house, site ownership to WCC – Land to transfer, single stage application made |
| 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 |
| Adamstown | 16 | New Ross | No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water ongoing re upgrade |
| Tagoat | 9 | Wexford | Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q3 2019) |
| Daphne View | 24 | Enniscorthy | Access issues – discussions commenced |
| Thomastown Road, Rosbercon | 10 | New Ross | Early feasibility |
| Bride Street | 2 | Wexford | Survey and recommendations Q2 2019. Demolition to enable works Q4 2019 |
| TOTAL | 87 | | |

Other Projects

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Newtown, Ferns | 1 | Gorey | Survey 2019 (recommend sale) |
| TOTAL | 1 | | |

Part V Acquisitions

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| Gleann an Ghairdin | 10 | Gorey | 10 units to be delivered 2019 |
| Estuary View, Crosstown | 2 | Wexford | Due to be delivered 2019 |
| Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill | 13 | Wexford | 13 units to be delivered 2019 |
| Knockmullen | 18 | Gorey | Delayed - now due to be delivered Q1 2020 |
| Mulgannon | 18 | Wexford | 14 units to be delivered 2020, 4 units to be delivered 2021. |
| Hunters Hill , Gorey | 3 | Gorey | To be delivered 2019 |
| Clonard | 6 | Wexford | To be delivered 2020 |
| TOTAL | 70 | | |

Turnkeys

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| Gleann an Ghairdin, | 23 | Gorey | 18 units delivered, 5 to be delivered 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. Remaining 6 units to be delivered Q3 2019. |
| Belvedere Road | 7 | Wexford | Delayed. All units to deliver 2020 |
| Riverchapel Lane | 4 | Gorey | 4 units to be delivered in 2019 |

| Project Address | No of Units | Municipal District Area | Comment |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Whitewater Estuary, Ballyhack | 3 | New Ross | 3 units to be delivered 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 to deliver Q3 2019 |
| Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill | 19 | Wexford | Additional 19 units to deliver 2019 |
| TOTAL | 111 | | |

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 | Delays due to legal and financial issues |
| Ballyboggan, Castlebridge | 10 | Wexford | Occupied |
| Meadowfields | 28 | Enniscorthy | 14 units occupied Q2 2019 and remainder to be occupied by Q3 2019 |
| Fort Road, Gorey | 11 | Gorey | To be delivered Q3 2019 |
| 27 Hunters Green | 1 | Gorey | Occupied |
| Clonard, Wexford | 10 | Wexford | To be delivered Q3 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 | Gorey | To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019 |
| Greenville Lane | 52 | Enniscorthy | Due to commence Q3 2019 |
| Tuath | | | |
| Glean 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 reapply. |
| 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. Started on site Aug 2019. To be occupied 2020. |
| Gleann an Ghairdin | 9 | Gorey | Approval received for additional 9 units to deliver 2019 |
| Gleann an Ghairdin | 24 | Gorey | Approval received for additional 24 units to deliver 2019 |
| Circle | | | |
| Abbey Centre | 10 | Enniscorthy | Delivered Q2 2019 |
| TOTAL | 467 | | |

ENVIRONMENT

In the 2019 Tidy Towns Awards, Wexford and Rosslare Strand were awarded silver medals, Blackwater, Gorey and Enniscorthy received bronze medals and Kilanerin won a Climate Action and Air Quality award and Mary Gethings of Ferns Tidy Towns won a local hero's award.

The Wexford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 will be present to the elected members at the October meeting.

The Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 will be presented to the elected members at the October meeting.

COMMUNITY

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): The LCDC and LAG (Local Action Group) will meet on Tuesday the 15th of October and the agenda includes a presentation on the LEADER mid-term review by Ciaran Lynch.

LEADER: A total of 7 claims were uploaded to the CRM system by the Implementing partner (WLD) for the month of September. Some seven Article 48 checks were completed on these claims.

Healthy Ireland: Wexford LCDC has been allocated €184,000 to implement a programme of work under HIF during the 2 year period. This consists of €107,000 in Year 1 and a further €77,000 in Year 2 subject to Pobal approval. The Wexford LCDC Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 3 submission has been made. The budget includes a provision of €62,000 for Community Mental Health.

