

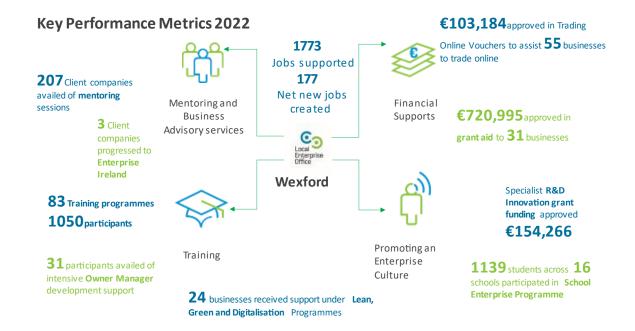
Chief Executive's Report

County Council Meeting 13.02.23

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local Enterprise Office Creates 330 jobs in 2022

The annual employment figures were yet again a cause for celebration at LEO Wexford as it was revealed that it had the fifth highest number of net jobs across the country and the third highest outside Dublin. The annual report published by Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment Simon Coveney TD, revealed that companies supported by LEO Wexford **created** 330 jobs in 2022 with a net jobs increase of 177, evidence of the significant role that LEO Wexford is playing in both the creation and sustaining of new businesses and jobs in Co Wexford.



Strategic focus for LEOs for 2023

Continuing to support the economic development of Co Wexford, some of the key focus areas for LEO Wexford in 2023 will include working with SME's to:

- Accelerate their growth through exporting and diversification, in particular increasing the number of new export companies in Co Wexford.
- Address the productivity challenge facing SME's and explore the potential for digital technology to boost productivity and competitiveness.
- Develop and implement innovative sustainability propositions to create solutions and drive sustainable change.

2023 Metrics will be defined for each LEO in the coming week

Economic:

South East Greenway:

A draft Business Development Plan for the Southeast Greenway is in the final stage of development and once complete a steering group will be formed for further input prior to final signoff. This document will act as a guide for developing the economic growth potential of all Greenways created in the South East, creating a positive impact for the Region.

Town & Village

In 2021 Wexford was awarded €970,914 and in 2022 received the highest investment in the Southeast and the 5th highest allocation of funding nationally of €1,134,000.

To ensure effective management of funds, timely drawdown and submission of required documentation to the Department within strict deadlines, the Economic Section will organise monthly meetings with the Municipal Districts. This new system will also assist the Municipal Districts with any concerns or issues they may encounter in the operation of the scheme.

Local Economic and Community Plan

As part of the development of the new LECP for the County, the Economic and Enterprise SPC has a statutory role to play in developing the Economic Elements of the plan. The first draft of the Wexford Socio-Economic Statement was presented to the Strategic Policy Committee on 1st February. The statement was produced by KPMG following a comprehensive data analysis and covers:

- Overview of selected key policies
- Socio-economic profile of Wexford
- Initial analysis of strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats.
- Draft high level goals

This first draft including draft high level goals was approved by the committee to form a discussion document for the next stage of the process which is public consultation to develop further on key priorities.

Tourism

Holiday World 27-29th January 2023 at The RDS Dublin

Wexford had representatives from The Talbot Hotel, The Riverside Park Hotel, Clayton Whites Hotel, The 1798 Centre and Enniscorthy Castle at the event over the weekend. Celtic Routes officer Oonagh Messette was also in attendance.

Normandy Event showcasing Norman-Ireland links

On Wednesday 8th February, France 3 TV (leading channel for this region) will be conducting interviews with the Embassy and Normandy tourism delegation at the port of Cherbourg. On this occasion, Tourism Ireland and the Irish Embassy will hold a networking lunch onboard the WB Yeats (Irish Ferries) ship, with local trade and media.

PLANNING

PLANNING

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received from the 1st January 2023 until the 27th January 2023.

No. of valid applications	68
No. of invalid applications	5
Extension of Duration	2
Exempted Development Declaration	4

Numbers are those received from the 1st January 2022 until 31st December 2022.

No. of valid applications	1601
No. of invalid applications	138
Extension of Duration	33
Exempted Development Declaration	56

Figures for County	
Applications Decided 2022	
Total Decisions	1,621
Total Grants	1,185
Total Refusals	377
Total Part Granted & Part Refused	12
Event Licence granted	1
Exempt Development Decided	46

	Enniscorthy	Gorey - New Rosslare		Rosslare	BD of	Totals
	MD	Kilmuckridge	Ross	MD	Wexford	
		MD	MD			
Total Grants	167	373	242	236	167	1.185
Total Refusals	52	158	53	74	40	377
Part Granted & Part Refused	1	6	2	3	0	12
Event Licence Granted	0	0	0	0	0	1

Exempted	4	13	7	15	7	46
Development						
Decided						
Total	224	550	304	328	215	1,621
Decisions						

Pre-Planning Applications

Numbers are as follows up until the 27th of January 2023.

No. of open pre-planning requests	104
No. of pre-planning meetings completed	39
Average waiting time to meeting	117 days

Pre-Planning Update

The Planning Strategic Policy Committee at their January meeting reviewed preplanning for 2022.

A total of 421 preplanning meetings were opened in 2022. This included a wide range of proposals. There is currently a back log of **91** open preplanning cases from 2022. The back log resulted from vacancies at Assistant Planner and Executive Planner positions throughout the year, at one point there were 5 vacancies out of the 13 planner positions. This was also compounded by a large, workload including the preparation and final adoption of the County Development Plan. The result of these challenges was that the average waiting time for meetings was 115 days in 2022.

Despite these difficulties 289 preplanning meetings were completed in 2022. Large scale proposals and important social applications such as health care and education were prioritised as major preplanning. In 2022 there were 66 major preplanning meetings held which related to the proposed development of 1,659 houses and commercial development of 61,830 sq. m.

This is a really positive economic indicator for the County and demonstrates the benefit of key infrastructure projects such as the two motorways and the investment in economic and community infrastructure to attract inward investment. The major preplanning meetings are attended by Senior Staff of the County Council where the applicant presents the proposed development and receives advice on areas such as planning, design, environment, water services, access, building control transportation/roads and Part V Housing through a cross departmental team.

Planning staff are currently working through the backlog of work from 2022 but this is subject to prioritising statutory functions relating to planning permissions. Major preplanning will also continue to be prioritised and the team aim to reduce the weighting times by 50%. New staff continue to be trained in their roles and this includes preplanning.

The Planning Section also provided **2** training events on the New County Development Plan for planning agents in November at which **92** planning agents attended the main session in Whites Hotel. Supporting the planning agents is seen as a key means to reduce the need for some preplanning but to ensure that higher quality applications are made.



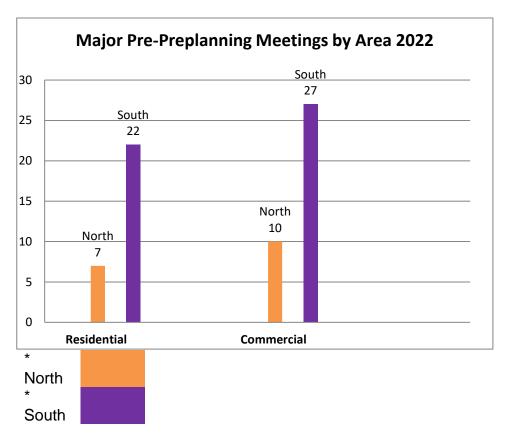






Major Pre-Planning Data January - December 2022





- * Total no. of proposed Housing Units 1,659 approx.
- * Proposed Commercial Development 61,830 sqm approx.

48 preplanning meetings have been carried out so far for January 2023. These include **7** major preplanning meetings which related to the proposed development of **164** houses and commercial development of **6,036** sq. m

The planning section will continue work through the 2022 back log and new requests for 2023. The working environment will remain challenging as the Planning Section deals with new legislative requirement under the new Planning Act, when approved, and the additional responsibilities relating to the Marine Area.

Built, Cultural & Natural Heritage

Local Biodiversity Action Fund

The 2023 Local Biodiversity Action Fund is now open to applications from local authorities. The fund administrated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service aims to provide funding to assist biodiversity officers, and heritage officers in local authorities without a biodiversity officer, with the implementation of projects that promote actions contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021. An indicative budget of €100k per local authority is available, with a 15% cofunding requirement.

Heritage Council Community Heritage Grants

The Heritage Council has announced its Community Grant Scheme. The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supports the purchase of essential equipment. This scheme is intended to enable

communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work in this area or to start new initiatives.

Irish Walled Towns Network Grants

Applications are open for member towns and local authorities within the Irish Walled Towns Network to apply for funding for capital works and events. Conservation works at town walls are supported under this grant along with grants for interpretation and events.

Forward Planning

Wexford Town Local Area Plan

A workshop has been scheduled for the 20th of February 2023 with the members of the Borough District of Wexford to discuss the plan. This will be the first in a series of meeting with the Members to inform the preparation of the plan. The Planning and Development Bill 2022 has been published and this will change the format of the plan. The planning section are reviewing the revised requirements of the Bill and will advise further as soon as possible.

Significant desktop research and field survey work has been carried out to inform the plan. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is nearing completion. Work has commenced on the procurement of other consultants to provide advice in the areas of urban design, master planning, regeneration, surface water management and nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.

Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan

Background work has commenced for Enniscorthy Town Local Area Plan. Quotations were sought for the Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, but no submissions were received. A new planning Bill has been published and this will change the format of the plan. The Planning Section are reviewing the revised requirements of the Bill and will advise further as soon as possible.

Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan

The Town Centre First Regeneration Plan was agreed at the Enniscorthy District Meeting in December 2022. The plan, which was based on detailed public consultation, now provides a framework for future investment and regeneration of the Town Centre

Building Control (1st January 2023 – 27th January 2023)

	Validated Commencement Notices:	47
\triangleright	Number of Building Control Inspections:	24
\triangleright	Validated Cert. of Compliance on Completion:	22
	Number of Taking in Charge reports sent to the Districts:	0

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases on 27th January 2023 are as follows: -

Live Cases
 Cases Opened from 1st January 2023
 Cases Closed from 1st January 2023
 5

Planning Enforcement - Short-Term Letting

The cumulative number of short-term letting planning enforcement cases as of 27th January 2023 are as follows: -

•	Live Cases	13 (2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023)
•	Cases Opened since 1st January 2023	0
•	Cases Closed since 1st January 2023	0
•	Inspections Carried out	0

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Report from 1st January 2023 to 27th January 2023

- Derelict Site Register updated on Council Website in December 2022
- 13 property inspections/visits conducted.
- **0** properties removed from the Derelict Site Register.
- 8 Section 8(2) Notices posted on properties.
- 23 properties submitted to Property Management for CPO appraisal.

Planning CSO Returns 2022

Permissions granted for new construction only

Month	Housing Developments (Total No. of units)	Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of units)	One-off Houses
January	0	2	50
February	7	0	47
March	107	18	52
April	94	48	27
Мау	157	8	38
June	12	2	34
July	52	22	37
August	3	23	43
September	0	0	34

October	2	2	25
November	13	19	26
December	0	0	16
TOTAL	447	144	429

^{*} Figures to 31st December 2022 – Confirmed by CSO

- Housing Developments = 2 or more houses (Total no. of units)
- Apartments include Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total no. of units)
- One-off Houses
- Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use

Disability Access Certificates (DACs):

The number of valid DAC applications, for the period from 1st January 2023 up to and including 27th January 2023, totals **7.**

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	1	0	1	0	0
Gorey	3	1	1	1	0
New Ross	1	1	0	0	0
Wexford	2	1	1	0	0
Rosslare	0	0	0	0	0
2023 Totals	7	3	3	1	0

Disability Proofing completed as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	9
Major Pre-Planning (from 1 st January 2023)	1

Access Related Items

Overview of Supports and activities carried out by the Access Section 'Innovative Community Engagement' (ICE) Project

This project is nearing completion with a Photographic Exhibition of all communities involved planned for the 13th of February.

Love Redmond Park, in the latter half of 2022, joined as a participating community group in the, and in doing so are the representative group of the Borough District of Wexford in this project. Total amount of support funding for Love Redmond Park is €8,020.00.

The Raheen Family Resource Centre, (ARC), are the representative group of the New Ross Municipal District in this project. Total amount of support funding for the Resource Centre is €7,500.00.

Kiltealy Community Development Association, Kiltealy Wood Hub and Kiltealy Tidy Towns and Bunclody Day Care Centre are the representative groups of the Enniscorthy Municipal District in this project. Total amount of support funding for Love Redmond Park is €9,000.00 and €4,500.00 respectively.

Monageer Parish Grotto Group, Gorey Rangers FC, Ballycanew Men's Shed and Ballycanew-Ballyoughter C.D.A are the representative groups of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District for this project. Total amount of support funding for the community group is €4,000.00, €7,500.00, €2,200.00 and €4,300.00 respectively.

Our Lady's Island and the Rosslare Community & Sports Centre (RCSC) are the the representative groups of the Rosslare Municipal District for this project. Total amount of support funding for the community group is €10,000.00 and €3,300.00 respectively.

Advanced Digital Access Participation Project (ADAPP).

This project has now been completed with the virtual tours available on our website

- St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard in Wexford Town is the Accessible Heritage Site of The Borough District of Wexford
- Fethard Castle is the Accessible Heritage Site of The New Ross Municipal District
- Enniscorthy Castle is the Accessible Heritage Site of the Enniscorthy Municipal District
- Tulach a' tSolais at Oulart Hill is the Accessible Heritage Site of the Gorey-Kilmuckrdge Municipal District
- St. Mary's Church in Bannow is the Accessible Heritage Site of the Rosslare Municipal District

The above sites now form part of Wexford County Councils suite of Virtual Tours for Heritage Sites and the link to the virtual tours is available on the website.

The offices of the Borough District of Wexford, The Tholsel New Ross, Market Square Enniscorthy and The Civic Office Gorey- including a separate one for Gorey Library have also been included as part of the project for virtual tours of Wexford.

