



Chief Executive's Report

June 2020

1.Economic Development & Planning:

PLANNING

COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

The Planning Department is open and operational but there is restricted, by appointment public access to the Department. Most contact continues to be managed through post, email or phone

Forward Planning – the FP team are all working remotely. Work continues on the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The timeframes have recommenced and the pre-draft plan will be completed shortly.

Development Management – the DM team are now fully engaged in processing applications since the recommencement of the planning system on 25th May 2020. The consultation processes for applications received during the shutdown also commenced on the 25th May and will run for 5 weeks from that date. During the period 133 applications were received and these all fall due by 18th July. The planning authority has arranged for additional advertisements to be placed in the local press, this will continue for as long as the travel restrictions apply.

Planning Enforcement – Enforcement inspections have now increased

Building Control continues to operate remotely as the BCMS system is a cloud based platform and access is available on laptop, tablet or phone. Inspections on building sites have recommenced

The Access Team continues to operate remotely and process any DAC applications pending.

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received up until the 30th May 2020.

No. of valid applications	504
No. of invalid applications	59
Extension of Duration	21
Exempted Development Declaration	21

Forward Planning

Wexford County Development Plan 2020-2026: Work on the County Development Plan, including; the Written Statement, Development Management Manual, Energy Strategy, Housing Strategy, Retail Strategy, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, is on-going. Adjustments are being made to some of the strategies to reflect the changed circumstances we find ourselves in and in particular revised GDP figures which will affect affordability calculations in the Housing Strategy and spending projections and floor space requirements in the Retail Strategy.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Figures for Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures & Vacant Sites Notices:

Recent activity within the last 3 months on the derelict site register are as follows:

Demolition orders placed on 4 properties.

- Westgate B&B, Welford Town
- The Old Bake House, Carne
- Bay View Hotel, Courtown
- Coill na Guise, Gorey

3 properties have been removed from the Derelict Site register.

- Main Street, Ballycanew
- 51 Mount Prospect, Clonard
- Old Parish Hall, Broadway

1 property has completed remedial works as requested.

- Corrigans Supermarket, Kilmuckridge.

1 property owner has agreed to complete remedial works shortly.

- 16 Carrigeen St. Wexford

5 properties on the Derelict Site list are currently undergoing CPO procedures.

2 properties have been submitted to Housing for appraisal.

Camolin and Ferns have been investigated for Derelict properties with reports to follow.

Heritage

Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD, decided to allocate a grant in the sum of €50,000 in respect of Tellarought Castle, Terrarath, Newbawn, New Ross under the Historic Structures Fund.

Twelve applicants were approved for grants to carry out works to their properties under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. These applications were spread across the County. The total grant allocation was €79,000.

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 30th May 2020 is as follows:

Enforcement cases opened	84
Enforcement cases closed	26
Active enforcement cases	267

Disability Access

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC applications, validated for the period from 01/01/2020 up to and including 18/06/2020, totals 47

Disability Access Certificates (DAC):

The total number of Disability Access Certificate applications, validated to date totals, 47 as follows:

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assess	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	7	0	2	5	0
Gorey	8	0	2	6	0
New Ross	4	0	0	4	0
Wexford	23	0	4	19	0
Rosslare	5	0	0	5	0
2020 Totals	47	0	8	39	0

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	52

2. Special Projects:

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works substantially completed on site and the park was opened to the public on 16/06/2020.

A contract for installation of public lighting in the park has been awarded and works will be carried out in July.

Assessment of tenders for construction of the skate park is on-going and an award of contract is expected in July 2020.

Trinity Wharf: Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf project was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020.

A decision on the related foreshore application is expected in the coming months.

The detailed design of the access road and new automated railway level crossing is expected to be completed in August. Works are planned to commence on site for the access road in September/October 2020.

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

A further application for URDF funding of the site development works was submitted in May.

Crescent Quay: Works at Crescent Quay are substantially completed. The outstanding snagging works are scheduled to be completed by the contractor in the coming months.

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 construction of new pedestrian bridge; the management and progressive transformation of the Leisure Centre Car park and the creation of new urban blocks for infill development.

The delivery of these enabling works can best be achieved by the development of a master plan for Templeshannon that will co-ordinate the public realm works and the development of the proposed new urban blocks within Templeshannon. This approach aligns with the objective for urban regeneration set out in the National Planning Framework.

The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have been delayed by the Covid 19 emergency restrictions. A completed preliminary design and bridge options report is now expected in August. A site investigation contractor has been selected and is expected to commence works on site in August / September. An application for URDF funding was submitted for the project under the 2nd call for funding in May 2020.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Works are now substantially complete on Phase 1 of the Technology Park. Snagging works remain to be completed.

Gorey Market House: WCC issued a Call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals and 2 submissions were received by the closing date of 13/02/2020. The tender assessment process has been delayed by the CoVid 19 restrictions. The recent lifting of restrictions will allow this procurement assessment process to advance. This tender is a competitive procedure with negotiation. It is envisaged that it will take circa. 3 months to fully conclude the tender process and finalise the tender assessment report.

Wexford Arts Centre: The preliminary design is complete and Part VIII approval was obtained on 13th January 2020. Detailed designs and tender documents for the works contract are

progressing. The tender date has been impacted by the CoVid 19 emergency, with tenders for works contractors to be advertised in early August. Works are expected to commence on site in November 2020.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: The Council has received initial RRDF funding in the value of circa. €0.328m towards the acquisition and redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. Architects have been appointed for the project and a CPO process is due to commence in Q3 2020.

High Hill, New Ross: Detailed design and tender documents are progressing, with tender documents due to be advertised in July and works are expected to commence in Sept/Oct 2020. An application for RRDF funding approval for this project as part of the expansion of the New Ross tourism experience was successful.