Traveller Interagency Group (TIG): The group met on the 19th of September and made recommendations for the TIG explanatory leaflet. This will be finalised, launched and distributed before the year end.

Age Friendly Strategy: Members of the Community Services team met with Alice Corbett Age Friendly Regional Manager to discuss the supports the regional structure can bring

Bunclody Town Team: The Town team met on the 26th of September. The groups reviewed work done to date and discussed the next stage of the project.

Project Officers Meeting: Relevant staff met with counterparts in Wexford Local Development on the 26th of September to review the process for the Article 48 checks so as to ensure each stage can be dealt with effectively.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Sláintecare Integration Fund: In partnership with Wexford Mental Health Services, Wexford County Council and Waterford Institute of Technology, we have been awarded €100,000, to run the Exercise effect programme. This successful award was a part of 497 applications nationally, with 99 projects being awarded at local level.

Integrating Exercise Practitioners into the Irish Mental Health Service: facilitating community based physical activity interventions individually designed for improving wellbeing and social integration.

This successful proposal seeks to provide prescriptive professionally led community-based physical activity interventions to align with best practice recovery focused care for people with mental health difficulties. It will involve a partnership between HSE mental health services, a community sports programme, underpinned by research from a third level institution.

This 18 month project aims to employ an Exercise Practitioner who will integrate physical activity interventions across all sectors of the mental health services in County Wexford: general adult mental health, older adults; and child and adolescent services. This will be supported by researcher from Waterford Institute of Technology, based within Sports Active Wexford.

Schools Cricket Programmes Objective 1.2/3.1: The 2019 Wexford Schools Programme saw a total of 22 Primary Schools receiving cricket coaching. We offered two different delivery options: one-day taster sessions or multi-week sessions.

There were 7 schools that had never had cricket in their school. Of the 22 schools, 15 received one-day taster sessions, during which all the pupils or as many as could be fitted in on the day, received at least 30 minutes of cricket coaching. Throughout the 121 sessions a total of **3086** pupils involved in our schools programmes. These 3086 pupils had an average active time of 40 minutes.

The programme is supported by Leinster Cricket and Wexford Wanderers CC.

Bunclody Urban Adventure Hub Open Day: An open day was held inviting people to see what is available at the new hub in Bunclody. This was supported by Wexford and Waterford ETB. Over 40 people attended during the day.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Acquisition: Wexford County Archive acquired a collection of 16 framed 19th century photographs by Goddard Orpen (1852-1932) in late September. Orpen's work as a historian is well known but his competence as an amateur photographer has only come to light from the recent digitisation of a large number of glass plate and acetate negatives created by him which are part of his extensive archive held at Monskgrange, Rathnure.

His photography of rural life in north-west County Wexford in the 1890s forms a unique documentary collection of the period that is particularly valuable in terms of social and agricultural history.

Autism Friendly Library Service: Wexford County Council Public Library Service is delighted to be offering a new series of library events for autistic children this autumn in association with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Dormant Accounts Fund. Events include arts and crafts, Lego storytelling, yoga, dance and robots.

The events are tailored specifically for children with autism and their families and will be followed by a longer term plan for the integration of sensory spaces and quiet time in libraries in the coming months.

Home-bound Library Service: A pilot homebound library service is being introduced in the Wexford and Enniscorthy areas this autumn. The service, which is being designed with the assistance of the HSE, will deliver a selection of reading materials to people in their homes and in day care centres. The service is being coordinated through mobile library service and aims to reach those people in rural and urban areas who cannot attend the library themselves.

Age Friendly Library Service: An event to mark the National Recognition of Age Friendly Libraries was hosted on 1st October by Michael Ring, TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development in Kevin St Library, Dublin. New Ross Library became the first of the five libraries in County Wexford to achieve this recognition and will soon be followed by other libraries in the county.