The office of Rosslare Municipal District has also been included as part of the project for virtual tours of Wexford County Councils public building as part of the virtual tour of the County Hall building Carricklawn

The total cost of developing the Virtual Tours Suite for Heritage Sites and our Main Public Buildings is €19,827.60.

Complaints

Throughout the year a number of issues were notified to the Access Section, with the issue of outdoor dining receiving the highest number of complaints.

The Access Section continues to liaise with all stakeholders, including relevant staff within the District Offices on access related complaints received directly to its offices. An end of year review has shown allocations from the Access Section to assist with addressing complain

Borough District of Wexford		
Transfer to 2023	Railway trip hazard to the Quay Front	

New Ross Municipal District	Clonroche	€614.00
Transfer to 2023	Barrack Lane, New Ross	

Enniscorthy Municipal District		
Transfer to 2023	Mary Street, Castle Hill	

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal		
District	Hill Street, Gorey	€1,101.95
	Clonattin Village, Gorey	€2,154.70
	The Avenue, Gorey	€2,904.50
Transfer to 2023	Ballagh various footpaths	€0.00
		€6,161.15

Rosslare Municipal District	Rosslare, RMD	€4,280.00
	Burrow	€8,944.00
		€13,224.00

Water Services



- 1. Uisce Eireann Asset Delivery
- 2. Minor Capital
- 3. Rural Water Programme
- 4. Water Conservation

Water Services Monthly Report



1. Uisce Eireann – Asset Delivery				
		\$		
	Capital Schemes			
Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	 A new gravity main for Mary Street Scope of works completed still awaiting contra provide costs Work on road opening License underway Feb full condition survey for properties now submit looking at April appointment for contractor Contractor on site in June Estimated costs €800,000 and €200,000(pipe 	2023 ted		
Enniscorthy Intake and Vinegar Hill Upgrade Project	 Intake- land requirement, IW in consultation w Works required to be completed by larnrod Eir their element of track is planned before the macontractor arrives on site 3 contractors attended site to consider pricing. Tender due back 15th FEB. Received draft SI and has been issued to confidence. 	eann on an		
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	 Complete drainage model of the Wexford drainage system. A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all p infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IV Drainage infrastructure survey works complete Town and Castlebridge. Model verification complete, stage 3 to start Q 	ipelines and V. e in Wexford		
Gorey/Courtown Drainage Area Plan	 Complete drainage model of the Gorey/Courto drainage system Consultants JB Barry appointed by IW. Stage 1 complete, survey works to start Q2 20 			
Newtown WTP Upgrade	Upgrade to existing Treatment plant including raw water treatment, instrumentation and run t facility			

	 Preliminary design ongoing, IW have appointed Glan Agua as part of their early contactor involvement programme to design and build the new works Onsite work to commence Q1 2023, duration of 18months Budget cost of 12million
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	Preliminary Design for the project is now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. Uisce Eireann has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re-prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. Uisce Eireann has advised that it will be 2023 at the earliest before this scheme is re considered for funding.
Creagh WTP Upgrade	 Upgrade of existing treatment plant including Intake improvements at Pallas and Kilmichael, DAFF plant refurbishment and installation of UV treatment Upgrade works to begin Q2 2023, project duration of 12 months. Small accommodation works ongoing Budget of 2million
Gorey Regional Water Supply	New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun Plant In operational phase with Glan Agua
Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	 Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon This project is complete, and it is at final account stage with the contractor Sisk. Kilmore Quay Main contractor Sisk is on site to build the new wastewater treatment plant in Kilmore Quay. Proceeding well Construction Works at plant progressed Pipe laying up to 90% complete Currently overall 50% works completed Forecast completion 22/2/23 Difficulties with Road reinstatement, all parties Working hard to find agreement.
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	 Mains Rehabilitation Works has commenced on the new 4km of mains and 12000m is laid to-date. Diversions are in place, due to end early March 23

Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	 IW Asset Planning Strategic assessment is programmed for first half of 2023 where long, and shortlist of upgrade options will be considered Stage 2 will assess options and Stage 3 will bring forward detailed design and tender documentation.
STVGP – Small towns and villages growth programme	 IW programme to deliver additional capacity to existing towns and villages serviced by IW. Wellington Bridge and Tagoat are included in national programme Option reports complete for both projects with Uisce Eireann Delivery section now taking control of both. Outline design ongoing for both projects.
Coolree Reservoir Rehabilitation works	 Rehabilitation works to the embankment, spillway and valve tower at Coolree Reservoir Preliminary scope outlined with ongoing feasibility studies to determine best solution
Bunclody Water supply- Supply Demand Balance	 Hydrogeological assessment underway for improved Ground Water Resources for Bunclody Workshop -1 complete for upgrades to the existing plant to aid the current plant operation. Proposal is for new package plant to improve the resilience and capacity of Bunclody WTP Framework contractor appointed, start date TBC

2. Minor Capital	
IW Minor Water Schemes	 Water Plant Generators To improve resilience of water treatment plants, a number of new generators have been installed, including at Creagh WTP Gorey Town and at Vinegar Hill WTP. Additional generators will be delivered for Fardystown wellfield borehole sites in January 2023. Treated Water storage programme 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Kiltealy. Kilmallock Bridge Reservoir planning granted; Tender award letter to be issued in the next month
IW Minor Wastewater Schemes	> Pump Upgrades

- New smart pumps to be installed at Mauritiustown WWPS in Q1 2023. Smart pumps have also been ordered for Campile WWPS.
- An order has been issued for new pumps and controls at Rosehill Heights WWPS in Rosslare Strand to improve resilience.

> SCADA Upgrades

 SCADA upgrades at 2 No. WWTPs (Kilmuckridge and Bridgetown) will take place Q1 2023.

> WWTP Minor Improvement Works

 Upgrade works to improve resilience of the inlet PS at Ballymurn WWTP will continue in Q1 2023.

> Invest to Save

 Funding has been granted for a new sludge press at Rosslare Strand WWTP, and installation and commissioning is now 90% complete on site, and expected that operation will begin in February 2023.

IW Capital Maintenance

- ➤ The capital maintenance budget for 2022 has been adjusted to €2.35 million
- ➤ The latest available report from Uisce Eireann shows spend to end of year for 2022 of €2.85 million, with Uisce Eireann confirming additional spend above budget will be funded centrally.
- The budget for 2023 is estimated to be c.€2m.

Non Uisce Eireann Small Capital Schemes

Ballinamorragh, Curracloe

 Rehabilitation works are currently being priced for the secondary treatment plant.

DPI Resolution Scheme for Water Services Infrastructure

Funding was granted by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the resolution of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Issues at 4 number estates in Wexford. Works to progress at these sites to remove the DPI and connect to the public network in 2021 and 2022

- ➤ **Kyle Close, Oulart** Water connection is complete with sewerage to follow in 2023.
- ➤ Mountain View, Ballindaggin- COF received from IW. Survey complete and full design underway.
- Gleann na gCaor, Monagear- Connection enquiry made. Design in progress
- > Cois Cuan, Arthurstown
- Coolballow estate- Connection granted for decommissioning of DPI at Coolballow estate to connect to Wexford SS

3. Rural Water



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

> Kilanerin GWS

- Hydrogeologist Final Report has been received and reviewed into the causes of high nitrate level within the extracted raw water from the GWS borehole.
- Group Water Scheme discussing option of installing a nitrate monitor to give us access to reliable data for future solution.

Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation

Blackstairs GWS

- Storage Tank Hydraulic model assessment has been undertaken by the Consultants.
- A report has been provided and assessed.
- Initial assessment is that a new storage tank is not the best solution.
- GWS have reviewed and discussed at committee, and have confirmed they are agreeable to recommended option.
- Reservoir Bypass -WCC have been informed of potential additional costs required to carry out works.
- A report has been compiled and submitted to the Dept.; the Dept. requested further information.

	 Additional reports were completed and submitted to the Dept. in December. The Dept. have approved request for increased funding.
Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes	 Bing GSS – Community Wastewater Connection (CWwC) Departmental agreement to progress the scheme to tender stage. Works currently in development are land acquisition/wayleave maps. Permission from landowners to enter lands for SI investigations have been returned Returned tender price from contractors for main contract works shall be subject to final Departmental assessment and approval. Site visit and meeting took place in June with the committee and landowners regarding pumping station sites. 1 Pumping station site had to be adjusted due to flood plan in new County Development Plan. Landowners have agreed to revised location of pumping station sites. The community Grp are in communication with the Landowners with regards to cost of acquiring the land where the pumping station will be located. SI e-tender documents currently being prepared, should be completed in 3 weeks.
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	 MARWP 2022-2024 Exploratory works have commenced for suitable projects for submission in the next round of the programme.
Measure 8 – Individual wells (private or household wells)	 Individual Well Grants A total of 14 new well grant applications were registered in January 2023. 1 Well Grants have been paid in this period, totalling €26,400 Workflow protype has been developed to stage 1 and is currently being tested
Measure A8 – Waste Water Collection & Treatment Needs for Villages & Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Service	New Advance Phase of MARWP 2022-2024 Submissions requested from all local authorities Deadline 15 th September 2022 Matrix was constructed for Priority funding Limited to two applications Feasibility studies submitted to the Department for Ramsgrange and Glynn for review by expert panel

- Further information regarding the option for Glynn was requested from the Dept. which has been submitted.
- No update from the Dept.

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation

> Consumption

Countywide consumption for January 2023 was on average 44.48MLD. Overall consumption is trending high following the cold weather spell in early December.

Leak Detection & Repair

> Leak repairs

Leak repairs are on-going throughout the county. 25nr operational repairs were recorded for January 2023.

Planned Operational Leak Detection (PLD)

 Planned leak detection was focused mainly on Wexford and Gorey areas during January 2023.

Water Network Programme

> Rehab

- Gorey Forth Road main rehabilitation project is now complete. Reinstatement is to commence in February 2023.
- Gorey St Waleran's main rehabilitation project is now complete.
- Wexford Airfield Road project Mobilisation commence W/C 23/01/2023 and onsite construction commenced 30/01/2023.
- Gorey Cahore main rehabilitation project to commence 13/02/2023

> Find and Fix

- LA Find crews were concentrated in New Ross and Wexford in January 2023.
- Acoustic loggers deployed in Enniscorthy town centre areas
- Contractor crews were concentrating in Enniscorthy and Gorey areas.
- 10nr F&F repairs were repaired by the LA, and 6nr repairs completed by the Regional Contractor in January.

> BYS Services

Enniscorthy BYS works –

- Pearce road backyard main has now been fully decommissioned.
- Redmond St backyard main has now been fully decommissioned.
- Drumgoold villas backyard main has now fully been decommissioned.
- St Johns Villas was turned off but an additions 5nr properties now need connections prior to final decommissioning works. Consents are now agreed, and these services will be drilled W/C 06/02/2023, and the BYS main will be decommissioned permanently.

Wexford BYS Works -

 School Street shared service project is to commence in February.

> Pressure Management

 Proposals for 2023 funding are currently being requested with UE.

> First Fix

 UE Regional Contractor, Shareridge are conducting ongoing First Fix investigations and repairs around the county.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR NATIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

- Start-up meeting with the Ground Investigation Ireland Ltd. is scheduled for the 7th February 2023. It is anticipated to have Ground Investigation works commenced on site by the end of February/ in early March.
- Environmental surveys, traffic studies and traffic modelling are ongoing.
- The overall design of the development is near to completion.
- Bridge options for the River Slaney crossing and Assaly Little Viaduct have been discussed
 with the TII Structures Department. Discussion has commenced with the larnród Éireann in
 relation to the two railway crossings on the scheme. Development of the bridge options will
 continue in the coming period.
- 3 no. conflict points have been identified between proposed alignment and ESB/EirGrid high/medium voltage lines. Solution to these conflict points is being prepared by the Technical Advisors and ESB/EirGrid.
 - Engagement with the landowners is ongoing. Project Team is working towards organising
 one-on-one meetings with all directly affected landowners to discuss potential impact on
 land and property and finalise the designs, which are required to determine the Compulsory
 Purchase Order (CPO). It is anticipated that these meetings will take place by the end of
 February, over a period of 2-3 days in the venue in the proximity of the scheme.

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

The position on this project remains unchanged, we are still awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála.

Section 177AE planning application & CPO Maps and Schedules were submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 5th July 2022.

- 3 submissions were submitted to An Bord Pleanála which may at its discretion hold an oral hearing on proposed development.
- A Project Team has been served a notice by An Bord Pleanála under the section 221
 (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 that it would not be
 possible/appropriate to make determination by the 7th December 2022 due to the
 necessity for further consideration. Revised anticipated date for the decision by the
 Board is 26th May 2022.

NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT SCHEMES

2022 Pavement Schemes

N25 Ballykilliane to Orristown Pavement Scheme

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,000,000)

This scheme is 2 km in length and runs between the R739 Kilmore junction to the L7050 Orristown junction on the N25.

The contract was awarded on 24th October.

Pavement works commenced on 30th. January and are due to be completed by the end of April.

N80 Tomacurry to Ballycarney Phase 1

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,000,000)

The total scheme length is 3.7km. The allocation from TII for 2022 allows for the first 2 km at the southern end to be completed in 2022.

The contract was awarded on 22nd November.

Pavement works are due to commence on 7th. February and are due to be completed by the end of April.

2022 Safety Schemes

N25 Ballygillane Roundabout

(Estimated Total Scheme Cost €2,590,000)

This scheme was tendered in November 2021.

Works commenced on 23rd May 2022 and should be substantially completed in March 2023.

2023 Additional Maintenance Allocations

Wexford County Council will be applying for additional maintenance funding from TII in January 2023. This will relate to pavement repairs on sections of the N80 north of Ballycarney and sections of the N30.

Wexford County Council will continue to apply for additional maintenance funding for drainage and verge maintenance works on the N11, N25, N30 and N80.

