



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**December 2017**

## 1.Economic Development & Planning:

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

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**NZEB Memorandum of Understanding:** On November 16<sup>th</sup> 2017, A memorandum of understanding was signed between the United Nations, the Irish Government, Wexford County Council and NZEBRA, committing the partners to establishing a UNECE\* Centre of Excellence in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, Ireland,

The signing took place in the Council Chamber, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford where guests were addressed by each of the partner groups including

- Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr Eoghan Murphy TD;
- Director for Sustainable Energy at UNECE, Mr Scott Foster;
- Managing Director, nZEBRA, Mr Tomas O'Leary;
- Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Hegarty and
- Chief Executive of Wexford County Council, Mr Tom Enright.

A short video capturing the event is available to view here: <https://vimeo.com/243849252> password is 'nzeb' and will be shared across social media.

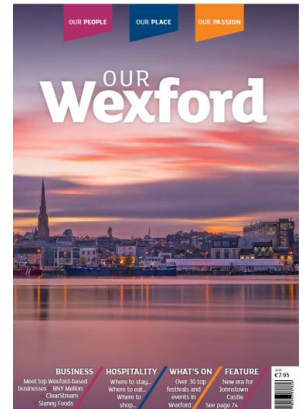
*\*United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.*

**Southeast Radio Outside Broadcast – The Hatch Lab, Gorey November 16<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Southeast Radio held an Outside Broadcast from The Hatch Lab, Gorey on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. The Broadcast included coverage of the Economic Development strategy for Wexford County Council by the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council John Hegarty and Director of Services Tony Larkin.

M11 Business Campus developer Paddy Redmond and Jim Hughes, President of Gorey Chamber spoke about the broader business environment and success that Gorey as a destination is having in recent years. John O'Connor CEO The Hatch Lab and Tom Banville, Head of Enterprise talked about the project development and progress to date and they were joined also by Bank of Irelands JJ Keyes to talk about the partnership they progressed with Wexford County Council in operating The Hatch Lab. Alan also spent time with some of the new entrepreneurs that have taken up residency including Vanessa Tierney, Cyril Byrne and Roya Elision.

**Chambers Meetings:** Director of Services, Tony Larkin accompanied by District Directors and District Managers have attending a range of information events hosted by the Chambers of Business around the county in the past 6 weeks. The objective of the events is to meet with the Ratepayers to outline the ambitious economic programme the Council is progressing. The events have been well attended and the programme very well received.

**Our Wexford Magazine 2018:** The new 2018 edition of the Our Wexford Magazine will be available in December 2017 from Economic Development Section.



### **New Ross Business Awards 2017 Winners**

- Best in Tourism: Creacon Wellness Retreat
- Best New Start-Up: The Clothesline Boutique
- Business Woman of the Year: Anne Marie Finn (Lady Melia Fashions)
- Professional Services Award: Doyle & Partners Integrated Design Ltd
- Community & Social Enterprise Award: New Ross Credit Union
- Sports Club of the Year Award: New Ross Boat Club
- Employee of the Year Award: Colette O' Donoghue Sheridan Insurances
- Small Business of the Year: Loftus Hall
- Best in Retail Experience: Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience & Restaurant
- New Ross & District Person of the Year: Mary Browne
- Social Media Award: Lady Melia Fashions
- Overall Business of the Year Award: Creacon Wellness Retreat

**TedX Wexford 2017:** TedX Wexford took place on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 with 8 quality speakers:

- Caoimhe Butterly
- Dil Wickremasinghe
- Linda Sheridan
- Peter Sheekey
- Roie Galitz
- Dr Emmanuel G Reynaud
- Yusuf Omar
- Colm Mc Con Iomaire

Videos from the event will be available on [www.tedxwexford.ie](http://www.tedxwexford.ie) in the coming weeks.

**New Wexford Film Locations Website Launched:** Wexford County Council in partnership with Creative Ireland went live with a new Wexford Films Locations website on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The site will help to promote the county as a great place for location filming and ultimately help to attract more film investment into the county. Home to major film productions such as 'Saving Private Ryan', 'The Sea' and the more recent Oscar nominated 'Brooklyn', Wexford county has a stunning and varied landscape with a rich maritime and Norman heritage; lending itself well to the variety that film location companies need.

Earlier this year Film locations Manager Gordon Wycherley who worked on 'Brooklyn', was contracted by Wexford County Council's Arts & Economic Development Departments to audit the county and create an extensive photo database of locations that would particularly appeal to film companies and film location managers.

The result is an extensive photo data base incorporating more than 4,000 images divided into over twenty categories such as Beaches, Castles, Rivers, Period Houses, villages etc all incorporated into an easy to navigate website.

The new website went live in early November with Wexford writer & Ambassador Eoin Colfer joining the Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Hegarty in the National Opera House to mark the occasion. "We are really pleased with the launch of the website" said Cllr Hegarty, "as it makes the County much more accessible to film location managers. Having an industry eye in Gordon Wycherley to capture locations around the county and by working closely with the Irish Film Board, supported by Creative Ireland, we are confident that we will create more opportunity for Wexford in this sector." Wexford Ambassador Eoin Colfer added 'Location filming is worth a lot of money these days and Wexford has as much to offer as any other county in this area – I'm delighted to see the site being launched and have no doubt it will attract more interest in the County'"

Ireland has experienced record levels of film production in the last two years, with the Irish Film Board estimating a €250 million spend on feature films, TV drama and animation. The indigenous and overseas film industry now has firm roots developed in Ireland; not least due to the Government Section 481 tax incentive. In 2015, the Government announced a revised and improved version of the incentive to act as a stimulus to the growth of the film industry in Ireland. The scheme provides direct support to film production companies in the form of a corporation tax credit at a rate of 32 per cent of the cost of production of certain films, with the company receiving the incentive in the form of a cash rebate, based on a notional overpayment of corporation tax.

Economic Development Officer for Wexford, Carolyne Godkin added "The attraction of Ireland in attracting overseas location filming is well-established but its important not to underestimate how strong our indigenous industry has become. Citing the Countys' most recent success, the Irish Film Board supported gothic horror movie 'The Lodgers', was produced by the Dublin based production company, Tailored Films. Carolyne said "Tailored Films took advantage of one of the Countys' most iconic heritage buildings – Loftus Hall as the suitably spooky setting for their movie. The company effectively moved down to Wexford with over 100 cast and crew for a 6-week period in late 2016, filming the vast majority of the movie in Loftus Hall, Johnstown Castle and Clongeen Village and bringing a boost in sales to many local businesses."



By working closely with the Irish Film Board to ensure the new site is promoted to location managers at home and round the globe, Liz Burns, Arts Officer Wexford County Council outlined the plans for growth “As well as linking and promoting the WexfordFilmLocations.ie site through online and social media platforms, our plan is to continue to take advantage of film opportunities where we can and in particular to build a local film crew database to which we can promote these opportunities.”