Commemoration: Wexford County Council Library and Archive Service is facilitating a consultation about the next phase of the Decade of Commemoration in County Wexford. A lecture by Professor Eunan O'Halpin, Trinity College Dublin, entitled **'Wexford and the War of Independence: who died, and why?'** Will be held on Thursday, October 24th at 7pm in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. The lecture will be followed by a public consultation with the audience on suggestions as to how the period should be commemorated in County Wexford.

ARTS

Culture Night 2019: Wexford celebrated its biggest Culture Night ever on Friday 20th Sept in towns of Wexford, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross with other events also taking place in Bunclody and Hook Lighthouse. The programme of FREE arts and culture events took place from 5-10pm in all 5 libraries and in eleven venues in Wexford town, twelve venues in Gorey, eight venues in New Ross and four venues in Enniscorthy. Wexford Film Director Laura Way was Wexford's Culture Night Ambassador for 2019.

‘An Urgent Enquiry’ - Art & Biodiversity Residency: As another public outcome of his residency in Wexford, artist March Clare with Wexford artist Mairead Stafford, co-hosted two free public workshops at Johnstown Castle’s inaugural *Festival of Honey* on Saturday 28 Sept 2019. Titled the MISSING workshops - this family workshop explored the solitary bee that nests in sea shells along the eastern coastline. It involved learning more about this bee and its role in pollination as well as hosting clay workshops to produce individual shells.

These workshops are part of a larger body of work to be produced by the artist Mark Clare as an outcome of his research residency in Wexford. A film on the solitary bee will be screened at a later date. The other local authorities in Fingal and Dublin City Council are also hosting events as outcomes of their artist’s residencies in autumn 2019. For further information www.anurgentenquiry.ie

Music Generation: Music Generation is a partnership between Wexford County Council, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in Wexford. It works in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings. Activities for September 2019 included:

- Vocal Programme – 2nd year of vocal programme in 14 Primary schools.
- Instrumental programme started in 13 primary schools in Sept 2019.
- Instrument bank – musical instrument purchased.
- Musician CPD Workshop with Wexford/Waterford/Carlow & Kilkenny [Rob Kitchen](#) - Musician specialist in Body Percussion & Vocal Training.
- Musician Induction and Team Meeting with 20 musicians.
- Meeting 18 national schools regarding the development of the instrumental programme.
- 30 out of 32 schools in total have confirmed a Music Generation Wexford Programme for 2019/20.
- Completing schedules and contracts with 30 schools.
- Building instrument bank and asset tagging instruments with additional 270 ukuleles, 300 tin whistles.

Creative Ireland: Training workshops for artists are being provided in partnership Visual Arts Ireland and funded through Creative Ireland. These workshops deliver professional development/ business support workshops for Wexford artists. Workshops are being delivered in County Hall and Gorey School of Arts in autumn 2019. They include:

Writing about your work - took place County Hall Sept 18 led by writer Sue Rainsford
- Professionally Photographing your work – Tim Durnham – Oct 9 2019
How to work with curators – Brendan Fox - Gorey School of Arts – Nov 2019
Visual Artists café – Information clinic and networking day for artists – Gorey School of Arts- Nov 2019

FIRE SERVICE

News: The Fire Service in Wexford is currently going through a busy licensing period for all hotels, pubs and night clubs. A total of 97 licence applications have been made over the last 6 weeks.

Fire Operations : There were 68 incidents in August as detailed below.

| Incident Type | Calls August 2019 | Calls to date 2019 | Calls to this period 2018 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chimney fire | 1 | 80 | 94 |
| Domestic fire | 3 | 42 | 60 |
| Road Traffic Accident | 6 | 68 | 77 |
| Industrial fire | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Commercial fire | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| Assembly fire | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Agricultural fire | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Motor Vehicles | 8 | 30 | 40 |
| Forest/bog/grass etc | 8 | 61 | 178 |
| Rubbish | 4 | 51 | 43 |
| Non-fire rescues | 4 | 23 | 23 |
| False alarms – good intent | 25 | 165 | 196 |
| Malicious false alarms | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 6 | 52 | 51 |
| Total | 68 | 587 | 782 |