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a drainage design for a section of the N25 between Barntown and Larkins cross that flooded twice since 25th December 2021. A preliminary meeting was held with the consultant on site in January. It ids hoped to have a designed solution in place by the end of the first quarter of the year.

Former National Roads Grant 2022 - R744 Millpark Road Enniscorthy Cost - €350,000

This allocation was for the upgrade of former national roads. A contractor was appointed in October. Construction commenced on site on 30th. January and should be completed by 3rd. February.

Former National Roads Grant 2023

2 applications were made under this scheme for 2023.

- R772 Tinnock to Gorey (1.4km)
- R723 Rosbercon (0.8km).

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant allocations are expected to be announced February 2023. Wexford's allocation for 2022 was €23,749,787 including €4,000,000 for Christmas day 2021 flood damage.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The Municipal Districts are assessing roads and preparing their 2023 programmes.

The 2023 strengthening programme (Machinery Yard) commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 25 January 2023 at Bucks Bridge, Ballindaggan.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month were:

Bucks Bridge; Monart West; Ballyprecas; Kiltilly; Rossard; Strahart/Ballycarney; (All in Enniscorthy District).

Surface Dressing Works

The Municipal Districts are assessing roads and preparing their 2023 programmes. 130km was surface dressed in 2022.

Community Involvement Schemes

A similar grant to 2022 (€614,350) is anticipated in 2023.

8 roads of total length of 10km were completed in 2022.

Local Improvement Schemes

A list of applicants is maintained in order of date received. A programme of lane resurfacing will be drafted when Department funding is announced. 23 lanes were completed in 2022.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant

Wexford County Council's application for 24 bridge repairs in 2023 for a grant of €783,000 is under consideration by the Department.19 bridges were repaired in 2022. *These exclude bridges funded under Christmas day 2021 flood damage.*

Flood Damaged Bridge Repairs

Temporary Bailey Bridges are in place at Chapel and Cullenstown Little. Section 50 consents have been received from the OPW for the 3 bridges (Chapel, Cullenstown and Wilton). Detailed designs are in progress for all 3 bridges. Chapel and Cullenstown require Part 8 planning and will likely be concrete bridge beam construction. It is planned to re-construct the Wilton Bridge as was (masonry arch). All 3 re-constructions will commence in 2023

Specific Improvement Works – The Deeps Bridge

The Deeps Bridge Remediation Project – RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as Project Supervisor for the Design Process in March 2021.

Glas Civil Engineering commenced work 9 January 2023. Site offices are set up. The bridge surface has been stripped down to the bridge deck. Construction works are in progress. They have started excavation for a retaining wall on the east side of the bridge. Concrete repairs are in progress on the bridge abutments. They are planning to commence encapsulation of the bridge in the next month or two. It is anticipated the works will be complete by the end of August 2023.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance started 17 October 2022 and finishes 30 April 2023.

There have been 45 treatments to Thursday 2 February 2023.

General Maintenance

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL

The Active Travel Team are currently in negotiations with the NTA regarding additional funding on top of the allocation expected for 2023. The active travel 2023 allocation submission was issued to the NTA on the 9th December 2022 for review. This submission contained the three 'Pathfinder'schemes, namely Beechlawn, Newtown and Roxborough active travel schemes.

The NTA raised concerns about the increasing outturn costs of Active Travel schemes per/km nationally, therefore we were asked to include Rapid Build techniques. Rapid build schemes involve utilising the existing road drainage and roadway as far as possible together with extruded concrete kerb to provide a degree of separation between motorist and cyclist. The Active Travel Team are now reviewing the rapid build approach with the appointed consultants to examine how this approach can be integrated into the overall scheme design.

The team is also currently preparing Section 38 documents for Newtown Rd from Hospital

junction in towards Wygram Junction.

We are progressing 3 no. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) from round 1, designed in house and consultation ongoing, Adamstown Scoil Naomh Abbann, Scoil Mhuire Rosslare, Saint Aidans Enniscorthy. Section 38's are being prepared with a view to construction in 2023. Round 2 Safe Routes To School to be progressed through An Taisce initially who carry out Parent Surveys and the first steps of consultation with schools. This results in an Outline Delivery Plan (ODP) which is the supporting documentation from the survey and audits carried out for the school. Active Travel then take this plan to develop it into a detailed design for the school.

School Name	Roll number	School Address	Eircode
		Charlotte Row Gorey Co.	
Gorey Central School	19419s	Wexford	Y25XH11
Ramsgrange		Ramsgrange New Ross Co	
Community School	91431Q	Wexford	Y34YY17
St. Patrick's N.S. (SN			
Phadraig)	17017L	CROSSABEG CO WEXFORD	Y35VY98

 R723 Oaklands to Kents Cross, New Ross which is for a Segregated Cycle Scheme, and which is at Preliminary Design Stage. The plan is to apply for additional funds in order to take this scheme through the Part 8 planning process in 2023.

- Plans are being put in place for Bike Week 2023 which takes place next year between
 the 13th and 21st of May. Applications for funding for running events were submitted in
 early January 2023. A variety of events will be held around the County to promote
 cycling including a joint cycling initiative being planned in collaboration with Counties
 Waterford and Kilkenny and Carlow also.
- Introduction of Public E Bike Sharing Scheme Wexford Town
 – identification of parking places underway. We require 45 parking locations spread across the town in residential areas and near shopping/university/bus and train station/ town centre locations.

Presentation to Councillors

Organised for 10th Feb the aim of this presentation is to explain what Active Travel is all about and the benefits for all members of the public.

The Active Travel team has sent out an invite to Wexford District Elected Members to a presentation on Active Travel which will take place on February the 10th. Members of WexBUG (Wexford Bicycle Users Group) will also be in attendance.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

LED Upgrade (Non-National Roads)

Over 12,000 lanterns have been upgraded to LED since the beginning of 2016.

Design works are completed.

Works are almost complete bar installing Led trays in the Heritage decorative lanterns across the county. It is hoped to complete the upgrade of these remaining lanterns on non-National roads and housing estates by the end of the first quarter of the year.

A plan will be put in place to upgrade the remaining lanterns in housing estates that were taken in charge over the last 4 to 5 years.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting will be installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund in 2023.

- Ramsfort Avenue Gorey infill along by GAA pitch. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in February/March.
- The Ballagh Church to the school Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in February/March

- The Ballagh Ballagh Cove to regional road. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in February/March
- Wexford Town Seamus Kelly roundabout to Spawell Road. Lighting design being carried out and quotations due in January.
- Davistown Village

Other locations will follow further to consultations with Municipal District Engineers.

It should be noted that quotations are sought from the four recognised public lighting contractors in the country for these public lighting schemes. All four contractors are now working on the 3 National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP) contracts across the country. This is leading to a delay in getting our Development Fund lighting contracts designed, tendered and completed.

UKRANIAN RESPONSE UPDATE

The Offer a Home initiative remains in place and Wexford continues to receive new offers. To date 89 properties have been offered with 112 people placed in 30 properties across Wexford. We are also approaching the end of the initial 12 month licence period for homeowners who pledged under the Irish Red Cross scheme and indications are that many will renew their licence. Further enquiries will be made in the coming weeks to determine numbers likely to remain in the scheme.

There are also new private providers entering contracts with the Department of Children/IPAS and Wexford County Council are notified of these contracts in advance opening. The Ukraine Response Forum will have its first meeting of the year on Wednesday the 22nd of February. The Forum will discuss priorities for 2023.

To-date Wexford has welcomed c. 2.500 Ukrainian BOTP's with concentrated populations in Rosslare, Courtown, New Ross (Fethard) and Enniscorthy in particular. The recently launched Community Recognition Fund will fund capital works in areas that have welcomed the highest numbers and have clear evidence of need. A short list of viable projects will be prepared by the Community and Ukraine Teams for the submission to the Department of Community and Children. Evidence of numbers will be demonstrated through latest CSO and IPAS data.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1. FOI OFFICE REQUESTS

Туре	
Freedom of Information	7
Customer Complaint	9
Ombudsman Complaint	1
Access to Information on the Environment	2
Data Access Request	2
Total	21

2. PROCUREMENT SECTION ACTIVITY

Tenders from 1st January, 2023 to 31st January, 2023

No uploaded	8
No of tenders received	30

3. Emails, Phone Calls and Cases Logged in CSU through the CRM for 01/01/2023 to 31/01/2023

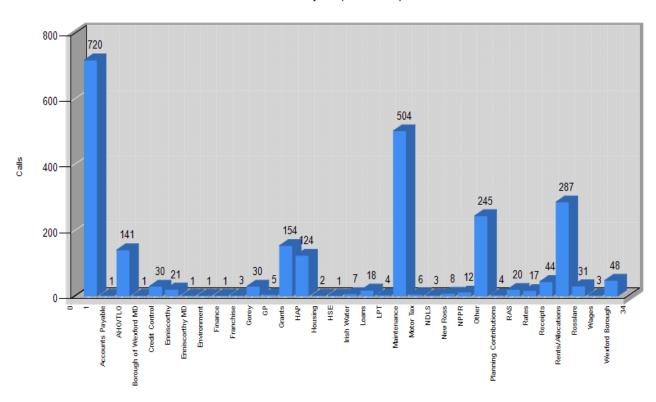
Area				Jan	uary
Agricultural Burns					5
Environment Complaints					380
Change of Circumstances					47
General Queries					0
Housing Validation					140
Quick Calls					2,705
Ask A Question					58
Road Faults Log					109
Emails					3,276
	Email Category	Total	Section		
	Email (Received - External)	825	Community	1	
			Environment	19	
			Finance	1	
			Fire	1	
			Housing	2	
			Housing Maintenance	5	
			Planning	4	
			Roads	2	
			Unknown	790	
	Email (Received - Internal)	619	Districts	5	
			Housing	4	
			Unknown	610	
	Email (Sent - External)	35	Environment	17	
			Finance	1	
			Housing	5	
			Housing Maintenance	5	
			Planning	4	
			Roads	3	
	Email (Sent - External/Internal)	1753	Unknown	1,753	
	Email (Sent - Internal)	44	Districts	6	
			Environment	15	
			Finance	1	
			Fire	1	
			Homeless	6	
			Housing	11	
			Planning	4	
Total					6,720

No.of Representations by	2023		
Section	Jan		
Section	Cases	Total	%
Corporate	2	2	1%
Customer Service	1	1	1%
Enniscorthy Municipal District	1	1	1%
Environment	14	14	7%
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	3	3	2%
Housing	124	124	62%
Planning	4	4	2%
Roads	3	3	2%
Roads - Enniscorthy MD	19	19	10%
Roads - Gorey - Kilmuckridge MD	12	12	6%
Roads - New Ross MD	3	3	2%
Roads - Rosslare MD	2	2	1%
Roads - Wexford MD	9	9	5%
Water - Rural Water and Well Grants	1	1	1%
Wexford Municipal District	2	2	1%
Total	200	200	100%

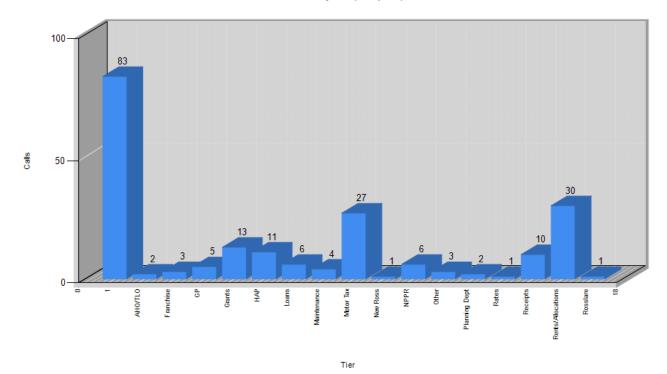
No.of	2023		
Representations by District	Jan		
District	Cases	Total	%
	3	3	2%
Enniscorthy Municipal District	33	33	17%
Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District	12	12	6%
New Ross Municipal District	3	3	2%
Oireachtas	130	130	65%
Wexford Municipal District	19	19	10%
Total	200	200	100%

No.of Representations by Representation Type	2023		
	Jan		
Section	Cases	Total	%
No Release of Personal, Special or Sensitive Data	122	122	61%
Release of Personal Data	78	78	39%
Total	200	200	100%

Quick Calls by Tier (Phone Team)



Quick Calls by Tier (Reception)



By Source	January 2023	Total
Phone Team	2497	2497
Reception	208	208
Total	2705	2705

CSU also processed 58 Website Update requests in January 2023.



Monthly Social Media Report Month: January 2023

Monthly Stats -Key terms explained



POST REACH

The number of people who stop and look at your post

STORIES REACH

The number of people who stop and look at your stories

ENGAGEMENT

The number of people who engage with your content, like it, share it, comment on it etc

PAGE FOLLOWERS

The number of people who follow your page updates but don't 'like' your page

PAGE LIKES

The number of people who like your page, but may not see all the updates you post

NEW PAGE LIKES

The number of people that have liked your page since your last report

The number of people who have clicked into your social profile

PAGE VISITS

MENTIONS

The number of times your page/profile has been mentioned/tagged by members of the public or other pages/profiles

IMPRESSIONS

The number of times your post was delivered to someone's social feed, but they didn't necessarily stop on that content **different to reach**

Top Performing Posts

Residents Association Grant



13.7K views

Reshare of The Heritage Council Lego Competition

Top Tweet earned 1,673 impressions

Great competition from The Heritage
Council for all lego fans at home aged 4-12
years. Closing date 15th January, 2023.

What is your favourite built, natural or
cultural heritage in Co. Wexford?

For more information go to:
heritagecouncil.ie/projects/lego-...

#Lego #Heritage #Wexford twitter.com/HeritageHublRE...

133 **9**9



1,673 impressions



Ambassador Guerene Visit



0

947 views





Christmas Tree Shredding





Recruitment



6.4K views

1,447 impressions

900 views

SPECIAL PROJECTS

1.1 Forth Mountain Activity Park – Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark

Complete.