For further information, visit [www.wexfordfilmlocations.ie](http://www.wexfordfilmlocations.ie)

## **TOURISM**

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**Irelands Ancient East:** A concern for tourism in Wexford is to actively promote the promotional brand Irelands Ancient East. In order to become a key destination the IAE brand must be instantly associated with our tourism offering. Norma has visited and presented on the use of the brand to several key tourism groups including Hook Tourism, Enniscorthy Chamber, the hotel marketing subcommittee and individual businesses and the District Managers to feature and connect with the brand. Feedback has been positive and updates are underway in order to grow the presence of Wexford as a destination within IAE.

**Visit Wexford Website Update:** A tender document was sent to 10 website providers and presentations are scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> November with a final decision to be made at the Visit Wexford Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November for the new design of the Visit Wexford website. The new website will have an engaging tone with itineraries promoting the tourism offering of the overall region but with a focus on bed nights and more reasons to visit and extend their stay in Wexford.

**Trade Show attendance:** Visit Wexford Marketing Subcommittee have agreed attendance at Balmoral, Bloom, The Horse Show & the Ploughing Championship this year. Visit Wexford will also be represented at the Failte Ireland international trade show conference Meithael under Irelands Ancient East to promote the county.

**Wexford County Tourism Strategy 2018–2022:** The initial kick off meeting took place with the main steering group and by the contracted consultants Genesis. As the project progresses Visit Wexford will assist with feedback and support in any means to support this project to research, develop and provide a Tourism Strategy for Wexford County Council 2018 – 2022.

## **LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) TEAM**

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### **Key Performance Metrics for 2017 – End of year Scorecard**

- €240,649 allocated in grant aid to 13 Businesses:
  - a. 4 Feasibility Grants € 33,449
  - b. 6 Priming Grants €150,610
  - c. 3 Business Expansion Grants € 56,590

- 31 Trading Online Vouchers Allocated € 55,052
- 36 Trade Show Grants Allocated € 25,746
- 11 Export Marketing Grants Allocated € 22,186
- 3 LEO Innovation Investment Fund allocations € 75,000
- 2 Creative Corridor Projects Allocated € 22,500
- 20 Micro Finance Applications processed with 13 approved for loans of €235,000
- 992 participants attended 83 Business Training Events
- 114 Business Mentoring Assignments
  - a. 254 mentor meetings arranged during 2017
- 1290 Students from 19 Second Level Schools in the County participated on the Student Enterprise Programme between Sept 2016 and April 2017.
- 20 Owner Managers completed the Waterford Institute of Technology certified Owner Manager Development Programme run between Sept 2016 to March 2017
- Grainne Kenny, Textile Designer represented LEO Wexford at the International Showcase exhibition in the RDS January 2017
- Hugh Kenny of Coatek represented LEO Wexford in the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore in September 2017
- Willie Devereux of Scup Gelato represented LEO Wexford at the National Enterprise Awards in May in the Mansion House, Dublin
- 54 Entries for Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur Competition in County Wexford.
  - a. Business Bootcamp held with 18 of the IBYE entries
  - b. Wexford County Final held on Friday 24th Nov

**Wexford's Best Young Entrepreneurs Announced:** Wexford's best young entrepreneurs have been announced at the County Final of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) competition. Run by the Local Enterprise Offices, IBYE is supported by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Enterprise Ireland. Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, this year attracted almost 1,500 applications nationwide.

There was joy for **Richard Malone, aged 27, Fashion Designer**, located in Wexford as he was named winner of the **Best Established Business** award. Richard was joined by Caroline Martin, aged 26 of Wedding Creations in Tomhaggard, who took the runner up title in this category.

The Best Start Up category was a particularly hard-fought contest. **Brian Kenny, aged 21 of MyShowAdvisor** in Enniscorthy was named winner while Robert Tierney, aged 29 of Boom Media in Gorey was named runner-up.

Many innovative new business concepts emerged in the **Best Business Idea** category. The winner was **Robert Byrne, aged 20 of ConnectJobs.com** in Enniscorthy while Sandra Martin, aged 34 of Bosca Spraoi in Wexford scooped the runner up title.

Brian Kenny of MyShowAdvisor was named the Overall Winner of IBYE for County Wexford.

## PLANNING

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### Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 22/11/2017	1,259
No. of pre planning requests up to 22/11/2017	757

**Strategic Housing Development:** An Bórd Pleanála have received an application for 387 dwelling units at Carcur.

Pursuant to Article 285 (5) (b) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Housing Development) Regulations 2017, the prospective applicant has been notified that further information is requested prior to submission of any Planning Application.

**Forward Planning:** *Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 and the Preparation of New County Development Plan: Having completed the consultation process, the Forward Planning team are now working on the preparation of the pre-draft Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025. It is anticipated that the pre-draft plan will be presented to the Members at the end of Q1 2018.*

The following Consultants have been appointed to prepare the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment; Brady Shipman Martin, JBA Consulting and Scott Cawley Ltd.

Future Analytics have now been appointed to prepare both the Retail Strategy and Housing Strategy. Non-statutory Stakeholder Meetings have been organised for early December in all of the main four towns as part of the Retail Strategy.

### **Review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended)**

Work has commenced on the review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 and the preparation of a new plan for the area.

**Heritage:** **Structures at Risk Fund 2017:** St. Iberius Church, Wexford Town, received a grant of €30,000 towards conservation works to the façade of the Church, which was funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Total expenditure exceeding €40,000 contributed to an estimated 150 days of employment.



**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017:** A total of €86,356.78 was paid to 11 projects under the above Scheme, which is funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

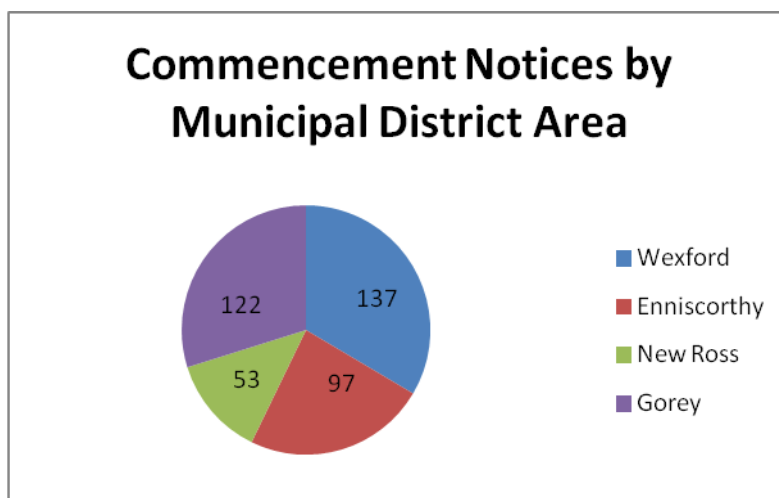
Private matching funding by the owners of the structures amounted to €124,000 with an estimated 790 days of employment generated by the grant aided works. The Scheme has ensured the survival of thatched cottages, preservation of original historic features and improved the energy efficiency of the protected structures, as well as fostering owner-appreciation for the importance of these buildings.