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

| Applications Received | Year to date | August |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Fire Safety Certificates | 85 | 13 |
| Planning Referrals | 699 | 107 |

| Number of Inspections | Year to date | August |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| FSA Inspections | 167 | 25 |

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties: We completed 12 community support duties in August and September.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2 nd August | Gorey Market House Festival |
| 3 rd August | Gorey Market House Festival |
| 4 th August | Gorey Market House Festival |
| 11 th August | Castlebridge Agricultural Show |
| 25 th August | Irish National Heritage Park, Craobh Loch Garman |
| 24 th August | Tintern Abbey, Lions Walk |
| 25 th August | Kilmore, Lions Walk |
| 15 th September | Parkfest, New Ross |
| 15 th September | Taghmon AC Cross Country |
| 22 nd September | Gusserane GAA, Tintern Run |
| 28 th September | Viking Festival, Wexford |
| 28 th September | Irish Heart Foundation, Park Run, Wexford |

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: We have completed a number of training courses to include instructor recertification, volunteer upskilling and a first aid course for members of Wexford Marinewatch. The courses completed are as follows:-

7th September, Radio Instructors Upskilling, Civil Defence College Roscrea, two instructors from Wexford attending the course for upskilling.

8th September, Food Safety and You, HQ Wexford: 12 volunteers from around the county completed the course with Instructors from the Wexford Welfare Unit.

13th September, Instructors Weekend, Ratra Dublin: We held a think in for all the instructors from Wexford to discuss training and community events. From the weekend a number of actions were raised and will need to be addressed during the coming training year. The weekend also identified items for inclusion on the next Civil Defence Development Plan.

17th September, National Ploughing: Wexford Civil Defence attended the National Ploughing to held staff the National Civil Defence Stand. Wexford also had their new Ford

Ranger on display, Wexford took delivery of the Ford Ranger at the end of July. The Ford Ranger is part funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

28th September 2019: Wexford Civil Defence will provide training for a further 19 members for Wexford Marinewatch. Wexford Civil Defence has provided support and training to Wexford Marinewatch since they were established.

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

M11Gorey 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 liaison with the public in relation to any issues that they may have in relation to the scheme,

N25 New Ross ByPass PPP Scheme

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2019 Budget | €365,000 |
| 2019 Expenditure to Date: | €63,239 |

Progress Update September 2019

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is currently scheduled to be complete in November of 2019. This timeline is challenging and is subject to ongoing review. Project stakeholders remain hopeful that the scheme will open before the end of the year.

The construction of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge achieved another significant milestone in September with the completion of the final closing deck section and all of the main structural works on the bridge superstructure are now complete. An intensive regime of sequenced finishing works are in progress. These works include the installation of waterproofing, railings, barriers, drainage, kerbing, pavement and lining as well as the installation of architectural and navigation lighting and bridge monitoring systems. The removal of temporary works such as the three temporary piers and the temporary working platform at the river is also required.

A schedule of inspections, audits and certifications also need to be closed out before the project can open to traffic.

Some finishing works remain to be completed on the mainline roads including some pavement works and also the completion of drainage, signage, lining, landscaping and accommodation works. A road closure order is in effect on the L4026 Stokestown Road until 4 October to facilitate the completion of road tie-in works. Finishing works also need to be completed on other side roads before they are handed back to the respective local authorities. These works include the completion of drainage, verges, 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.

Tender documents have been prepared 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 possible community fundraising walk prior to opening. Arrangements for a bridge dedication ceremony for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge are also currently being explored.



1. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Aerial View from Pink Rock.



2. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Aerial View from Stokestown.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.

This scheme was tendered in July. A contractor was appointed in August. This scheme commenced on 30 September, with a 12 week works programme.

N11 Ballynaslaney to Kyle Upper

This scheme was tendered in July. A contractor was appointed in August. The scheme commenced in mid-September and will be completed by 8 November.

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. This scheme should be tendered in November.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2

Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present.
This scheme has been postponed until 2020.

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: Dunanore (Enniscorthy District); Cahore towards Kilmichael (Gorey District); William Street; Castlebridge road (both in Wexford District).