Forth Mountain Activity Park - Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:

The activity centre building was lodged for Part VIII planning in March 2022 by WCC's Architects Department and the period for public comment closed on 20/04/2022. A response to a request from An Bord Pleanála for further information relating to the project wasprepared and submitted to the Board. The Part VIII planning application was withdrawn in October 2022. A process to procure a consulting team to prepare an EIAR and a planning submission to ABP is required.

The proposed boathouse and external toilet facility on-site have completed pre-planning and the Part VIII planning application was submitted in November 2022. Detailed design is progressing through Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers and the project is expected to go to tender in Q1 2023, pending a favourable Part VIII outcome.

1.2 Min Ryan Park

Sole Sports and Leisure was appointed to construct the skate park and MUGA on a design and build basis. The MUGA and skatepark are now both complete and open to the public. Killaree Lighting Services is appointed to install public lighting to both projects, which will be complete in Feb/March 2023.



1.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park Phase 1

Phase 1 – The development of three serviced sites is substantially complete and the construction of the first building is nearing completion.

1.4 Gorey District Park

The external area of the park opened to the public on 12th August 2021 and the new playground and adult gym equipment is fully installed and commissioned. The final landscape planting is now virtually complete. Work on the building is substantially complete. Three tenders were received for the supply & install of a Changing Places facility in January 2022. Following a review of the tenders, the decision not to award a contract was taken as tender price significantly exceed the available budget for the project. A further invitation to tender was placed on eTenders in January 2023 with a closing date of 20th February 2023.

1.5 South East Greenway

Contracts for the works on Lots 1, 2 and 3 were awarded to Glas Civil Engineering and works are now substantially complete on site. Fitting of bridge parapet railings to railway bridges between Glenmore and New Ross is complete.

Landowner agreements on accommodation works are progressing. The tender for works on Lot 5A (Ferrybank to Curraghmore) will issued in February 2023.

Fencing, public light ducting and temporary car parking for the greenway section from New Ross to Glenmore have been tendered, with works expected to commence in February 2023, which will enable opening of the first section of greenway in Q2 2023.

Wexford County Council's Arts office, in partnership with the Southeast Greenway Project Team, has commissioning designers 'Elements Of Action' with visual artist Aoife Banville, to develop a pilot creative public art project for the Greenway working with local communities in the New Ross and surrounding areas, including South Kilkenny. This work is ongoing.

1.6 Trinity Wharf

Due to significant inflation in the market since tenders were received, the original tender process for the access road undertaken in 2021 was abandoned. A revised tender invitation issued in December 2021 and tenders have been received, assessed and the Letter of Acceptance was issued to the preferred tenderer, Glas Civil Engineering Ltd, in January 2023. The commencement date for works on the access road is 20/02/2023. Procurement of consultants for design services for the site development and public infrastructure works is underway. The pre-qualification process is completed, and the successful design firms have been issued with tender documents. Tender submissions were received on 31/03/2022. Appointment is expected in Q1 2023.

1.7 New Ross Fire Station

The contract to construct the New Ross Fire Station was awarded to Kevin Thorpe Ltd. Works commenced on site in May 2021 and the works are now substantially complete. The station was officially opened by Minister Darragh O'Brien on November 25th 2022.



1.8 Wexford Arts Centre Extension

The main works contract was awarded to McKelan Construction Ltd and works commenced on site in May 2021. The works are complete and the Arts Centre reopened in time for the Opera Festival. The official opening ceremony was held on November 12th 2022.



1.9 High Hill, New Ross

The works contract was awarded to MJS Civil Engineering and works are substantially complete. The park opened to the public on the 6th of October 2022.



1.10 Monck Street Enhancement Scheme, Wexford

The main works contract was awarded Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering Ltd in February 2022 and works commenced on site on 21/03/2022. The main contract works are substantially complete.



1.11 New Ross Public Realm - Oil Tanks Site

This project consists of removal of the oil tank structures on the Quay and the development of public realm works on the site.

The Advance Works Contract (Removal of Tanks) was complete in July 2021.

A Part VIII development consent application for the site was confirmed at the Council's meeting in March 2022. A tender competition for the works contract is currently underway with tenders received in November 2022 and tender assessment ongoing. Works are expected to commence on site in Q1 2023 following the appointment of a contractor.

An application for Category 1 capital funding under the RRDF scheme was submitted in April 2022. Funding of €814,393 was awarded to the project in November 2022.

1.12 Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:

The Templeshannon Regeneration Strategy identifies a number of enabling projects required to achieve regeneration, including:

- Improving the public realm and streetscape in Templeshannon area;
- Establishing a new link to the town centre by constructing a new pedestrian bridge;
- The management and progressive transformation of the Leisure Centre car park;
- The creation of new urban blocks for infill development.

The site investigation (SI) work for the pedestrian bridge has been completed. The preliminary design and bridge options report has been completed taking account of the results of the SI works and is currently under review.

WCC is engaged with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding a further funding application to support regeneration in Enniscorthy. The Planning Section, in collaboration with Special Projects, has developed a strategic plan for Enniscorthy Town centre, which was adopted at the Enniscorthy MD meeting in December 2022.

1.13 John Street Building Regeneration Project, New Ross

WCC secured RRDF funding to design the refurbishment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross, which will see these buildings converted into a high-quality enterprise hub.

A portion of the grain store building has been purchased by agreement. The CPO for the remaining sections is now formally complete. ODKM Architects are in the process of finalising survey information to prepare a preliminary design for the scheme. A Part VIII consent process will follow in Q1 2023.

1.14 Esmonde Street, Gorey

Following two unsuccessful RRDF applications, WCC has committed €2m of own funds to the Esmonde Street project. WCC has also sought funding via the 2023 Active Travel scheme, with an outcome expected by end of January 2023.

Following the December Gorey/Kilmuckridge MD meeting, it is planned to return to the February meeting with a draft scheme for further discussion with the Members. It is then planned to proceed to tender and contract award, with works to commence before end of 2023.

1.15 Gorey Market House

A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multipurpose performance/exhibition/retail space was approved in May 2018.

A call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in January 2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. This tender process was concluded in May 2021 without the award of a contract.

As agreed at the December meeting of Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District, WCC will proceed to advertise for proposals for the site from prospective developers in Q1 2023.

1.16 Mechanics Institute, Wexford

Consulting Engineers were appointed in March 2020 to undertake design, tendering and construction management services for essential maintenance works at the Mechanic's Institute. A works contract has been awarded to Roger Doyle Contractors with construction scheduled to take 6 months. Work commenced in January 2023.

1.17 WEXFORDIA – Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

WCC secured RRDF Category 2 funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments. It is planned to submit a planning application for the project to An Bord Pleanála in Q3 2023.

Hook Lighthouse

The process of negotiation for tourism design services with the preferred tenderer from the 2017 Hook Heritage CLG competition has closed without an award of contract following the withdrawal of the preferred tenderer in December. WCC advertised for tourism coordinator services for the project through an existing multi party framework and Tourism Development International Ltd. (in association with John Ruddle) are the successful tenderers and are appointed. TDI met with the Board of Hook Heritage CLG in October and are progressing the procurement of interpretative design services and are supporting WCC in the procurement of the Integrated Design Team services. The environmental consultant has been appointed and is commencing initial studies and investigative works.

New Ross Tourism Project

Kantar is appointed by Fáilte Ireland to undertake Stage 1 and 2 concept testing research for the Norman Centre for tourism concepts/ideas. This work has been complete.

The contract for tourism co-ordination and management services for the New Ross Tourism project was awarded to Alan Sherwood & Associates in November 2021 and they are currently reviewing the outline interpretive design and developing a plan for procurement of detailed design services of the Norman Centre, which includes the Ros Tapestry. We expect to advertise tenders for services (interpretative and architectural/engineering) in February 2023.

The tender for the interpretive fitout on the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience has been advertised and will close in January 2023 with an appointment expected in Q1 2023.

1.18 Enniscorthy Town Centre & Tourism Project:

The Planning Department in collaboration with Special Projects has developed a strategic plan for Enniscorthy Town centre, which was adopted at the Enniscorthy MD meeting in December 2022.

A call for URDF applications is expected in early 2023. Funding will be sought for one or more of the town centre projects identified as priorities in the Town Centre First Plan. Tenders for preliminary design and planning consent services have been received for Phase 1 of the Castle project and an appointment is imminent. This consultant will also assist in the development of conceptual designs for all aspects of the URDF submission.

1.19 Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

Following a competitive tender process, RPS Ltd was appointed to undertake the Preliminary Design and Statutory Consents Phase of the Courtown coastal protection and beach nourishment scheme.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd. is appointed to carry out the marine and land based surveys and boreholes at Courtown. They commenced work on the May 2022 and the site investigation work is complete.

Marine profiling surveys will also be carried out in parallel at this time and this work is being carried out by Hydrographic Survey Limited. An application to the Marine Foreshore Dept., was submitted in December 2022, for permission to carry out benthic grab samples. This work will commence once approval is granted. It is planned to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent in Autumn 2023.

1.20 Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway

The Economic SPC of Wexford County Council and the Transportation SPC of Waterford City & County Council have written to the Minister for Transport seeking inclusion of the out-of-service Rosslare to Waterford railway line in the impending national rail review.

The application for planning consent for the Rosslare to Waterford greenway project has been paused, pending a decision from the DOT on the future of the rail corridor. The Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Strand section is now being advanced as part of the Wexford Town to Rosslare greenway project.

1.21 Wexford Town to Rosslare Greenway

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. Constraints have been identified and ecological surveys are on-going.

The scoping and route options process is ongoing. A presentation was given to the joint Wexford and Rosslare MDCs in late March 2022 on this project. Public consultation on the preferred route corridor options commenced on 11th May 2022 with submissions closing on June 10th 2022.

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to review the route options for the proposed Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Stand greenway in light of the significant coastal protection works which has been carried out over the past two years by Irish rail. An ecological survey is on-going.

1.22 Oyster Lane Car Park, Wexford

A Part VIII submission has been made for the demolition of existing unoccupied buildings on the old Tesco site, including the construction of a temporary surface level car park.

The Part VIII was confirmed at the March 2022 County Council meeting. O'Connor Sutton Cronin consulting engineers has been appointed to provide design and construction related consultancy services for the project.

Tender assessment for the demolition works tender competition for the project is currently underway. Works are expected to commence onsite in Q1 2023. The main car park works contract will follow thereafter.

1.23 Crescent Quay - Dredging

An award of contract was made to RPS Consulting Engineers in June 2021 for design services for engineering assessment, environmental and foreshore consent applications in respect of this project. RPS is currently specifying and procuring investigative works to inform the dredging strategy. Hydromaster Ltd. is appointed to undertake sampling and testing of the proposed dredge material to inform the statutory consent process, and these services will be carried out in January 2023 with results expected in February 2023.

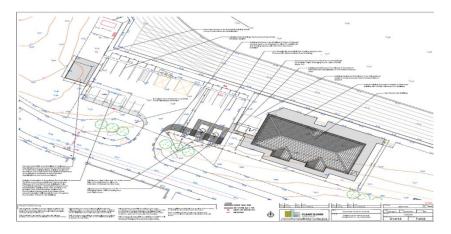
1.24 Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

The final masterplan is complete and was presented at the Enniscorthy MDC's October 2021 meeting. A contract for the initial Phase 1 works was advertised in January 2022. These works include new footpath, pedestrian crossings, new entry signage and landscaping. The Phase 1 works contract has been awarded to Hughes and Hennessy. Works, which commenced in July 2022, are almost complete. Outstanding items being addressed are the delivery of the new signage and ESB connection to crossing beacons.

A further application for funding of the masterplan has been made for 2023 under the NTA's Active Travel Scheme

1.25 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

O'Leary Sludds Architects were appointed in Feb 2021 for the detailed design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sport Hub building. A competition to award a works contract for the sports hub building was advertised in May 2022. The lowest price tender opened for the project exceeded the available budget and, therefore, it has been decided not to progress with awarding a works contract. A redesign process for the project is now underway, and it is expected to retender the project in Q1 2023.



1.26 Curracloe Water Sports Activity Facility

WCC has received Stage 2 compliance approval from Fáilte Ireland for the development of facilities to support water sports activities at Whitegap, Curracloe. The project will include showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers.

The tender for design services was advertised in Jan 2022, the tender evaluation process is now complete. Neville Conroy Architects is appointed, with surveying works and detailed design commenced in January 2023. It is planned to tender and commence works in 2023.

1.27 Ferndale Gymnasium, Wexford

Sports Capital funding of €300,000 has been secured for this project, supporting a donation of €500,000 from William Neville and Sons for this project. Part VIII is in place. A design team is in place with works to be tendered in Q2 2023.

1.28 Adoration Convent

Part VIII is in place for this project to convert the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus. A design team appointment is imminent. It is intended to tender in Q2 with works to commence before end of 2023.

2. Flood Defence Schemes

2.1 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Statutory Process - The Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie. Following the decision, the OPW confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy.

The Minister for State, Mr Patrick O'Donovan and senior officials from the OPW & WCC attended a special meeting of Enniscorthy MDC on 4th May 2022 to update the members in relation to the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme. The Minister supported a WCC proposal to progress the new River Slaney Bridge and the Flood Defence Scheme as two separate standalone projects.

Flood Defence Scheme - The hydrology and ecology baseline data is currently being updated. The scheme alternatives are to be assessed, consulted on publicly and a preferred option identified. MMD has issued a programme of work – the preferred option report & environmental assessment reports are scheduled to be completed in Q3 2023.

At that stage planning options will be reviewed, and the preferred planning route selected.

New River Slaney Bridge - The ecology baseline data is currently being updated and the traffic surveys are complete. ROD has issued a programme of work – planning is expected to be submitted in Q3 2023.

2.2 Wexford Flood Relief Scheme

The project brief for design services for Wexford Flood Relief Project was advertised on e-Tenders in early 2020. Seven tender submissions were received by the extended closing date of the 9thJuly 2020. Following a detailed tender assessment and evaluation process the decision not to award a contract arising from this tender competition has been advised to all tenderers. A further procurement process has been advertised with tenders received on 11th July 2022. A new tender assessment board was set up and the tender assessment is complete. An appointment is expected in Feb 2023.