## **Building Control:**

- **Commencement Notices:** *A total of 409 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017 on the BCMS. A total of 28% were inspected to ensure compliance with building regulations.*



- **Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites:**

### **Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:**

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990: January	45 since 1 <sup>st</sup>
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964: January	10 since 1 <sup>st</sup>
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015: January	6 since 1 <sup>st</sup>

**Planning Enforcement:** The number of planning enforcement cases as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 is as follows:

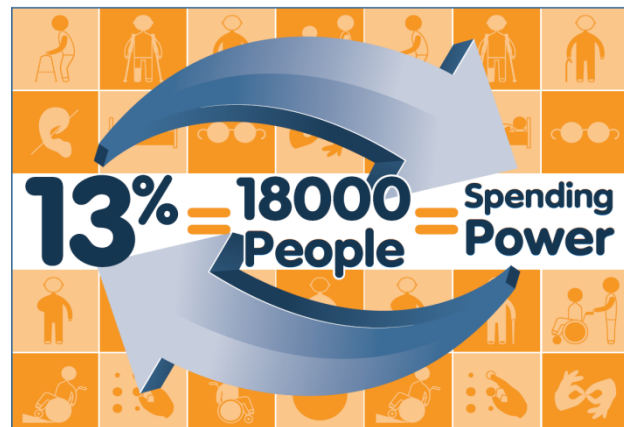
➤ Cases Opened – November	3
➤ Live Cases	450
➤ Cases Closed - November	16

**Gorey District Court:** 0116/2016 - OH Builders Ltd, (completion of access road to 4 houses) development at Gleann Tire, Killowen, Gorey. Case struck out as Company has been dissolved.

**Access Section: Disability Access Certificates (DAC):** The current number of Disability Access Certificate applications validated, for the period up to and including the 22/09/17, totals 45 with a further one currently going through admin/technical validation. This is an increase of 10 applications from the previous report in September.

Current applications include:

- Two DAC applications for extensions to schools, Boolavogue National School and St. Marys Secondary School, New Ross
- An Breacadh Nua – Ard Aoibhinn Services had submitted a DAC application for the Old Library Building, Redmond Square Car Park, Selskar.



**Slade Harbour:** This accessibility works, to provide a new ramp and stepped approach, are on-going with some revisions based on onsite constraints.

**Retail Booklet:** It is expected that the Access for All guidance booklet '*Improve Access Increase Income*' designed for businesses will be available in early October. The aim of this booklet is to inform on some of the basic and low cost principals to improve access for local businesses to assist in making their services more accessible for all.

13% of County Wexford's population of approximately 145,000 are registered as having a disability. This equates to 18,000 people who may not be able to avail of services or purchase goods from local business because of access related issues.

## 2. Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** The Park obtained Part 8 Planning in April, 2016 based on a preliminary design by Wexford County Council. Consultants Brady Shipman Martin have been appointment and are currently preparing detailed design and contract documents. A tendering process for construction will commence in December 2017 and a contractor will be appointed by March, 2018. Preliminary enabling works commenced on site in June and were completed in October.

**Wexford Quays:** Architects Scott Tallon Walker has completed the draft Stage 2A report on the Economic Development and Spatial Implementation Plan for the Wexford Quay front. This report was issued to the Council's Quays Working Group for review in August and comments returned to STW for inclusion in the report. STW are working to amend and complete the report for issue to Wexford County Council in December.

**Trinity Wharf:** The Trinity Wharf site was acquired by Wexford Co. Council to attract investment and stimulate economic development in Wexford. Architects, Scott Tallon Walker will prepare a master plan for the development of the lands.

The master plan will be available in Qtr. 2, 2018 and will facilitate an application for the planning and development of the lands.

**Crescent Quay/Ballast Office:** A package of Improvement Works in the Crescent Quay Area is currently being formulated as the first Phase of the overall plan for the Quay Front Area.

These works will enhance and upgrade the public realm around the Crescent / Waterfront areas and create pedestrian links from Main Street to the Quays and the water front.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** The strategy plan is being finalised and will be presented to the members in November 2017.

**Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley:** Reddy Architecture + Urbanism have been appointed to develop the master plan, secure planning and develop & construct infrastructure services for the Enniscorthy Business Park at Killagoley. Initial surveys, studies and site investigation works are substantially completed and the development of master plan layouts is underway. An application for planning will be submitted in December 2017.

**New Ross Business Park:** Wexford Co. Council has prepared documents for obtaining expressions of interest from developers willing to partner Wexford County Council in delivering an advanced technology building on this site. The pre-qualification stage was advertised on eTenders in September and submissions are currently being reviewed. Qualified applicants will be invited to submit a full tender submission early in the New Year.

**Gorey Market House:** The project approach to be adopted was accepted by the members at the September district meeting following a report by Special Projects. Following pre-qualification, qualified applicants will be invited to submit a full tender setting out detailed proposals to progress the project in line with the Council's objectives and taking account of the building's importance as a focal point on Main Street and its status as a protected structure. A Part 8 application and conservation report is being prepared and will be advertised in January 2018.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding of €1m has been approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. Wexford County Council have committed to providing matching funding. Bucholz McEvoy Architects have been appointed to review existing plans and to develop a detailed design Brief for Services. Funding must be expended by March 2020.

**Carrigfoyle Activity Centre:** Wexford County Council is preparing a brief for services for the design and tender of infrastructural work at Carrigfoyle as the initial stage of a project to develop an activity centre on the lands. Construction of the infrastructural works is planned to commence in June 2018.

**Enniscorthy Tourism Project** A project has commenced to create a vision and opportunity plan to develop Enniscorthy town as a tourism destination. Wexford County Council are conducting an in-depth analysis of the current tourism situation and a feasibility study to develop and implement a major plan to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination.

## **Greenways:**

### **Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.**

Wexford County Council has procured services to examine the feasibility of developing a greenway from Rosslare Harbour to Waterford City. The study will review route options for the greenway, including the use of the rail corridor from Rosslare Strand to Waterford, prepare baseline environmental studies and prepare and submit planning applications over the next 12 months.

### **New Ross Red Bridge Greenway and Walking Trail.**

The development of a greenway around New Ross, linking with Kilkenny County Council's planned greenway from Rosbercon to Waterford City, is currently at the planning stage. Separate Part VIII applications will be submitted for sections of the route in Kilkenny County Council's functional area in Qtr. 1 2018.