Roads completed (Clause 804) in the last month were: Coolycarney to Ballindaggin; Corbally to Clolourish; Ballyfarnoge; Templescoby; Dranagh to Askinfarney (all in Enniscorthy District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 10 June.

Roads completed in the last month were: Harrow to JC Breens; Ballyfad to Rathpierce Upper; Milltown to Ballinakill; Ballycanew Roundabout to Ballykale; Ambersprings to Ballycanew Roundabout; Perrymount to Cronecribbin; Kilmichael to Ballyrahan; Island to Monbay; Harrow to Boolacreen; Moneybowe to Toberlamina; Askamore to Munny at Co Bounds; Rosminogue to Boley Cross; Ramstown Lower to Barnadown; Glascarraig Road; Bornacourtia to Litter More (all in Gorey District). Ballynabanoge to Ballyanne; Houseland to Churchtown; (both in New Ross District).
Galbally to Curracloe; Artramon (both in Wexford District).

General Maintenance

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING LED UPGRADE

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.

A. Irish Water – Asset Delivery

Irish Water Capital Schemes

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.

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 Carrigbyrne, approximately 1km long. Our next major pipe rehab is in askamoe in ferns starting at the Endo of September and lasting for approximately two months.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan

This project has successfully passed into Phase 2, detailed design which is commencing in Q4 2019.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

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

1. Proposed decommissioning works at Redwood Park WWTP (providing IW with schedule of works and quotation, meeting with Irish Water to be set up on site).
2. WWPS remedial works (snag list) and landscaping works ongoing. Contractor defects liability phase in operation until May 2020.
3. Quotation for installation of SCADA with IW for review.

DPI Scheme: Somer's Way Rising Main, Ballycullane

1. Contractor in place for rising main, formal contract pending agreement of insurances.
2. Road opening licence application submitted.
3. Issue with private access to plant addressed by Property Management and Wayleave signed by landowner Wednesday 24th April.

DPI Scheme: Somer's Way WWTP, Ballycullane

1. MEICA works (pumps and associated equipment) for conversion of WWTP to a pumping station – tender assessment ongoing.
2. Associated civils works – tender assessment ongoing.

IW Asset Management: Fairgreen WWTP, Ballycullane

1. Corrected issues with flooding of estate and brought plant back into operation (eliminated costs for tankering and public health risks).
2. Gathering data on operational costs to build case for invest to save application (Irish Water) for pumping station and rising main to Ballycullane WWTP main plant.

IW Asset Management: Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station

1. Re-commissioning of the odour filter completed.
2. HSQE works in foul sump being priced.
3. Generator defective switch-gear, fuel line and engine heater (identified by scheduled service) replacement works required. Procurement of fuel line and engine heater complete, expected on site in September. Generator switch-gear prices returned and under review by IW Energy Efficiency team.

IW Asset Management: Sinnottstown Lane Wastewater Pumping Station

1. New pump design and PS review completed based on actual current on-site flows including current on-going developments upstream. Quotations received from contractors, and assets needs brief currently being assessed by Irish Water under both capital maintenance and growth budgets.

IW Invest to Save Schemes

1. New bulk storage for higher concentration PAC at Ballaghkeen and Ballymurn currently being installed on site.

IW Asset Management: Telemetry Upgrades (WW)

1. SCADA upgrades for Rosslare Strand and Enniscorthy WWTP and network WWPS's approved 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.

Works complete at Vinegar hill and ready for commissioning. Works complete at Newtown and ready for commissioning pending control work at Edenvale pump station.

ESB to attend site at Killagoley and instrumentation required.

Works partially complete at Creagh and Carrigbyrne .

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, Killealy 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 Aidan's Villas, Wygram, Bishopswater, Corish Park and Clifford Terrace to date. New connections for the properties at these 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.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

Awaiting Response from DHPLG to submissions forwarded on 13th March, 2019.

Blackstairs Group Water Scheme

Design Documents ongoing for upgrade of 4km of network from the water treatment plant to the Poulpeasty storage tank. Site Investigation tender documents being prepared.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Awaiting confirmation on allocations from the DHPLG.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Awaiting confirmation from Irish Water on takeover of both schemes.