HOUSING

Housing Supply
Capital Projects
Houses complete in 2022 have been removed from the table below.

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Rosetown Phase 1	23	Rosslare	Under Construction	Due to complete in Q1 2023
Marconi Park	1 TAP	Enniscorthy	Under Construction	Due to complete in Q2 2023
Whiterock Hill Phase 1	22	Wexford	Under construction	To be complete in Q2 2023
Women's Refuge	12	Wexford	Under Construction	Commencement construction contract Feb 2023
Rosetown Phase 2	12	Rosslare	Stage 3	Stage 4 to DHLGH Jan 2023. To commence construction Q1 2023
Whiterock Hill Phase 2	22	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 4 with DHLGH for approval. To commence construction Q1 2023
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 3	Stage 4 to DHLGH Feb 2023 To commence construction April 2023
Bullawn	3	New Ross	Single Stage	Contractor appointed for asbestos removal and demolition of superstructure Feb 2023 Tender construction works Q1 2023
Wexford Street	30	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Stage 3	Tenders received 30 th Jan 2023. Assessment underway. S4 Q1 2023 Commence construction April 2023
Rosbercon	38 (est)	New Ross	Stage 2	Enabling works re-tendered and due back Feb 2023 Appoint enabling contractor Q1 2023.
Francis St.	2	Wexford	Single Stage	Revised application to DHLGH Feb 23. Tender works in Q1 2023
Killeens	60	Wexford	Stage 1	Stage 2 to DHLGH on 15 Dec 2022. Part VIII Q1 23
Creagh	Creagh 22 Gorey / Kilmuckridge		Combined Stage 1/2	Consultants (QS and CS) appointed for combined Stages 1 and 2. Lodge application to DHLGH Q1 2023 for Design Build Delivery.
Monomolin	5	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Single Stage	Bundle tender for 3 projects. Consultants appointed. (Monomolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Submit funding application Q2 2023
Ballygillane	5	Rosslare	Single Stage	Bundle tender for 3 projects. Consultants appointed. (Monomolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Submit funding application Q2 2023

Grogan's Road	4	Wexford	Single Stage	Bundle tender for 3 projects. Consultants appointed. (Monomolin, Ballygillane and Grogans Road). Submit funding application Q2 2023
TOTAL	268			

Pre-Development Stage

i re-bevelopinent Stage						
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area		Comment		
Bride Street	3	Wexford	Single Stage	Demolitions complete. Consultant tenders due Feb 2023. SS funding application to DHLGH Q2 2023		
Tagoat	18	Rosslare	Single Stage	Consultants (QS and CS) appointed for combined Stages 1 and 2 in Q1 2023. Lodge application to DHLGH Q1 2023 for Design Build.		
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Single Stage	Asbestos removal and demolition complete. SS Funding application to DHLGH Q2 2023		
TOTAL	23					

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	A planning application has been submitted by a neighboring developer. Review programme for road delivery
St Walerans	35	Gorey	Part VIII lodged in Nov 2022. Appoint Project Management Q1 23
TOTAL	61		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Lacken TAP	1	New Ross	Surveys complete. Part VIII Q1 2023.
Belvedere	6	Wexford	Revised proposal
Creagh	24	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Sketch design prepared for site investigations and surveys.
Group Housing TAP	5	Wexford	Levels survey complete, site layout for discussion with stakeholders complete.
TOTAL	36		

Affordable Dwellings

	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ramsfort Park	20	Gorey	PM appointed. Invite Expressions of Interest Feb 2023
St Walerans	70	Gorey	Part VIII lodged in Nov 2022. Appoint Project Management Q1 2023
TOTAL	90		

Approved Housing Bodies

Approved Housing Bodies)		
Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
		Cluid	
Hewittland, New Ross (LAGS site)	48	New Ross	DHLGH Approval in Principle received June 2022. Decision to grant planning issued Dec 2022.
Bridgemeadows, Enniscorthy	12	Enniscorthy	DHLGH approval Nov 2022. To deliver Q2 2023
		Tuath	
Ramstown, Gorey	68	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	24 units delivered. Remainder to deliver 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q1 2023
		Peter Mc Verry Tr	ust
The Quay, New Ross	6	New Ross	All units delivered
	Co O	perative Housing Ire	eland (CHI)
Moongate, Clonard Rd, Wexford	38	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2022. To deliver 2023
Cuil na Dara, Clonard (Ph 2.1 of Pairc na Daire)	25	Wexford	DHLGH approval received June 2022. To deliver 2023
Pairc na Greine, Clonard (Ph2.2 of Pairc na Daire)	24	Wexford	DHLGH approval received Sept 2022. To deliver 2024
TOTAL	245		

Support has been offered to AHB's for other proposals amounting to 448 units across all Districts. These proposals are subject to planning and Departmental approval.

Offers of Support for AHB Proposals (Subject to Planning and Departmental Approval)

District	No of Units		
Enniscorthy	129		
Gorey	155		
New Ross	41		
Rosslare	17		
Wexford	106		
Total	448		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Greenhills, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	To deliver Q1 2023
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	To deliver from Q1 2023.
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey Ph 4	10	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	DHLGH Approval Dec 22. To deliver from Q2 2024
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	4	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	2 units delivered, 2 to be delivered by end of 2023
Spring View, Gorey Hill	11	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	Under construction. Amendment to planning permission being sought. To deliver on phased basis from 2023
Ard na hAbhann, Newtown Rd	2	Wexford	Under construction. Funding approval received May 2022. To deliver Q4 2023
TOTAL	42		

Turnkevs

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Tobar Muire, Creagh Demesne	39	Gorey / Kilmuckridge	10 units delivered. Remainder to deliver 2023
Castlelands, Ferns	20	Enniscorthy	DHLGH approval received Jan 2022. Under construction. Expected to deliver Q1 2023
Haughton Place, New Ross (includes 1 Part V)	13	New Ross	Expected to deliver 2024
Clonard Little (includes 1 Part V)	10	Wexford	Under construction. To deliver late 2023
Cross St., New Ross	2	New Ross	DHLGH approval Nov 22. To deliver Q2 2023
An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy	8	Enniscorthy	DHLGH approval Nov 22. To deliver Q2 2023
Greenhills, Clonhaston	8	Enniscorthy	DHLGH approval Nov 22. To deliver Q12023
Gleann an Ghairdin, Gorey	40	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	DHLGH approval Dec 22. To deliver from Q4 2023
Forgelands, Old Forge Rd, Enniscorthy	2	Enniscorthy	DHLGH approval Jan 23. To deliver Q3 2023
TOTAL	142		

The Housing Dept. continues to periodically seek Expressions of Interest for the provision of social housing units via Turnkey acquisition. Future calls will be targeted at smaller unit types in areas of need identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) and will include proposals for land. All proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by an Internal Assessment Committee.

Following assessment by the Internal Assessment Committee in January 2023, approval was given to progress two submissions to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Turnkey Units. Negotiations for additional turnkey units are ongoing with several developers.

Turnkey Proposals Submitted to the DHLGH for Approval

District	No of Units
Enniscorthy	8
Gorey	14
Wexford	2
Total	24

Social Housing Supports List 2022

Wexford County Council has 1,303 applicants on the social housing support list as of 31st December 2022. An additional 1,587 are on the transfer list; this includes applicants currently in private rented receiving the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). It is worth noting that only 273 on the transfer list are in Local Authority or AHB houses.

Municipal District	Non-transfer applicants	Transfer applicants	Total
Enniscorthy	301	334	635
Gorey - Kilmuckridge	360	407	767
New Ross	150	311	461
Rosslare	172	156	328
Wexford	320	379	699
Total	1,303	1,587	2,890

Tenant Purchase

Wexford County Council received **54** applications under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme (TIPS) from 1st January to 31st December, 2022, details as follows:-

Gorey	New Ross	Enniscorthy	Wexford	Rosslare
6	13	16	13	6

Private House Grants

The Housing Department aims to assist works to improve the living conditions of people with a disability, persons with mobility issues as well as assist older people living in poor housing conditions with due regard given to best value for money when assessing applications. In 2022, a total of €3,683,433 was paid to assist 620 households.

Grant Type	No of Applications	Amount Paid
Housing Adaptation Grant for persons with a Disability (HGD)	193	€1,598,687
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	355	€1,731,117
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	72	€ 353,629
TOTAL	620	€3,683,433

Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)

An integrated Homeless Service Centre (HSSU) was opened in Wexford in 2019 where relevant service providers proactively work in partnership with clients who are homeless or facing homelessness. The Centre offers homeless supports, advise and services in one location, with an emphasis on homeless prevention and supports.

This is a collaborative initiative by Wexford County Council working in partnership with the HSE and Focus Ireland. Some of the main services being provided through the HSSU working in partnership with external state agencies and NGO's are:

WCC Services	Focus Ireland Services	HSE Services
Homeless Assessment	Tenancy Sustainment	Substance Misuse
Homeless Assessment	Services	Outreach Services
Homeless Prevention and		
support services through early intervention	Housing First Project	Mental Health
HAP Place Finder Service	Advice & Information Service	Tusla Aftercare
Links to external agencies where appropriate		Tusla Domestic Violence Womens Refuge
Advice and information		

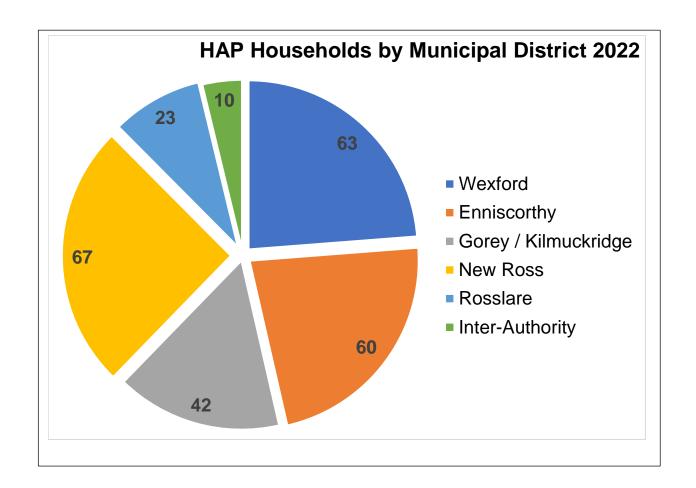
It is important to point out that the figures below represent the total number of calls to the HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.

There were	1,396 calls to the HSSU from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, the				
following is t	following is the breakdown of same:-				
883 (63%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention				
91 (7%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and				
91 (770)	tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers				
330 (24%)	Ineligible at the time presentation for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised				
330 (24 /8)	and assisted to regularise housing situation.				
92 (6%)	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.				

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The following table outlines new HAP units in the period 1st January to 31st December 2022 and current HAP tenancies. The category "Inter-Authority" are households housed with HAP tenancies in properties outside Wexford.

Municipal District	New HAP Units 2022	Current HAP tenancies
Wexford	63	329
Enniscorthy	60	298
Gorey / Kilmuckridge	42	305
New Ross	67	274
Rosslare	23	95
Inter-Authority	10	43
TOTAL	265	1,344



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LEADER PROGRAMME

LEADER FINANCE PERIOD – 20/12/2022 – 23/01/2023
The Article 48 team processed 2 LEADER claims in January. The value of these claims were €52,215.14 which will support 2 community groups in County Wexford.



These claims can be broken down as follows:

Promoter Paid	Claim Payment	
Forth Celtic AFC	€33,990.41	
2. Shelmaliers CFG	€18,224.23	
TOTAL	€52,215.14	

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING -

County Wexford Joint Policing Committee

The next meeting date of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for the 13th of March 2023.



LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) MEETING -

The next meeting of the Local Community and Development Committee is scheduled for the 01st of February 2023.

The meeting will focus on the development of the Local Economic Community Plan 2023 – 2028.



<u>COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND –</u>

REMINDER - Closing date for receipt of completed applications, 28th February 2023.

Wexford County Council in conjunction with Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites applications for funding submissions under the Community Support Fund 2022

The Community Support Fund 2022 (CSF) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022. A total fund of €340,233 has been made available by Wexford LCDC to support small-scale projects for not-for-profit community or voluntary groups.

The maximum grant aid per project is €5,000, with a percentage of grants ring fenced for Women's sheds projects (*dedicated application form*) and grants of €1,000 or less. Match funding is not required. All projects must be delivered by 31st August 2023.

Online application forms and programme guidelines are available at www.wexfordcoco.ie/csf

For queries please call 053-919 6000 or email community@wexfordcoco.ie.

WEXFORD LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

A meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group was held on the 30th of January 2023, items discussed included a presentation from Mr. Liam Mannix, KPMG Future Analytics including the preparation of *Draft Wexford Socio Economic Statement*.



In line with the approved guidelines/subject to minor amendments, the Socio Economic Statement was approved by the Advisory Steering Group and will require the approval of both the LCDC and SPC's.

A series of meetings are scheduled in early February to complete this statutory stage of the LECP process.



Healthy Ireland Round Four Funding

The funding application for Healthy Ireland Funding 2023-2025 was submitted in January and we await response on same. The two Healthy Ireland Outcome areas chosen for focus in this funding are:

- Increase in % of adults & children meeting physical activity guidelines
- Decrease in unconditional probability of dying (aged 30-70) from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

Reporting on 2022 Healthy Ireland Funding is required by mid February and work is underway to compile same.

Recent Healthy Wexford Activity

As part of our 'Making More' project three further engagement events were provided in Gorey Park in January. These events provided a tutor to show participants how to use the exercise equipment with the option of 'Come & Look' or 'Give it a Go'.

Plans are in place to roll this initiative out further and a call has been put out on social media to determine demand in other areas.