### **Greenway Regional Strategy**

Wexford County Council, in its function as the lead authority for the regional greenway office is preparing a regional strategy for the development of an integrated network of greenways across the South East.

It is planned that this network of Greenways would be developed as a major tourism resource that links with national greenways and opens up the South East region to the activity, leisure and recreational tourism market nationally.

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

**Housing Supply:** A number of housing capital projects have been approved by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and are progressing to construction stage:-

### **Construction Complete**

- **Francis Street, Wexford** – Construction complete (see photo). This house has now been allocated.
- **No 41 St Martin's Park, Ballycullane** – Construction complete.
- **No 5 Mountain View in Rathnure** – Construction complete and tenants have moved in.





#### Under Construction

- **2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate** – Roofs on, windows and doors installed, rendering complete. Project on programme for completion in May 2018
- **8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy** – Under construction (see below). Eight bases in, including radon barriers, blockwork underway on houses and dividing walls.



- **2 houses in Cois Mara, Rosslare** – under construction, block work complete houses to be sealed in by Christmas. On programme to date.

#### Stage 4

- **9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey** – First tender was unsuccessful and was terminated. Stage 4 approved by DHP, construction to commence in December, 2017.



### Stage 3

- **10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey** –Stage 3 approved in October 2017. Expect to tender in November, 2017.
- **1 house at Ross Road Enniscorthy** – Tenders due back end November, 2017.
- **10 Houses in Danescastle** – Stage 3 approved by DHP, tender in December, 2017.
- **10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford** – stage 3 approved Oct 2017. Tenders return date 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.



### Stage 2

- **7 Houses in Coolcots** – preparing Stage 3 for submission in January 2018.



### Stage 1

- **1 House in Castlemoyle** for Special Needs – Awaiting Stage 2 approval, submitted Part VIII.
- **40 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford** – Stage 2 submission to be lodged in December 2017.



- **3 Units at King Street, Wexford** – Stage 2 detail costing to be submitted in December 2017. Part VIII submitted to Planning in November 2017.
- **14 Houses in Carricklawn** – Stage 1 in June 2017, Stage 2 under preparation for December 2017. This will be a 2018 project.
- **18 houses in Taghmon** – Consultants appointed. Stage 2 January 2018.
- **1 house in Castlemoyle** - Stage 2 was submitted in Sept 2017 Costs to be brought down prior to proceeding to Stage 3 with DHP for Stage 2 approval with revised costs.
- **1 house at Ballynaboola** - Stage 1 approved. Costs have been reduced and a new planning permission was lodged, awaiting stage 2 approval.
- **7 Units at Belvedere Road, Wexford** – Currently organising appointment of a design team and the first task will be to see how savings can be made. Stage 2 January 2018.
- **3 units in Ballyhine** – prepare Stage 2 in Q1 2018.
- **6 units at The Ballagh** – prepare Stage 2 in Q1 2018.

The number of units with Capital Approval is 152 as detailed above. The following projects will be submitted to DHPCLG as the next round of Stage 1 applications:-

- |             |    |               |    |
|-------------|----|---------------|----|
| • Ballywish | 12 | • Enniscorthy | 12 |
| • Taghmon   | 1  | • Creagh      | 9  |

Pre-development Stage: We are working on other projects preparing feasibility studies prior to the Stage 1 application. These include the following larger projects:-

- Killeens 35
- Rosetown 40
- Gorey, Wexford St 14
- Clonard 26
- Carley's Bridge Road, Enniscorthy 14
- Creagh 12

## COMMUNITY

**Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN):** Following processing of re-registration Wexford PPN currently has 306 member groups. The re-registration process and recruitment efforts saw new groups come on board and disbanded old groups removed, ensuring a current and up to date membership.

During November the District Meetings are held across the county. Local Link Wexford have been invited provide members with some information on their services. In addition, the Municipal District Office was asked for an update to provide to members. These meetings are also an opportunity for members to engage with PPN Reps During November PPN training and information provision was ongoing also.



Wexford County Council has been successful in its application for funding under Strand 1 of the Healthy Ireland Fund. The amount awarded is €100,000. The following projects were submitted as part of this application.

Action Number	Action Description	
1	Youth Health Awareness	Comhairle na Nóg
2	Sports - Sports club for Children with a Disability	Sports Active Wexford
3	Sports - Playground Marking	Sports Active Wexford
4	Sports - School access to Swimming Lessons	Sports Active Wexford
5	Sports - Physical Activity Programme for Men Sheds Groups	Sports Active Wexford
6	Inter County Tobacco Free Ireland Plan	HSE
7	Cycle - Without Age Rickshaw.	Wexford Cycle Officer
8	Cycle - 9 Stones Signed Cycle Loop	Wexford Cycle Officer
9	Healthy Ireland COOK IT- PPN Confident Cookers	PPN
10	FAI Walking Soccer	FAI
11	AIRO Profile Health & Heat Map	LCDC
12	Healthy Cities and County Application	LCDC
13	Weaning Clinics	HSE

**TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME 2018:** In order to prepare for an anticipated announcement in 2018, the Community Section of Wexford County Council intends to hold 4. Open Workshops – one in each Muniicipal District to prepare Community Groups to be in a position to make a competitive application if any such funding is made available in 2018.

These Community Engagement Workshops will inform both the Communities and the Council on sustainable community development in County Wexford.

The venue, Times and dates for these workshops are as follows:

TOWN	VENUE	DATE and TIME
Gorey	Amber Springs Hotel	Monday the 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00pm
New Ross	Brandon House Hotel	Tuesday the 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00pm
Wexford	Clayton Whites Hotel	Monday the 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.00pm
Enniscorthy	Riverside Park Hotel	Tuesday the 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.00pm

## ENVIRONMENT

**Coastline:** Courtown Pier Refurbishment Works (€1.5m). The harbour is currently closed to facilitate the refurbishment work which is expected to continue into early in 2018. Nine minor harbour projects with an estimated cost of €568,000 will be completed in 2017 as part of the annual DAFM Fishery Harbour and Coastal Development Programme. A new disabled beach access / boardwalk was constructed at Carne beach (€50,000). The landscaping of Ely Square is scheduled for completion in 2017.

**Storm Ophelia:** The full assessment of the storm impact on the harbour infrastructure and coastline was compiled and includes an estimate of repair costs;

Piers, Harbours & Slipways	€127,000
Beaches	€ 98,000
Hook Head, signs & coastal path	€ 20,000
<b>Total Repair Costs</b>	<b>€245,000</b>

**Awards:** The annual environment awards took place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 at the Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford and was well attended by participating groups and supported by the elected representatives.

**Enforcement:** The EPA provided a summary evaluation of our 2017 enforcement plan and allocated an overall rating of medium. The EPA are hosting a workshop this week with coordinators to enhance plans, update templates and discuss priorities for 2018.