WATER CONSERVATION

Leak Detection and Repair:

- 49nr leaks were detected and repaired in August 2019.
- Countywide consumption for August was an average of 43.05 MLD.
- New IW Leakage Management software, supplied by Crowder will be live for Wexford in coming weeks.
- Acoustic logger trial in Enniscorthy Low Level DMA is ongoing.

Water Network Programme with Coffey Northumberland/GMC:

- First Fix scheme:
 - Coffey Northumberland are working throughout the county with customers to repair large customer side leaks.
- Gorey:
 - Ferns village rehab works completed by Coffey Northumberland. Leakage savings of 3.0m³/hr is achieved.
 - Ferns Askinamoe rehab works due to commence Oct 2019 by DLC.
- New Ross:
 - Charlton Hill has outstanding reinstatement works. Footpath will be completed by Coffey Northumberland September 2019. DLC will follow on and complete road reinstatement works.
- Wexford:
 - GMC have commenced 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 1nr block to date. Leakage savings of 7.0m³/hr has been achieved here.
 - The second block is due to be decommissioned in October 2019 pending consents.
 - Belfield Road BYS has 1300.0m of new main installed, connections pending.

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 is ongoing. 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 is scheduled for Wednesday 16th October, 2019, this will include election of the chairperson of the committee.

Rates Revaluation

Final certificates were issued to all rated occupiers in the county during September and 28 day appeal period available to those wishing to appeal the final result to the Valuation Tribunal will close in mid October. The Council must wait for the final outcome of the Revaluation process to formally determine the final ARV (Annual Rate on Valuation) to be applied in the county for 2020, using the provision of the Rates Limitation Order. 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. Therefore, once the final ARV is determined by the Rates Limitation Order the council cannot approve any additional increase/decrease the ARV as part of the Budget process.

The Valuation Office website contains a specific element focused on the Wexford Revaluation Exercise which is being updated as the process progresses. Wexford County Council also has information on the Revaluation Process published on the Council's website including the indicative ARV which has been determined at 0.257. This ARV rate may or may not have to be adjusted once the final revaluation data is determined.

Representatives from the Valuation Office held clinics for ratepayers in Wexford and Gorey on 23rd September. The Valuation Office has also published the following data in relation to the variances on rates liability expected to be experienced by ratepayers. This sets out the position across all 9 local authorities involved in the 2019 Revaluation process.

| Rating Authority (County Council) | Number of Properties | % of Ratepayers experiencing Reduced Rates Liability | % of Ratepayers experiencing Increased Rates Liability | % of Ratepayers experiencing No Change |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Cavan | 2,461 | 59.6% | 37.7% | 2.8% |
| Fingal (2nd Reval) | 5,897 | 66.2% | 25.8% | 8% |
| Louth | 4,237 | 61.3% | 34% | 4.7% |
| Meath | 4,495 | 63.6% | 32.4% | 4.3% |
| Monaghan | 2,390 | 58.8% | 37.8% | 3.4% |
| Tipperary | 5,204 | 64.4% | 31.2% | 4.5% |
| Wexford | 3,655 | 57.7% | 37.8% | 4.5% |
| Wicklow | 4,263 | 57.6% | 38% | 4.4% |
| Total | 32,602 | 61.7% | 33.4% | 4.9% |

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 Budget Strategy Meeting involving members of the CPG and cross party representation is scheduled to take place on Monday 7th October at 11am. This meeting will involve discussion on the main funding source for budget 2020 and also consideration of factors informing the formulation of the budget known at this time.

Risk Remediation Programme

An update report on progress completed on the Risk Remediation Programme together with an update on the next phase has been circulated as part of the meeting documentation. This project primarily focuses on footpaths and walkways with a view to targeting sites of repeat insurance claims and/or high risk sites to mitigate risk to citizens and associated insurance claims.

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. It is now necessary to apply for Ministerial Sanction for borrowing by way of overdraft for the 2020 financial year and approval of the council is required to initiate this process. This borrowing requirement is included as a separate item on the agenda for the October meeting.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**