Walking Leader
Training, supporting the **Club Walking Programme** from Sports Active Wexford took place in Wexford on the 14th of January.

18 Community Walking Leaders were trained on the day.

Details of the Walks organised as part of the Club Walking Programme are available here https://sportsactivewexford.ie/?p=1303

Following on from the previous work with the farming community Healthy Wexford has connected Wexford Walking Trails, Wexford IFA, and the Walking & Cycling Officer at Wexford County Council to develop a new initiative called 'Country Connects' – a series of monthly walks on Wexford Walking Trails with an aim of connecting more rural and potentially isolated individuals and for a social connection opportunity generally. Walks are open to all and full details available on Wexford Walking Trails website https://wexfordwalkingtrail.ie/





Organised by the Healthy County Coordinator, members of staff in Community Development, Sports Active Wexford, and Wexford PPN recently undertook HSE South East Community Healthcare LGB Awareness Training.

The **2022 Pilot Period Poverty Project**, funded under Department of Health, ended in December. Positively, we have been invited to submit an Expression of Interest for 2023 funding, along with our 2022 project report. Subject to funding approval, we will be able to maintain the project for 2023.



Ancient Connections

• Ancient Connections awarded a tender for the provision of community archaeology engagement and a heritage festival. A tender was also awarded to provide an educational programme and training placements in traditional building skills. There was a requirement for volunteer hours as part of project funding and €141.643.81 volunteer hours in-kind support has taken place since the project began. This is 77% of the amount we need to reach by the end of the project (€183,514.00). Re-connect" campaign ran throughout the autumn 2022. Phase 2 of the project the "Re-Connect" campaign began in January 2023 and will focus on promoting the pilgrim route, including Sky AdSmart, Out of Home ads, Radio, Digital Strategy and Social Media/PR. "Marketing and Training Supports For Festivals" and "Enterprise and Innovation Supports" training programmes are progressing with good response and engagement from participating community groups and individual entrepreneurs.

Celtic Routes

Virtual Thematic Group meetings were held during January, with high attendance and very engaged participants. The options available for cross promotion and social media activity were investigated and explained. The formulation of the in-person Learning Journeys was started, with participants expressing the preference for 2 day mid-week Journeys to take place in early March. Celtic Routes took a took a stand at the Holiday World Show in the RDS from the 27th to the 29th of January, hosting Visit Waterford, Visit Wexford and Visit Wicklow, as well as tourism businesses for each county. The 360 virtual reality video of the entire project was available to experience that weekend.



Age Friendly

OPC Recruitment

An Older Persons Council Sub Committee has been formed to assist with organising District Meetings in the five Municipal Districts culminating with the OPC AGM in May 2023. The committee met on January 24th to discuss a possible timeline for these District meetings which will lead up to the AGM. We will enlist the support of each District Manager and Elected Members with this drive and request that they encourage people in their electoral area to attend.

Cycling without Age

Age Friendly Wexford together with Wexford County Council's Cycling and Walking Office is involved in the 'Cycling without Age 'scheme in connecting with Day Care settings and other facilities promoting the idea and assessing the suitability of a trishaw/ rickshaw being left for use by residents. We are arranging a demonstration of the vehicle in February at Our Lady's Island pilgrimage site which would have a large Older Person following.

PPN

Wexford PPN held a Secretariat Meeting and a Strategic Planning meeting during the month of January. Information bulletins were emailed to all PPN members on 20th December 2022, 5th and 17th January 2023.

Expressions of Interest are being sought for a number of Representatives (5 in total) to fill immediate vacancies on the following Wexford County Council Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) / other committees.

Strategic Policy Committee

Economic Development & Enterprise. – 1 Social Inclusion Representative. Housing & Community. – 1 Social Inclusion Representative.

Other Committees

Healthy Wexford. – 1 Representative from any Pillar.

County Wexford Heritage Forum. (2 Positions) – 1 Community & Voluntary Representative and 1 Environment Representative.

Monica Gaynor, Resource Worker was part of the HSE South East Community Healthcare LGB Awareness Training recently at Wexford County Council thanks to Healthy Wexford including the team from Community Development and Sports Active Wexford.

SPORTS ACTIVE

Community Walking Programme

18 people attended a Community Walking Leader workshop with tutor Frank Fahey on Saturday 14th January. Sports Active are supporting community walks around the county and helping promote any walks. Participation packs have been given out to volunteers organising walks.

Schools Badminton Programme Schools

Badminton funday will be held in Astro Active on the 3rd of February 2023 where 12 schools from around the county will be invited to take part in Badminton activities.

Marathon Kids

After the success of Marathon Kids earlier this year, SAW plan on linking in with Marathon Kids Ireland to offer places to 1000 children around Wexford starting early 2023.

Fit Over 50's

25 women over 50 years are attending the Fit Over 50's programme in Kinetic Fitness, Wexford

11 women are attending Fit Over 50's in New Ross Town Park.

Strong and Steady

7 older adult females attend Strong and Steady in Coolcootts Community Centre on a weekly basis.

Scooch

A scooch taster session was delivered on Friday 13th Jan in Clonard community centre to a COPD group. 12 participants attended; 7 males and 5 females.

Inclusive Fitness Lady of Fatima

SAW is delivering a three week inclusive fitness programme to 12 students in the senior class in Lady of Fatima. There are 8 males and 4 females in attendance.

Innovation Fund 'Augmented Reality Nature Walk

The Walton Institute team began the augmented reality workshops in the 5 Mental Health Services; Tara House, Carne House, Recovery and Rehabilitation, Summerhill and Psychiatry for Later Life.

Enjoy Tennis

An inclusive tennis programme for people with disabilities begins on Friday 26th of January in the Wexford Boat and Tennis Club. 8 participants have registered for the 10-week programme.

Sanctuary Runners

Sports Active are supporting Wexford Local Development in setting up a new Sanctuary Runners group in Courtown for the Direct Provision Centre and the Ukrainian group that are in the town.

Safeguarding

- 1 x Safeguarding 1 Course has been completed in 2023 with a total of 20 participants.
- 1 x Safeguarding 2 Course has been completed in 2023 with a total of 14 participants.



Fit over 50 Women, New Ross



Walking Leader training in Wexford on 14th January, 2023

ENVIRONMENT

A. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

In April 2022, Department of Ag, Food & Marine (DAFM) announced funding of 23 projects with a total construction cost of €1.4m in Co. Wexford under a new scheme to develop works on LA harbours, called the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure 2022 – 2023.

The DAFM approved a second tranche of funding in December 2022, with a total between first and second tranches of 25 projects with total construction cost of €1.79m. The DAFM funding has increased from 85% to 95%, with Wexford County Council paying the 5% match funding

on construction. Note that WCC must pay all non-construction costs including design, environmental reports etc.

Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access. Part XI planning was submitted to Planning Department on 5th April 2022. This scheme was included in the above DAFM approved projects including additional funding in the second trance bringing total project funding for construction to €550,000. The planning process has now resumed and is expected to be brought to the District meeting in February/March 2023. Consulting engineers are appointed to progress the detailed design.

Ports Past and Present: There is ongoing engagement with the Rosslare community, artists, and our project partners in University College Cork and two Welsh universities. Regular updates and further information are available at https://portspastpresent.eu/

Beaches -

Application for 6 blue flag beaches was submitted to An Taisce on 8th December – Ballymoney, Morriscastle, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare, Carne. An Taisce will announce the blue flags in May 2023.

Ballymoney – consulting engineers were appointed to undertake a feasibility report on improving accessibility on the path to the blue flag beach. A draft report was submitted in Sept 2022 outlining a number of options with associated costings. Environment Dept is examining how best to deliver these improvements in terms of enhancing access and age friendly works.

Rosslare Strand – Bearlough: work has started on the construction of 2 new disabled car spaces at the entrance to Rosslare Burrow Holiday Park. These spaces will provide access to the beach along the new macadam path that was constructed in 2021.

Coast -

The Environment Dept monitors the coastline regularly, focussing on erosion risk areas. In addition, there has been a drop in beach levels at many beaches as a result of winter storms. We will also continue to monitor this and expect the beaches to recover over the next number of months.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd Consulting Engineers is appointed to progress the scheme from options, statutory consents, detailed design, tender and construction. Steering meetings with WCC, OPW and the consultants are now underway and are held monthly. Topographic and threshold surveys are complete. Wintering bird survey is underway.

The project website and project email are now live and can be accessed at https://www.floodinfo.ie/rosslarefrs/

There is provision on the website to email the project team with specific queries.

<u>Seaview, Kilmore:</u> emergency works to protect the access road were completed in Jan 2022. Ecological, bathymetric and seabed surveys on the overall coastal protection scheme are complete. University College Cork is undertaking coastal modelling. A planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála which will include coastal protection works and a new beach access, the application is being prepared for submission.

<u>Lady's Island Water Level Management Structure</u> – An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for this development, dated 3rd Sept 2021. Foreshore licence application has been lodged and is under consideration by the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

<u>Morriscastle Dune Restoration:</u> The project involves installation of fencing and marram grass planting to restore and manage the dune system at main beach entrance. All works under phase 1 of this scheme are complete.

<u>Grange, Fethard on Sea:</u> works to protect sections of the public road from coastal erosion went to tender. Roads Department is reviewing funding arrangements to confirm funding is in place to carry out the works.

B. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are now re-opened.

Public Conveniences	Open	Commernts
Slade	All Year	
Dunncannon	All Year	
Cullenstown	Seasonal	
Kilmore	All Year	
Carne	All Year	
Bunclody		New Caretaker starting 21st November 2022
Rosslare Strand	All Year	
Ballyconniger	Seasonal	
Ballineskeer	All Year	Now Opened All Year following Building Extension
Curracloe	All Year	
Min Ryan Park	All Year	
Vinegar Hill - Dryloo	All Year	Operating Successfully – Replace damaged Roof planned for 19 th or 20 th January
Carrigfoyle	All Year	Anti-Vandal Steel Container delivered 18th October
Morriscastle	75% of Year	
Courtown	All Year	
Ballymoney	All Year	Tender Price Received for Universal Access Toilet
Baginbun – Poratloo's	All Year	Percolation Test to be carried out
Cahore – Portasloo's	All Year	
Carcur – Portaloo's	All Year	

C. WATER, AIR & NOISE

1. Water Framework Directive:

Under the Water Framework Directive every catchment in the county must be assessed to identify required actions to maintain and improve water quality. This work which is being carried out by Wexford Co. Co. in conjunction of LAWPRO is being supervised by the Sub-Catchment Unit of the EPA.

2. Water Sampling:

A Total of 556 water quality samples are taken by Council Scientists from 85 sampling sites in the county per year with analysis carried out by the EPA. 11 surveillance sites are being sampled 12 times per year.

3. Septic Tank Inspections:

139 inspections were carried out in 2022. Wexford had a minimum of 106 inspections to carry out in 2022. All work carried out is external with no requirement to enter a dwelling. Contractors are currently carrying out work on several sites to close outstanding Advisory Notices. 130 inspections will have to be carried out in 2023.

Progress is being made with closing existing open files. All files up to the end of 2016 have been closed. 101 files were closed during 2022. 68 extensions of time were granted in 2022. There are currently 64 open files for the years 2017-2021 and 41 open for 2022, a total of 105 open cases.

30 new applications for grant assistance have been received this year to date, twenty-eight of which are paid/put forward for payment and two are outstanding documentation to review further.

Year	Number of inspections	Pass	Fail	Outstanding	Closed in 2022
2019	156	48	108	14	8
2020	111	38	73	10	10
2021	91	24	67	26	31
2022	139	50	89	41	48

There are currently 13 cases in the Court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices. 3 of these are for hearing and 9 are currently for mention.

All NIP files up to end of 2016 have now been closed off. 2017 has 7 open files with 1 on hold due to new N11 route selection, 5 due to assessment of public sewer for Ramsgrange and 1 case is in court. 2018 have 7 open files with good progress on 5 of these, 4 are in court. 2019-2022 figures can be seen in the Table above.

4. Section 4 Discharge Licences:

The Council currently has 95 active Discharge Licences. Five new applications have been received and are currently under review. Two discharge licences were revoked in December 2022.

5. Air Quality:

Wexford County Council enforces air quality requirements for 3 specific types of facilities, which must be registered with Wexford County Council. These Certificates must be renewed every 3 years. On-going enforcement action is carried out to ensure sites remain certified. Wexford has a 100% compliance record in this regard for all 3 below categories in 2022.

Vehicle Refinishers: At end of 2022, 59 facilities were registered with Wexford County Council under the "Deco Paints" Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities and issues "On the Spot Fines" of €500 where illegal operators are identified on foot of enforcement investigations – see Table below. The additional facilities were identified on foot of targeted enforcement action in 2022.

Dry Cleaners: At end of 2022, 8 Dry Cleaners and 1 Medical Device Company were registered with Wexford County Council under the "Solvents" Regulations. WCC issues Certificates of Compliance to these facilities – see Table below. Due to targeted enforcement action in Q3/Q4 of 2022, a new category of facility is due to be added to this register in 2023.

Petrol Stations: At end of 2022, 80 sites were registered with Wexford County Council under the PVE Regulations. WCC also issues Certificates of Testing to these facilities under these Regulations – see Table below.

No. of Certificates of Compliance Issued:

Category of Facility	No. Issued in 2020	No. Issued in 2021	No. Issued in 2022	No. of On the Spot Fines Issued (to end Sept. 2022)
Vehicle Refinishers	21	19	24	4
Petrol Vapour Emissions	28	22	22	N/A
Solvents	2	3	5	N/A

Low Smoke Fuel Areas

The Air Pollution Act 1987 (SOLID FUELS) Regulations 2022 was signed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Mr Eamon Ryan and came into effect on the 31st October 2022. Spot inspections have been carried out to ensure compliance with the 2022 Regulations.