## **SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

**Safeguarding Courses (Child Protection):** Safeguarding 1: 16 Courses have been completed with a total of 235 participants attending. Safeguarding 2: 2 Course have been completed with a total of 14 participants attending.

**Sport Ireland:** The partnership was successful in its application for Sports Leadership and Community Coaching Programme receiving a total of €23,333 from dormant accounts.

**Sports Leadership:** Sports Active Wexford has delivered an eight week leadership course to Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School New Ross. This course has been delivered to three different classes with a total of 58 students completing the programme. Selskar College is Continuing to the Level 2

**Disability Programme:** ***Slaneyside Super Stars*** - Leinster Rugby Enniscorthy Coach has completed 8 weeks coaching with the Slaneyside super stars club for children with a physical disability in Enniscorthy. These eight weeks were a great success with children learning new games and activities while also working on their coordination and skill development. Sports Active have organised that GAA will coach the next six weeks leading up to Christmas

**Gymnastics for children with ADHD:** Wexford Child and Adolescence Mental Health Services have linked in with Sports Active Wexford to develop a programme for children with ADHD. It was decided and funding sought to do an eight week course which finished in November. Gymnastics tutors were trained and received a certificate Disability Inclusion in Sport by CARA prior to delivering the programme to the young people. This was a brilliant success for everyone involved and the children showed a significant improvement to skill level over the eight weeks.

**Community Sports Hub:** Sports Active Wexford have continued to work with Riverchapel Community Complex.

Over the year the following programmes have been an excellent success in Riverchapel Community Complex.

- Courtown BMX Club – 196 members from 3 years to adults. They travel all over Ireland/Northern Ireland and UK in competition.
- Summer late night football league - 108 children ages 7-14years run from June-July. This programme was supported by Gorey/Courtown An Garda Siochana, Wexford county Council, the FAI, Sports Active Wexford and local football clubs.
- GAA club - 14 boys and girls underage football and hurling/camogie teams training on the pitch and playing matches.
- Soccer teams – there have been a number of soccer matches both from Courtown Hibs and Wexford Youth development squads

- Fun In Sun - 112 children from 7 to 14 years attended Riverchapel this year
- Croghan Athletics – 14 participants train two nights a week on the track.
- Walking Groups – 12 adults walk two nights a week
- Couch 2 5K - 28 women registered coming up to Christmas

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

The Department of Rural and Community Affairs has announced that Wexford County Council will receive significant **funding for its library services**. The €268,257 investment will be provided for the implementation of the new national plan for libraries to be launched in early 2018. This funding is broken down into €201,193 from the Department with a contribution of €67,064 from Wexford County Council. Funding has also been allocated for the Right to Read literacy campaign for children and young people. The Work Matters programme of support to business and jobseekers will benefit from funding also.

Wexford County Council, supported by funding from Science Foundation Ireland, held the first weeklong science festival in County Wexford to promote science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). **WexSci** provided 27 events in public libraries in Bunclody Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Wexford.

These were complemented with a festival highlight, a special showcase event with 18 exhibits and demonstrations in the Wexford County Council building at Carricklawn on Friday 17th November. Events varied from a demonstration by the London Science Museum to particle physics and aeronautical science; from CSI forensic science to brewing beer; from space travel to robotics, 3D printing, maths puzzles and designing games. Over 1,500 young people and adults attended sessions across the County and it is hoped to build on the success of WexSci in 2018.

**Film locations website**, a photography launch of new film website took place in the Opera House on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> November with Cllr John Hegarty, Eoin Colfer and Carolyne Godkin ( Economics Dept) and Liz Burns ( Arts Dept). [www.wexfordfilmlocations.ie](http://www.wexfordfilmlocations.ie)

**Excellence in Local Government Awards**, Wexford County Council was shortlisted for the 'Living Arts' school programme at a ceremony in Plaza Hotel Dublin on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2017.

**Creative Communities**, the Arts Department requested applications in November for artists on the new Creative Communities Programme 2018, formerly Artist in the Community Scheme. The closing date is 13 December 2017.

The Arts Department funded two pilot photography workshops in November with **Syrian Refugee communities**, in partnership with Wexford and Enniscorthy libraries & the WWETB refugee resettlement programme. This was led by photographers, Claudio Neco, Michael Snoek and Curator Anya von Goseln from Kamera 8 Gallery in Wexford town.

## FIRE SERVICE

**News:** Three of the five jeeps that are being funded by the department were received in Bunclody, Enniscorthy and Wexford fire stations. It is hoped that they will assist with Community Fire Safety, During Performance inspections, and operationally.

Fire Safety Week took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. The fire service promoted the national messages locally on the radio, in newspapers and using social media.

**Fire Operations:** In October there were 127 incidents including 41 rubbish fires, 13 road traffic accidents, 32 false alarms with good intent and 10 chimney fires.

Incident type	Year to date	October
Fires	346	68
Special Services	121	17
Chimney Fires	108	10
False Alarms	175	32

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

Applications Received	Year to date	October
Fire Safety Certificates	79	7
Planning Referrals	585	66

Number of Inspections	Year to date	October
FSA Inspections	269	23

## CIVIL DEFENCE

**Civic Duties:** We covered 3 community duties for October 2017.

Wexford Festival Opera Closing , 5<sup>th</sup> November Wexford Quays  
Remembrance Service, St Iberius Church, Wexford, 12<sup>th</sup> November  
Remembrance Service, Christ Church, Gorey, 12<sup>th</sup> November

**Training Courses:** Training continues on a weekly basis in Gorey, New Ross and Wexford.

The Civil Defence Officer attended a Flood Management Course in the Civil Defence College from 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**County Training Day:** We held our annual training day and presentation dinner on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The training was carried out on Forth Mountain at Carrigfoyle Quarry, with a total of 70 Volunteers taking part during the day. Teams were tested in AFS (Auxiliary Fire Service), Search skills, communications, drones, first aid and welfare.

The presentation dinner was held in the Riverbank Hotel, Wexford. The dinner was attended by Minister Paul Kehoe, TD, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Cllr Keith Doyle, Mayor of Wexford, Cllr Jim Moore, CEO of Wexford County Council Mr. Tom Enright, Director of Services, Mr John Carley, Emer Dalton Principal Officer Department of Defence and Chief Superintendent John Roche.

Volunteers were presented with 1916 Commemoration Medals, Commemoration coin for 2016 Easter Celebrations in Enniscorthy and Long Service medals were presented to:-

Gabrielle Willis, 40 Years  
John Wafer, 40 Years  
Michael Byrne, 10 Years  
Theresa Murray, 10 Years  
Chris Murray 10 Years

## **4. Transportation, Water Services:**

### **COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:**

#### **N25 New Ross By-Pass:**

#### **Progress Update November 2017**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland awarded the PPP Contract to a BAM Iridium consortium (the PPP Co.) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The PPP Co's contractor for the works is a BAM Civil Ltd and Dragados Ireland Ltd joint venture (New Ross Joint Venture – NRJV). The works are progressing well and the road remains on programme to open in 2019.

Earthworks operations are over 85% complete with in excess of 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of bulk earthworks excavated and re-used to date. Rock blasting operations are complete at Ballyverneen (Glenmore) and along the N30 section, and will be completed at Stokestown and Camlin in the coming weeks. Drainage, accommodation works, services works and other associated works are also progressing well.

The construction of the bridge deck for the approach spans of the Barrow Bridge on the Pink Rock side (Kilkenny side) continue to progress with falsework currently being erected for the third span and concrete pours progressing for spans 1 & 2.



The construction of the pier head for the river pier is also progressing as are the piers on the Wexford side. In the coming months the approach spans on both sides of the river and the 3 central towers will be progressed in preparation for the construction of the 2 main bridge spans.

A further new local road realignment and bridge opened in November at Lacken Road South (L-4013 road). 5 such new local road realignments are now in place and open to traffic. Works continue to progress on Camlin Road Overbridge, Arnestown Road Overbridge, Glenmore Road Underpass (under N25) and Lacken North Underbridge. Temporary diversions are in place at all of these locations and the associated new local road realignments will open under traffic management in the coming months as the associated bridges are completed.

Temporary diversions and statutory 60km/h speed limits continue to operate on the N25 Wexford Road at Ballymacar and N25 Waterford Road at Glenmore. The diversions are via newly constructed sections of road and will remain in place until 2018. Extensive traffic management is being implemented to guide road users safely through and around the diversion routes. The 60km/h statutory speed limit orders for both N25 Ballymacar and N25 Glenmore were renewed on 1st October 2017 for a further maximum 12 month period. The Pink Rock Road in Co. Kilkenny remains closed to facilitate Barrow Bridge access and construction. A temporary diversion route and traffic management plan will remain in place until June 2018.

Surface conditions on public roads continue to be monitored at interfaces with the site and preventative and remedial measures are being implemented as necessary to keep road surfaces clean. Emergency and patrol crews are available as necessary to carry out any operational or maintenance measures that may be required during bad weather on surfaces or traffic management systems on public roads. The site continues to be monitored for the generation of noise, vibration and dust.

The seventh quarterly project newsletter will be published before Christmas, and as well as providing a further update on progress, it will also provide information on arrangements to be put in place on site during the Christmas break. The dedicated project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. A further short progress video will also be released by Wexford County Council before Christmas on the Council web and social media sites as well as selected local community sites. A 24 telephone hotline is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.



1. Barrow Bridge – Deck falsework in place for approach spans 2 & 3 at Pink Rock to bottom left of photo. River pier in background.







**2. Barrow Bridge – Close up of deck falsework.**

**3. Barrow Bridge – River Pier with falsework for casting of pier head.**



**4. Stokestown Road bridge and new alignment with passing bays.**





**5. Earthworks at Stokestown (rock blasting site).**



**6. Local road realignment at Camlin – new road realignment to left of picture (with passing bays), earthworks to right (rock blasting site).**





**7. R733 grade separated junction taking shape.**



**8. N25 Ballymacar Roundabout**

### **M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update Program**

The contractor has 83% of their certified design issued for construction and is on target in their overall program for construction. The Permit to Use date remains the same of July 2019.

## Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in Dec 2016	Progress Reported in August	Progress Reported in September	Progress Reported in October	Progress Reported in November
Site Clearance	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Fencing	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	15%	17%	21%	25%
Earthworks	23%	62%	66%	69%	71%
Structures – main Bridges		33%	38%	45%	53%
Structures – Culverts	29%	71%	73%	85%	89%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	72%	80%	84%	84%
Accommodation Works	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%

## Earthworks:-

Bulk Cut to Fill was approx. 986,821m<sup>3</sup> to the end of the year for 2016 (6 month Work Period). Bulk Cut to Fill as reported this year to the end of October 2017 is 1,616,490m<sup>3</sup>

## Blasting

The following program indicates the remaining duration for blasting for the project:

Area	Name	No of Blast remaining	Est. Completion date
M11, Cut 1	Frankfurt Junction	2	December 2017
M11, Cut 6	Crane Road	0	Complete
N30, Cut 1	Ballyorril	0	Complete
N30, Cut 4	Bessmount	TBC *	End December 2017

\*Contractor is ripping out rock at the moment and will determine if additional blasting is required. Affected landowners are being notified by the contractor 14 days in advance of blasting commencing and 3 days by either text or a phone call in advance of the blast taking place. Results to date for Vibration and Noise Monitoring have returned below the maximum permitted levels for the contract.

## Ongoing repairs and monitoring of local roads

The following roads are being inspected on weekly basis by the contractor and Wexford County Council. Any defects arising from this inspection is being addressed by the contractor.

- L1027, Ballygullen Road
- L2020, Crane Road
- L2021, Ballynabarny Road
- L2011, Tinnacross Road

## Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

### Road Closure Applications

WCC are progressing the following road closure applications

Structure, Road	Application Status	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Status	New Opening Date
M11-S2, L1027, Ballygullen Road	Withdrawn	April 2017	2		
M11-S4, L5092, Ballyeden Road	Granted	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	6	Closed 28/8/17	
M11-S6, L5096, Rocksprings Road	Opened under TTM	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	6 (8)	Reopened on the 28/8/17 under TTM. ST 3 RSA conducted and findings have been implemented	
M11-S7, L1023, Ballycarrigeen Lk	Submitted	August 2017	6	Local Diversion to be constructed	
M11-S9, L2021, Crane Road	Granted	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	7 (1)	17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	16 <sup>th</sup> December
M11-S11, L2024, Corbally Road	Submitted	August 2017	6	<b>On hold until L2020 (Application Withdrawn) is reopened</b>	
M11-S13, L6055, Drumgold Road (1)	Withdrawn	Postponed	6		
M11-S13, L6055, Drumgold Road (2)	Granted	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2017	7	Closed 6 <sup>th</sup> November	
M11-S14, L2040, Knockrathkyle	Opened under TTM	Feb 2017	7	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2017	23 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017
M11-S15, L6048, Glenteige Road	Granted	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017	3	Road Closed 31 <sup>st</sup> October	
N11-S16, L6052, Scurlocks bush	Opened under TTM	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	6 (7)	13/10/17	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017
N80-S1, L2020,	Granted	Nov 2016	3	Reopen	



Structure, Road	Application Status	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Status	New Opening Date
Ballynabarny (1)				ed 23/1/17	
N80-S1, L2020, Ballynabarny (2)	Granted	Sept 2017	5 Nights	Postponed until January 2018	
N30-S1, L2015, Coolnahorna	Granted	2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug 2017	6	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017	
N30-S2, L2014, Ballyorrl Link	Submitted	August 2017	2	<b>On hold until L2012, Killalligan Road is reopened</b>	
N30-S3, L2012, Killalligan Road	Granted	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	6 (8) + (6 weeks)	August 2017	17/11/17
N30-S4, L6125, Monart East	Granted	Feb 2017	6 (8) + (6 weeks)	August 2017	30/11/17
N30-S5, L2030, Bessmount Road	Granted	August 2017	3	<b>On hold until L6125 and L2012 is reopened</b>	
N30-S7, L6122, Templescoby	Granted	April 2017	6	Closure reactivated, extension to be applied for.	