6. Climate Action

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Local Authority to prepare their own Climate Action Plan(CAP). The plan must cover both mitigation and adaptation measures and must be updated once every five years. The plan will also include the development of a decarbonisation zone(DZ). The DZ will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. Enniscorthy is the proposed Decarbonisation

Zone for County Wexford. Preparatory work has commenced on the preparation of the CAP ahead of the official direction by the minister to prepare the plan.

All counties will have 12 months to prepare and fully adopt the plan. Information webinars on the preparation and implementation of the CAP are scheduled for Senior management and separately the Climate.

7. Agriculture:

Wexford County Council continues to undertake a significant number of farm inspections in accordance with the WFD. A total of 65 farm inspections undertaken because of pollution incidents or complaints, 30 of these farms were found to have non-compliances. Wexford County Council engage with landowners to undertake the necessary rectifications works through encouragement of improvement of farming infrastructure and farming practices. Section 12 & 23 notices under the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977-1990 were served upon on 4 individuals where 2 of these farms were cross reported to DAFM. A total of 95 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed.

WFD inspections	Farm inspections	Farms with Nitrates Directive non- compliances	Section 12 & 23 notices served	Section 3 notices served
2019	60	19	5	0
2020	102	50	5	2
2021	78	45	9	0
2022	13	4	0	0

8. Duncannon EIP Project

Wexford County Council is currently the lead partner in the Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Communities Scheme. We were successful in receiving funding of €550,000 to run this project for 3 years. A 12 month extension to the project was secured in 2022 and further funding awarded of €171,197. In December 2022, the operational group applied for a final 5 month extension until May 2023 to complete the project.

The project continues engaging with 35 farmers covering over 950ha of the 1300ha catchment. To date, engagement with all farmers continue with approximately 4 visits to each farm every year where baseline and final "Pollution Potential Zone" surveys are carried out.

The project runs a results-based reward scheme where an annual payment is made to each farmer based on their PPZ survey which ranges from €1,000 & €4,000. The farmer can also avail of a water protection improvement works grant which can be used to carry out like fencing watercourses, establishing arable grass margins, resurfacing clean yard areas, hedgerow establishment, riparian margins etc. To date, the EIP project has paid €320,000 in annual payments to farmers while funding of approx. €35,000 has being paid to farmers that have completed works. It is expected that final works will be completed on lands by 31st April 2023 and sampling under the EIP monitoring programme will be completed in February 2023.

No. of farmers	35
No. of visits/ engagement	620
Area signed up to EIP	955HA/1300HA
Km's fencing of watercourses	5.4km
Establishment of arable grass margins	1200m

D. WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Landfills:

Holmestown Landfill remains temporarily closed. Environmental monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure continues at both Killurin and Holmestown in accordance with the conditions of our waste licences.

The Household Recycling Centre at Holmestown continues to provide recycling services to members of the public as well as a disposal service for other waste streams such as residual waste, bulky waste, segregated food waste, garden waste and waste paint.

2. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network -

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites December 2022	Recycling out (End December) 2021 (t)	Recycling out (End December)2022 (t)
Glass bottles		4293	3772
Aluminium Cans		115	95
Total	109	4408	3867

Household Recycling Centres -

	Summary of Activities									
	Enniscorthy Ne		New	Ross	Holmestown		Gorey			
WASTE	Recycling	Recycling	Recycling	Recycling	Recycling out	Recycling out	Recycling	Recycling		
CATEGORY	out	out	out	out	Jan- Dec2021	Jan - Dec	out	out		
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec		2022	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec		
	2021 (t)	2022 (t)	2021 (t)	2022(t)			2021	2022		
Total Recycling out	635	589	710	650	873	860	567	502		
Total			N1 / A							
Domestic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22685	2513	N/A	N/A		
Waste in										
Daily Average Customers	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022		
Jan-Dec	73	71	117	112	104	99	88	86		

Due to net operating costs increases, an entry charge of €2 was introduced to all household recycling centres on 13th June 2017.

3. Rapid Response Crew

Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with one two-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts and a second servicing Wexford, Rosslare and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Their fleadilifie act	ivilles for year to	uale are surring	aliseu below.
To end Dec 2021	December 2022	To end Dec 2022	% +/ _
2,577	152	1,984	-23%
	31		
	45		
	37		
	23		
	16		
9,062	828	9,077	+0.16%
	207	,	
	204		
	263		
	131		
16,056		18,158	+13%
North	518		
South	1,160		
4,925	339	5,494	+11.5%
	55		
	99		
	74		
	74 37		
	9,062 16,056 North South	To end Dec 2021 December 2022 2,577 152 31 45 37 23 16 9,062 828 207 204 263 131 23 16,056 1,678 North 518 South 1,160 4,925 339 55 99 74 74	2021 2022 2022 2,577 152 1,984 31 45 37 23 16 9,062 828 9,077 207 204 263 131 23 16,056 1,678 18,158 North 518 South 1,160 4,925 339 5,494 55 99 74 74

4. New Recycling Items

From September, soft plastics can be recycled through the domestic waste collection service. Soft plastic may include bubble wrap, plastic bags and similar wrapping are included in the new items that may be recycled. As with any other plastics, these should be clean and dry and loose.

5. Waste Facility Permits:

We currently have sufficient permitted facilities throughout the county, such as Clean Soil and Stone, construction and demolition sites, ATF's / End of Life Vehicles and Pay to Use Waste Compactor Unit. The full list of Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration can be viewed on the Council's website.

Altogether there are 66 registered operational Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for premises involved in waste management activities in the County. There are also 2 applications being processed at present.

6. Enforcement:

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine (planned) and non-routine inspections of waste facilities and problem sites or site where we have received complaints. This work is done in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2022 RMCEI Plan allocates 6,698 routine inspections by 22 Full Time Equivalent staff members. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, Mercury etc.

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication have set national waste priorities for 2022 to 2024, a three-year target and they are.

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Construction and Demolition Activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector,
- Waste Collection Household & Commercial.
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

1 LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

As of the 1st of July 2022, the public can now pay environmental fines online relating to litter fines, waste by laws fixed payment notices and waste collection permit fixed payment notices, three have been paid to date.

Total fixed penalty notices issued	FOR 2021	TOTAL FOR 2022- TO DECEMBER 2022
Fines Issued (All Fixed Penalty Notice Issued)	199	229
Fines Paid in Full●	69	111
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	71	75
Successful Prosecutions**	15	43
Legal Proceedings In Progress	61	49
Amount Collected in Fines -total	€10,220	€18,530.57
Amount awarded via the Court system		€5,130

- * Other fines may be paid prior to the hearing or withdrawn for evidential or legal reasons.
- Includes income from all Fixed Penalty Notices

September 2022:

Wexford County Council had 13 successful prosecutions in September 2022. One under the Air Pollution Act, a fine of €500 and legal costs of €1200 awarded. Four Littering cases with fines of €990 and Legal costs of €1000 awarded and seven successful prosecutions under the Waste Management Act in relation to Waste Presentation Bye-Law 2018 cases whereby €1200 in fines and €2388 in legal costs were awarded.

October 2022: Wexford County Council had three successful prosecutions in October 2022 under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2018. A total of €340 was awarded in fines and costs of €450.

November 2022: Three successful prosecutions were achieved by Wexford County Council in November 2022 under the Waste Presentation Bye-laws 2018. Fines of €450 were awarded along with €950 in costs.

December 2022: No court was held in December for Wexford County Council cases.

Year	Dumping Incidents Reported	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Community Clean Ups	Percentage Increase/Decrease
2019	2,925		741	
2020	3,187	Up 9%	628	Down 15%
2021	2,721	Down 15%	1,331	Up 112%
2022	2,188	Down 20%	1,023	Down 23%

The reduction in reported dumping incidents is also reflected in a similar decline in attendances by the Environment Clean Up Crew to incidents.

Litter/Waste Enforcement Activity 2009-2022(December)

	Fines Issued	Court	Reports
2022	229	43	2188 (down 20%)
2021	100	19	2721 (down 15%)
2020	213	20	3187 (up 15%)
2019	341	13	2758 (down 9%)
2018	324	22	3050 (up 15%)
2017	218	27	2651 (Up 12%)
2016	274	17	2,354 (up 22%)
2015	242	17	1,927 (up 11%)
2014	154	17	1,732 (up 10%)

2013	140	15	1,571 (up 21%)
2012	182	16	1,292 (down 3%)
2011	209	17	1,329
2010	370	27	1,338

F.GENERAL

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system.

The total figures for complaints received are as follows:

-	Jan to Dec 2017	Jan to Dec 2018	Jan to Dec 2019	Jan to Dec 2020	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2022
Incidents	3600	4609	4749	4999	5136	3896
Closed	3526	4563	4482	4472	4447	2998
Closure Rate	98%	99%	94%	89%	86%	77%

Control of Dogs & Horses:

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden and one part-time Dog Warden. The main pound is Pets First Kennels, Ballycarney, Co Wexford.

Control of dogs	2020	2021	2022
Dogs collected	532	429	546
Dogs reclaimed	127	133	117
Dogs re-homed/transferred	373	267	370
Dogs put to sleep	32	29	51
Dog Fines	5	18	21

There are now 27 registered Dog Breeding Establishments with several applications on hand awaiting inspection.

In 2022 18 horses have been impounded and all have been rehomed or reclaimed.

Environment Education and Awareness:

Our aim is to promote awareness and active participation in a range of environmental initiatives.

Green Schools: Schools applying for their first Green Flag, Litter & Waste theme, must submit an application by Wednesday, February 15th, 2023. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, March 24th, 2023 for the 2022/2023 academic year. In total 92 primary schools and 18 secondary schools have been awarded the green flag. All schools due to renew are being contacted to arrange a renewal visit before 24th March 2023.

Christmas Decoration Competition: The awards of the Christmas Decoration Competition were presented to the winners by An Cathoirleach Councillor George Lawlor on Monday 19th December in County Hall. Alan Corcoran SE Radio interviewed some of the winners at the awards and it was aired over SE radio on Tuesday morning 20th December. Over 200 were in attendance at the prize giving ceremony. The overall primary school winner was a group entry by Tomás Meyler, Fionn Quirke and Blake Thomas, Mercy School, John's Road, Wexford entitled 'The Christmas Tree'. Tomás, Fionn and Blake made the winning decoration by using a range of waste materials including cardboard, tops of playdough pots, old ping pong ball and a soap bottle. The Overall Runner Up was an entry entitled 'Jenfer the Carol Singer' by Ivy Allen, 2nd class, St Mary's National School, Enniscorthy. Ivy created her decoration using a ketchup bottle, sweet tub, coffee jar lid, food netting and cardboard. The People's Choice award proved to be a great success again this year where members of the public voted for their favourite decoration on display. Annie Mcguire, Kilymshall National School secured this award with her decoration 'Santa & Snowmen on Sleigh'.

Overall Primary School Winner, 'The Christmas Tree', by Tomás Meyler, Fionn Quirke, and Blake Thomas, Mercy School, John's Road, Wexford.



Overall Runner Up 'Jenfer the Carol Singer' by Ivy Allen, St Mary's National School, Enniscorthy



Climate Literacy Programme:

The Environment Section are funding 5 schools to participate in a Pilot Climate Literacy Programme. Expressions of interest was sought from all secondary schools. This 10 week course includes inschool teacher training, resources, lesson plans and an interactive student workbook. The costs of the 10 week course are covered by the Environment Section and a different topic is explored each week including climate change, sustainable development, climate justice, biodiversity loss, taking action, fast fashion, sustainable transportation, food, soil and plastic pollution. Students run an action project on the last two weeks of the course. The facilitator leaves the school at the end of the course

and the teacher continues to teach the course with a new group of students. This course can be run in schools for many years once the teachers are trained.

100 Million Trees: On 14th December Bride Street Church was planted with 1000 native trees as part of 'The 100 Million Trees Project'. The project is a new national community-driven initiative developed by brothers, Richard and David Mulcahy, which aims to see the planting of 100 million native Irish trees across the island of Ireland throughout the next decade to reverse the environmental damage caused by the reduction of forests worldwide. The project's ambitious aim will be achieved through densely planting between 1,000 and 2,500 native Irish trees at a time across small areas of land using 'the Miyawaki method'. Named after Japanese Botanist, Professor Akira Miyawaki, who developed the technique in the 1970s. By planting excess trees together, they grow considerably faster, denser, are more biodiverse, and most importantly create a very rapid carbon sink and provide excellent areas of biodiversity. Bride Street Church is the second site to be planted, Tintern was planted in November and Gorey Town Park will be planted in January 2013.







Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: The 'Bag It Bin It' will be reinforced by a social media campaign to run from early March. The campaign is set to firmly emphasize that dog fouling is your responsibility as a dog owner. The campaign will address a range of issues surrounding dog fouling, from its effect on the public who use our streets, parks, and beaches, to attitudes to cleaning up as dog owners, from health issues to civic pride. The campaign will reach across social media and local community groups and Tidy Towns groups will be asked to share images on social media.











Green Dog Walker: The Green Dog Walker Campaign is being promoted and registrations are through the website.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Libraries, Archives and Arts Report to Wexford County Council

CE Report February 2023

Ireland Reads February 2023

Libraries throughout Wexford are taking part in *Ireland Reads* a campaign to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to a national day of reading on Saturday, February 25th.

Irish libraries have teamed up with publishers, booksellers, authors, and others for the campaign, which is part of the government's Healthy Ireland programme and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment. The campaign is asking everyone to 'squeeze in a read' on *Ireland Reads* Day, Saturday, February 25th and a programme of events celebrating reading will take place on that day in all libraries in the county.

Sensory Friendly Quiet Hour

The Sensory-friendly Quiet Hour which is in place in all libraries across County Wexford, continued each Saturday from 4pm to 5pm throughout January. Library users can visit and relax in the calm friendly environment of the library, enjoy quiet time, and use some of the sensory equipment available. A range of new Story time Sacks were purchased for use by parents in the libraries.