#### Newsletter

The Newsletter for Q4 of 2017 has been issued and is uploaded to N11 website [WWW.m11gtoe.ie](http://WWW.m11gtoe.ie). This website is updated on a monthly basis providing information on blasting and road closures and traffic management.

A 24-emergencytelephone is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815701, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.

#### **2016 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:**

TII initially allocated a sum of €5,394,000 for pavement and minor improvement works in 2016. Some of the schemes are due to be completed in 2017.

#### **N25 Ross By-Pass Residual Network**

#### **N30 from Irishtown to R700 junction.**

This contract is being completed in 2 phases.

Phase 1 from Irishtown to R700 junction was substantially completed on 26<sup>th</sup>. August 2016.

Phase 2 from Irishtown to New Ross swimming pool will be completed in 2018 following works to the sewer network by Irish Water.

## **N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Residual Network R702 Enniscorthy Killealy Road**

This scheme was split into 2 contracts.

Contract 1 from Milehouse to Monart East was completed in April.

Contract 2 is from Milehouse Crossroads to Duffry Gate.

This includes installation of a 215mm water main for Irish Water and a roundabout at Milehouse. Works commenced on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>. July and were completed in November.

## **N11 Scarawalsh to Ferns South**

This contract involves the overlay of 5km of the N11 between Scarawalsh Bridge and Ferns. This scheme commenced on 24<sup>th</sup>. April and was substantially completed on the 9<sup>th</sup>. June. The accommodation works are now complete.

## **2017 National Pavement Schemes**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following scheme.

### **N11 Ferns Village**

This scheme has been postponed and will be carried out once the Enniscorthy bypass scheme has been completed.

## **Additional Pavement Improvement Works**

The following 7 pavement schemes have been identified by TII as priority schemes.

- Ballynabola to Cushenstown Pavement Scheme (1.0km)
- Carrigadaggan to Ballynabola Pavement Scheme (2.3km)
- Kileen to Newtown Pavement Scheme (2.6km)
- Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme (1.1km)
- Tinnahask to Ballynaslaney Pavement Scheme (1.2km)
- Ballygillane Little Pavement Scheme (0.7km)
- Ballygoman to Knockeen Pavement Scheme (3.2km)

Design works are ongoing on these schemes. TII have been releasing funding as these schemes have been tendered during the year.

### Ballygillane Little Pavement Scheme

This scheme was completed in June.

### Ballynabola to Cushenstown Pavement Scheme

This scheme commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup>. June. It was substantially completed in October.

### N25 Ballygoman to Knockeen Pavement Scheme

Construction works commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup>. October and will be substantially completed by 1<sup>st</sup>. December.

### Tinnahask to Ballynaslaney Pavement Scheme

This scheme was tendered in early September. Construction works commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup>. November and are due to be completed by the 8<sup>th</sup>. December.

### Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme

This scheme will be tendered in December. A contractor will be appointed in early 2018. Construction works should commence in the first quarter of 2018.

### Killeen to Newtown Pavement Scheme

Survey works were completed in August. There will be additional site investigation works required on the southern end of the scheme. It is hoped to have this scheme tendered in early 2018.

### **2017 HD28 Pavement Renewals**

The NRA allocated an additional €520,000 for the 2015 HD28 pavement renewals programme. This was split into 2 phases.

A contractor was appointed for phase 1. Works on this phase will be completed by 15<sup>th</sup>. December.

Phase 2 was tendered in November. A contractor will be appointed in December.

Construction works should commence in the first quarter of 2018.

### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2017/2018 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. October. There have 6 no. call outs up to 27<sup>th</sup>. November 2017.

### **Public Lighting**

#### **National Roads Lighting Upgrades**

Wexford County Council applied for 3 upgrade schemes last year.

- N11 Ferrycarrig
- N25 Maldron Roundabout
- N25 Whitford Roundabout

#### **N11 Ferrycarrig**

Approval for the scheme was received from TII at a cost of €85,000 incl. vat. The works includes recabling and ducting 2.5km the installation of 43 no. Led lanterns.

All works have been completed.

#### **N25 Maldron Roundabout and N25 Whitford Roundabout**

Approval for these schemes was received from TII early in June. The work involves replacing existing public lighting with 60 Led lights. Whitford roundabout was completed in November. The Maldron will be completed by 8<sup>th</sup>. December, cost will be €48,000 incl vat.

#### **N25 Drinagh Roundabout**

This scheme was applied for in 2017. We received approval for the scheme in August. This scheme was completed in early September.

#### **Non National Roads Lighting Upgrades**

Work has commenced on year 1 of the Led replacement programme. I expect to have 1,200 to 1,300 light upgraded to Led by the end of the year. We have over 950 upgraded to date.

We have applied to SEAI for a grant under the *Better Energy Communities* for this year's scheme. The application to SEAI was for 942 No. lanterns at a cost of €450,000. The net grant after payment to Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency will be circa €108,000.

I expect the cost of installation will be in the region of €650,000.

The net cost to Wexford County Council will be in the region of €540,000

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

### **Strengthening (Clause 804)**

The strengthening programme recommenced in the Wexford District on September 6. Works completed within last month as follows: Ballyphilip and Kiltrea (both in Enniscorthy District); Taghmon road (New Ross District). Strengthening programme was completed on November 23.

### **Strengthening (Macadam)**

Macadam overlays completed on R741 (Ferrybank) and R733 (Ballinagee) (both in Wexford District).

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Local Improvement Schemes commenced in the New Ross District on November 24. Schemes completed to date: Ballyhackbeg (New Ross District); Ruanmore (Gorey District). Preparation work ongoing in other Districts.

### **Improvement Works**

Works on New Ross Flood Relief Scheme ongoing. Contract for Oaklands Roundabout (New Ross District) awarded to David Walsh Civil Engineering Ltd. Work to commence in January 2018

### **General Maintenance**

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

## **WATER SERVICES**

### **A. Irish Water – Asset Management**

#### **Irish Water Capital Schemes**

#### **IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme – Stage 3 (included in IW – CIP14-16 i.e. Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) 2014 to 2016)**

The WWTP is to be extended to cater for a PE of 26,000, an increase of 10,000 PE from the existing 16,000 PE. The DBO contract was signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. Ward & Burke are the contractors and have commenced on site. J.B. Barry are the Consulting Engineers. Works are progressing on target with programme. It is intended to have the inlet works complete in 2017.

#### **IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S. (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

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

- New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.
- New rising main from Clonhasten to Vinegar Hill WTP.
- Hydraulic model of the Enniscorthy and Sow Schemes.

Terms of Reference are being agreed with Irish Water in order to appoint Consultants to progress the above work.

Preparation of budget application for Concept Design is underway; this includes for Strategic Report and review of options for the entire scheme.

**IW Asset Management: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Foreshore application was lodged. The land acquisition by CPO has also commenced for the selected WWTP site and Pumping Station site. Revised terms of reference and new appointment for the Consulting Engineer, is complete. The design of the scheme is in progress and preparation of tender documents. A detailed design report was prepared and workshop held to review report.

**IW Asset Management: Gorey Sewerage Scheme – Stage 2 (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

The DBO contract with AECOM/SIAC Construction to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in Courtown was completed in 2016. The plant is now operated by the contractor. (Aecom is now Murphy Process Engineering).

The 75% OPW-funded flood relief works minor scheme for Gorey Town is underway.

**IW Asset Management: Gorey Regional Water Supply – South Wellfield (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

The Gorey RWSS will be upgraded and a new 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. A DWSP and catchment yield review is to be done. Consultants have been engaged by IW to review the design and revise the contract documents. Planning permission was granted by WCC to upgrade the borehole sites and build a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun. The hydrogeological investigations show that remedial works will be required to most of the boreholes and the contract documents are being revised accordingly. Negotiations for wayleaves ongoing with landowners. Tender documents are in preparation.

**IW Asset Management: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)**

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment plant for the villages of Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon. These designs are currently underway. A Scheme for Kilmore Quay is also currently being designed. These have progressed from the Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS) to identify areas of the highest priority requiring treatment. Options reports on potential sites for the schemes are currently under review. Both projects will be submitted for planning approval in Spring 2018. Initial contact with landowners has commenced.

**IW Asset Management: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network**

Site Investigation works are complete for gas and water main installation around Wexford town. There are two areas of common gas / water mains to be laid. Design works are currently underway for the remaining water main and gas mains, as well as design to eliminate back yard services around Wexford. A new hydraulic model for Wexford town is being updated to allow for the design works to progress.

**New Ross Sewerage Scheme – Irishtown to Nunnery Lane Sewers**

MJS Civil Engineering Ltd. have been appointed by Wexford County Council to construct the new foul and surface sewers from Irishtown to Nunnery Lane. Work has commenced week 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 and is expected to last for 20 weeks.

**IW Asset Management: Water Conservation Stage 3– Watermain Rehabilitation Phase 2 (Direct Labour Crew)**

Ballylucas – Screen is 95% complete under construction by WCC Direct Labour Crew. The next phase will start in Mill Lands, Gorey in November. IW are funding this project for €2m for 9KM of pipeline rehabilitation.

## **B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES**

### **IW Asset Management: Murrintown P.S.(Wastewater to Wexford WWTW)**

Award and Regret Letters were forwarded on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

### **Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme**

Snagging 98% complete. 4 Additional sites added, Camolin North and South, Campile and Balycanew.

### **Sewer network pump station maintenance contract**

2<sup>nd</sup> round now in progress.

### **WWTP pre-planned Maintenance Contract**

Works progressing on site.

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

New Backwash pumps installed and in operation. New foot valves to be installed in last week of November. Due to delay in obtaining parts, high lift pump installation deferred to January.

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

Filter sand replacement complete in Kilmallock and underway in Taylorstown. Dosing replacement is ongoing. Additional works for acid dosing in Kilmallock have been approved to improve the proposed operability of automatic coagulant dosing.

### **IW Asset Management: pH Emergency (Automated dosing control)**

Coolgreaney wayleave agreement to be resolved. Irish Water are to communicate with EPA on Coolgreaney in order to get pH dosing commissioned as separate pipe was not installed as per EPA recommendation.

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

Awaiting programme form Contractor (CSL)

### **IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme**

Chestnut Grove scheduled to start early December.

### **Suppressed Capital Maintenance scheme**

A capital maintenance budget of €930,000 has been allocated by Irish Water for Wexford for 2017. Our present approval from Irish Water is at 117% of budget at €1.163 million. Committed expenditure recorded at present is €592,682. A number of projects through this fund are at mini-tender stage.

## **C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

### **Blackstairs Group Water Scheme – Contract No. 11 Pollpeasty**

Lowest tender received from David Walsh Civil Engineering Ltd. Contract to be signed before Christmas.

### **Kilanerlin Group Water Scheme**

Additional work required on the AMR installation is to be complete before year end.

## **Oilgate Group Sewerage Scheme/ The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme**

Awaiting response from the Department of Planning Community and Local Government on infrastructure upgrades required on both schemes.

## **Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme**

Takeover Process ongoing.

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

Nicola Jordan has commenced work as Water Conservation Engineer as of the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Small Mains Replacement**

Wexford Small Mains Replacement Contract 1 – (ShareRidge Ltd.)

Small mains replacement in Ballymitty, Wellingtonbridge and Ferns is now substantially completed. Temporary road reinstatement is in place with permanent reinstatement to follow.

## **5. Finance:**

### **Audit of Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2016**

The LGAS audit of the 2016 financial records is complete and the Local Government Auditor Statutory Audit Report together with a copy of the Audited Accounts for 2016 will be submitted to members as soon as they are to hand.

### **Audit Committee**

The next Audit Committee scheduled for Wednesday 13th December will include a meeting with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2016 Accounts and associated audit.

### **Qtr 3 Finance Report (to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**

The Finance report for Q3 is included on the agenda for consideration of members. The report confirms that the budget position at 30<sup>th</sup> September is €49k surplus which is an improvement of almost €20k over the same period in 2016. This places the accounts in a strong position to further reduce the overall revenue deficit but obviously this cannot be finally confirmed until all spending and accruals have been processed following year end.

### **Housing Loans**

At the end of October there have been 36 new housing loans approved for a total value of €3.2m. A number of additional applications have also been approved in 2017 in order to advance mortgages to facilitate these applications an additional allocation and approval to borrow will be required to secure the funding for same in the current year. A proposal is included on the agenda for the December Council meeting seeking members approval for this increased borrowing.

### **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 will expire on 31st December, 2017. Members approved the seeking of ministerial sanction to secure a similar facility for 2018 and the application in respect of same has now been formally approved by the DHPCLG

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**