Environment

Wexford Science Café held a talk with Professor Blánaid White, DCU in Wexford Branch. She discussed her work on various projects, sustainable pesticide use, enhancing farmland biodiversity and exploring chemical interactions in the environment through honey. The Home Energy Saving Kit and Digital Radon Monitors continue to be borrowed from all library branches.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Public libraries are currently delivering the nationwide Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme that will establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. Funding granted by Healthy Ireland has enhanced health and wellbeing book collections (digital and hardcopy), and provided for staff training, events, and promotion. The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme will continue to build on this and contribute to improving the health, wellbeing, and overall quality of life of communities and individuals at all life stages. A core collection of books to support *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* is available in every library in the county.

IT Literacy

IT literacy continues to be supported in all Wexford Library branches. Gorey Active Retirement used the IT suite in the library to give classes to members in how to use devices for online shopping, banking and social media.

Frank Turner from TEKcentral continued facilitating a series of one-on-one Dormant Accounts Funded age-friendly classes in Gorey Library in January. Aimed at over 55s, 'Online in no time' provides 6 participants with the opportunity to attend 4x 20 min sessions, using mobiles, tablets, and laptops, allowing users to familiarise themselves with areas such as online banking, shopping, and bill paying among other requirements.

Adult Events and Literature

Adult Book Clubs continued in all libraries throughout January, three in Wexford Branch, one of these is online, and one in Bunclody, New Ross, Gorey and Enniscorthy. Dr Noel Culleton presented Stories and Music by Female Composers in Wexford Branch. The Irish Conversation group met in New Ross, creative writing groups continued.

Heritage

Enniscorthy Library hosted Talking Folklore where traditional Singer and Folklore collector Rachel Uí Fhaoláin and Irish Times Best Selling Author Caroline Busher discussed female voices in Irish folklore and explored the traditions surrounding the twelfth and final day of Christmas, January 6th, also known in Ireland as The Feast of the Epiphany, Little Christmas, Old Christmas Day, Nollaig na mBan or Women's Christmas.

January's North Wexford Historical Society talk took place in Gorey Library with The Guards (An Garda Síochána) of County Wexford, by Tom Miller and Tony Fagan, co-authors of 'The Guards', which was published in October 2022.

Services to Ukrainian Nationals

Informal English-speaking lessons continued weekly in Gorey Library. In Wexford Branch volunteer tutors provided weekly English classes. Distribution of information on library resources and e-Resources to Ukrainian Nationals continued in all branches, with an increase in new members from the Ukrainian community throughout January.

Our literacy App for children LOTE4Kids ie digital children's books in Languages Other Than English, is being promoted to Ukrainian Nationals.

Children's Services

Rhyme Time, Story Time and children's book clubs continued in libraries throughout the county. All branches have invested in Lego. Lego feeds into the primary school STEAM curriculum, using play to develop skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Family LEGO Freeplay sessions will now be provided in Wexford Library as well as New Ross, every Saturday throughout the year. Rhyme Time and Story Time in all the branches is usually followed by a Lego or Duplo Freeplay time. New Ross promoted family use of Board Games and did a 3D Printer Demonstration for families.

School visits recommenced in all branches over the month. A new Online Class Set Reservation System was launched in January in Wexford branch. This system allows schools to reserve class novel sets outside core library hours. A new system Online Browsing Visits for schools also launched in Wexford Branch in January. This new system allows teachers to book class visits with instant booking confirmation response. The system streamlines the process for teachers, making bookings more accessible.

Community Events

During January Bunclody Library facilitated a number of community meetings with Wexford Local Development, local Gardai and Bunclody Recreational Committee during the month. An information evening was facilitated by Eve Law, Development and Placement Officer with Wexford Volunteer Centre in Bunclody and Wexford branches. Wexford Branch hosted an information talk by ALONE, the national organisation which enables older people to age at home, with Joan Slattery, National Support coordinator, which covered support services available along with the referral process, call for volunteers and the coordinated supports. New Ross Library hosted Don't Judge a Book by its Cover an Art Exhibition by 5th Year art students from Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School.

THE DECADE OF CENTENARIES

Wexford County Archive Outreach

The Archive registered with the Irish Poetry Reading Archive during the month – an initiative of UCD Library's Special Collections Dept. whose project entitled 'Poetry as Commemoration' uses poetry to explore how Ireland's struggle for independence and the Civil War shaped the emergence of the Irish State. Two poetry workshops for adults will be held in the Archive's reading room in Ardcavan on the afternoons of 20 and 27 March. Facilitated by Mark Granier, those attending the workshops will engage with an array of documentary, photographic and physical objects from the county archive's collections specific to the 1921-23 period as their inspiration before penning a poem. The creative output from these workshops will be preserved and made available in a centralised repository in UCD. Dr Ned Culleton's 'Lament for the Civil War' deposited in the Archive last year was recently added to the physical and digital archive in UCD. The lament was based on the Spencerstown ambush which occurred on 10 January 1923 in which two IRA men were shot.

The Railways in County Wexford

New Ross Library hosted The Railways and County Wexford's Revolutionary Period with Barry Lacey, Historian-in-residence.

Decade of Centenaries programme 2023

Twenty twenty-three marks the end of the national Decade of Centenaries programme. It is expected that an announcement on funding for this year's programme being made available to local authorities will be made by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media during February.

CREATIVE IRELAND

It has been announced by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media that the Creative Ireland Programme will continue until 2027. Along with established programmes of work in Creative Communities which is the focus of the local authority programme, new initiatives in Creative Industries, Creative Health and Wellbeing, Climate Action and Social Sustainability to be delivered. The Programme will also develop a major Shared Island dimension with support from the Department of the Taoiseach. Each local authority has prepared a Culture and Creativity Strategy that will provide the blueprint for the development creative communities programme from 2023 to 2027.

Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for children and young people will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023. Consultation with children and young people is being carried out county wide to inform the programme for Cruinniú 2023. An open call for creative practitioners to become involved in Cruinniú na nÓg in County Wexford will be held during February.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

In addition to 42 research enquiries via email, telephone and post, a total of 2 researchers visited the Archive during January. Research topics included the placement of children from County Wexford in boarded-out placements and in industrial schools in the 1920s (through the minutes of County Wexford Board of Health & Public Assistance and council minutes); and

research through 19th century estate rentals in the barony of Shelmalier East for lands tenanted by Thomas and Francis Clancy.

Acquisition

A collection of genealogical research files on various family surnames across County Wexford were deposited in the Archive in mid-January. Compiled over a lifetime by the late Hilary Murphy when he was engaged as a professional genealogist, the files will complement many land-based primary source collections already in the Archive.

ARTS

Artlinks- Open call Artists' Bursaries

An open call took place in January 2023. Closing date for applications is 20th February 2023. Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the Southeast Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford art offices. Total fund for Wexford is €30,000 for artists across all artforms. The Artlinks award in Wexford has average grants of €1,000 - € 2,500 and there is strong demand from artists every year.

Small Arts & Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant Scheme 2023

The Arts Office announced in January a Grant Scheme for festivals taking place in County Wexford during 2023. Deadline for receipt of application is Wednesday 1st March 2023. This year the grant scheme is broken into two strands:

Strand 1 - Small Arts Festival Grant

This Strand aims to promote and support a diverse range of small arts festivals or experimental artistic events throughout Wexford County. The focus is on festivals/events of high artistic quality and have a strong emphasis on public engagement. We also welcome applications promoting cross disciplinary artistic collaborations and experimentation.

Strand 2 – Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant

This new strand supported by Fáilte Ireland aims to support festivals and events that will drive domestic tourism, help to improve the visitor experience in County Wexford and promote Ireland's Ancient East as the most personally engaging cultural destination in Europe.

The Art Ability Programme - Assistant Artist

Wexford County Council (WCC) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) have extended the Assistant Artists in the Art Ability Programme for a further 12 weeks in 2023. The artists part taking are Brid Colloton, Jenni Roddy, and Luke Cosgrave. This initiative within the Art Ability Programme, aims to provide an opportunity for artists to develop their skills and experience in arts and health and participatory arts practice through hands on experience working with the lead artists in a professional arts and health care environment. In addition, mentoring and training will be provided to the assistant artist.

The Living Arts in Schools Programme in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre aim to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Workshops resumed in January 2023 with the four selected primary schools teamed with the eight artists:

- Deirdre Meehan-Buttimer & Fernanda Ferrari in Castledockrell NS (Enniscorthy)
- Kate Murphy and Brid Colloton in St. Edan's NS (Ferns, Enniscorthy)

- Jeni Roddy and Lynn Haughton with Scoil Mhuire (Rosslare),
- Sonya Weston and Deirdre Travers with St. Patrick's NS (Crossabeg).

Screen Wexford: funded by Arts & Economic departments of WCC to develop film industry in Wexford. Training/ networking events hosted in January.

'How to create a corporate/documentary video for businesses' a two-day filmmaking course hosted in Fethard in January. This workshop consisted of one-day of filming and one day of editing. During the workshop participants worked with the local RNLI to produce a film about recruiting volunteers. The workshop was attended by local businesses including eg. Hook Tourism and Dunbrody House.

Networking session in Gorey, The Hatch Lab, was on the 30th of January.

The networking event was open to anyone in interested in and/or currently working in video, gaming, social media, film and TV or any Screen related industries.

Music Generation Wexford

Primary School Programmes Update

Music workshops started back in January in 24 primary schools in the county. These include

Singing Programme: Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts; Court NS; Our Lady of Lourdes, Bunclody; Ballyoughter NS; Gorey ET; Horeswood NS; Kilmore NS; Rosslare NS

Instrumental Programme: Bun Scoil Rís, New Ross; Kennedy Park NS; Mercy School; Bree NS; Davidstown NS; Kiltealy NS; Tara Hill NS; Castletown NS; Ballygarrett NS; Riverchapel NS; Ballaghkeene NS; Kilnamanagh CNS; Scoil Mhuire Coolcotts; Kilmore NS; Clongeen NS; Ballycanew NS; Wexford Educate Together

Secondary Schools Update: Bunclody Music Hub, Bunclody Vocational College

Wexford Children's Opera Workshops Session 6 took place on 7th of January 2023 on exploring the process of song writing skills for opera with musician educator Justin Cullen at Wexford Arts Centre.

FIRE SERVICES

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls December 2022	Calls to date 2022	Calls to this period 2021
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1 / 9 (10)	72	106
Other Fire in House (WCC / Private)	1 / 4 (5)	57	57
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	6	4
Flats (1) Local Authority	0	3	2
Flats (2) Privately Owned	1	5	3
Bedsit	0	0	0
Hospital	0	0	0
School	0	0	0
Other Institution	0	3	2
Factory	0	3	4
Chemical Plant	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	1	5	5
Shop/Supermarket	0	3	0
Office	0	1	0
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	0	1	2
Restaurant	0	2	0
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	1	47	31
Unoccupied Building	1	8	4
Agriculture Business	0	4	9
Forest/Bog/Grass	0	112	71
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	0	22	11
Outdoor Storage	0	4	4
Outdoor Rubbish	1	41	77
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	0	11	0
Gas/Chemicals	0	4	0
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	2
Machinery	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	5	51	24
Other rescue	8	74	89
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	0	7	3
Road traffic accident	12	182	105
Water pumping/flooding	0	21	25

Incident Type	Calls December 2022	Calls to date 2022	Calls to this period 2021
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	37	296	235
Malicious	0	1	1
Total	82	1047	878

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Fire Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chimney Fire in House	20	12	16	19	5	72
Other Fire in House	20	13	7	15	2	57
Caravan/Mobile Home	0	3	2	1	0	6
Flats (1) Local Authority	3	0	0	0	0	3
Flats (2) Privately Owned	3	0	1	1	0	5
Bedsit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0
School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Institution	3	0	0	0	0	3
Factory	1	0	1	1	0	3
Chemical Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage Building/Warehouse	2	1	0	2	0	5
Shop/Supermarket	1	0	2	0	0	3
Office	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public House (incl singing lounge)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Restaurant	1	1	0	0	0	2
Petrol Station - Garage	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hazardous Substance in transit (only cases where fire was involved)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	10	18	9	9	1	47
Unoccupied Building	1	3	3	0	1	8
Agriculture Business	0	2	2	0	0	4
Forest/Bog/Grass	26	43	22	7	14	112
Ship/Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	10	5	4	3	0	22
Outdoor Storage	3	0	0	1	0	4
Outdoor Rubbish	16	14	5	5	1	41

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
Special Service Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Entrapment	5	3	1	2	0	11
Gas/Chemicals	2	1	1	0	0	4
Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Substances non Transit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	14	10	12	13	2	51
Other rescue	31	14	14	11	4	74
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	2	1	3	1	0	7
Road traffic accident	50	33	61	26	12	182
Water pumping/flooding	5	8	6	2	0	21
False Alarm Classification	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Good Intent	121	52	62	46	15	296
Malicious	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	351	238	236	165	57	1047

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in December 2022: 11
Number of Applications received to date: 129
Number of Applications to this period 2021: 121

Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2022

Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2022 Accounts. The preparation of the annual accounts will take a number of months to complete but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

Rate Accounts 2023

Rate Demands for 2023 are currently being issued. The Council is moving to eBilling for Rates Customers and communications are being issued to customers to advise that they can access their Rates Bill through the new Payment Portal where they also which provides additional payment options and other features. To date almost 500 ratepayers have registered on the Payment portal.

Capital Programme 2023 - 2025

Work has commenced on the preparation of the next 3 Year Capital Programme, 2023 - 2025 and it is planned to have this ready for consideration of members in the first quarter of 2023.

Audit Committee/Audit

The annual reports to the council prepared by the Audit Committee, in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Regulation 15 (1) of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 are included on the agenda as separate item for consideration by members. The reports include the Audit Committee's consideration of the 2021 Audited Financial Statement (AFS) and the Local Government Auditor's Statutory Report on the accounts of Wexford County Council for 2021 tgether with the committee's report on their activities during 2022 and their annual work programme for 2023.

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 15th March 2023.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €20m to 31st December 2023.

Tom Enright, Chief Executive.