Esmonde Street: RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a Part 8 planning consent process is expected to be advertised in August. Tender documents are due to be completed by Q1 2021 with works commencing on site in Q2 2021.

WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Works have commenced on Phase 1 (access road, car park, trails and services) and is programmed to be completed by Q3 2020.

Design drawings have been prepared by the WCC Architect for a revised activity centre building footprint and layout. Drawings are currently being reviewed by SPO.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Alan Sherwood and Associates was appointed to develop a plan that will significantly enhance the tourism experience in Enniscorthy, increase visitor numbers and enhance the town's profile as part of Ireland's Ancient East. The Enniscorthy Tourism Plan report will set out the detailed, phased development of a new tourism project of scale centred on the Castle that will have the capacity to significantly improve tourism visitor numbers to the town and link with associated tourism projects to be developed at the Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and the JFK / Dunbrody in New Ross.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Part 8 approval was obtained in February 2019. Tenders for construction works have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Works on site are expected to commence in August 2020 following a delay related to CoVid19.

Gorey Town Park: Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May 2019 and have been impacted by the CoVid19 restrictions. Work re-commenced on site on 18th May. It is now expected that the external works will be completed in August with the building and landscaping works to be completed in November 2020.

Tenders have been received for the playground equipment with the installation to commence on site in September 2020.

Monck Street Enhancement Scheme: Tenders were invited for design services for this scheme on 30th March 2020 and tenders received on 27th April. It is planned to make an appointment in July with works planned to commence on site in early 2021.

WEXFORDIA – INHP, Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

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

Design services are currently being procured for the development of the INHP and the Hook Lighthouse to shovel ready status including securing the required environmental, planning and other consents. Design services for both projects have been impacted by the CoVid 19 restrictions and these contracts are now expected to start in Q3 2020.

Preliminary interpretative design services to create an outline interpretive plan for the Norman centre in New Ross are currently being procured. The procurement documents for detailed design services for the Dunbrody Ship enhancement works are currently being prepared.

New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks

Fehily Timoney & Co has been appointed to provide engineering services to Wexford County Council for the removal of the oil tank structures on the quay and the development of public realm works on the site.

Site investigation works and inspections of the site and tanks have commenced with reports due in mid July.

The detailed design will commence on completion of the investigative works and tender documents for works will be advertised in September / October 2020.

Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme: Following the completion of a Coastal Engineering Feasibility Study to investigate the development and provision of major infrastructural coastal works in Courtown to reinstate the north beach, tenders are being invited for the preliminary design of coastal protection structures and beach nourishment to restore the natural amenity and tourism asset to Courtown and Co Wexford.

The appointment of an engineering consultancy to undertake this preliminary design is expected in Q3 2020.

Wexford Flood Relief Scheme: The project brief for design services for the Flood Relief Main Project has been advertised on Etenders. The closing date for tender proposals was 9th June 2020. A total of 7 tenders were received and are currently undergoing assessment.

RPS was appointed in March 2020 to undertake a wave and water level modelling study for Wexford to the Rosslare Burrow in connection with the main Flood Relief project. The study is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme: The Public Consultation Phase is complete, the Public Exhibition Report has been completed and the Confirmation Documents were submitted by WCC to the OPW on the 16th December 2019. The documents were signed off by the OPW at a special meeting of the commissioners and delivered to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform on the 11th March 2020 for approval.

The detailed design for the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete and pre-qualification submissions for short listing contractors for these works were received on 09/06/2020. The design of the Promenade Sewer diversions has been agreed with Irish Water and tender documents for these works are being prepared.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway.

Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents have been completed. Public information events were held in Wellingtonbridge & Rosslare Strand in May 2019. The draft EIAR & NATURA Impact reports are being reviewed by WCC and the CPO drawings and schedules are being prepared.

The preparation of the planning and CPO documents has been delayed by the CoVid 19 emergency and it is now planned to make an application for development consent to An Bord Pleanála for the project in August 2020.

South East Greenway:

Section 85 and funding agreements have been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council & Waterford City & County Council to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority for this project. Detailed design is currently underway and it is planned to tender for a works contractor in July 2020. Site investigation, vegetation clearance works & the topographical surveys have been completed.

Tenders for the Rail and Sleeper lifting contract have been assessed and the lowest tenderer is being recommended. WCC is awaiting the issue of the Access Licence from CIE, and the additional insurance policy from our insurers before the Contractor can be appointed.

Grant aid funding of €8.0m for the project was awarded from DTTAS on 21/06/2019.

A Leader funding application is currently being prepared for the interpretation and animation of the entire route.

Curragloe to Wexford Greenway:

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

The Council has reviewed the ABP decision and met with the NPWS to review issues raised in the Planners report. A decision on proceeding with a further application is being considered.

Wexford to Rosslare Greenway

Tenders have been received for consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project. It is planned to make an appointment by the end of July 2020.

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

Housing Section and Covid 19

The Housing Section continues to provide the critical services identified in our Business Continuity Plan. These services are:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services

The plan allowed the Housing Section to deliver both services throughout the Covid 19 Emergency. It contains detailed procedures that protect both staff and the public against Covid 19. Both services are operating well. We are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable. The Housing Staff continue to operate in two teams for the following reasons:-

- 1) Allow social distancing
- 2) Prevent any possible spread of infection throughout the entire Housing Staff
- 3) To maintain a presence in the main office for the core working hours

Private Residential Tenancy inspections have been suspended for the time being. This is classed as non-essential. However, where there is a specific urgent request it will be considered in accordance with Covid 19 Guidelines. HAP and Rents continue as normal. The Grants Section continues to process applications. However, in the absence of inspections actual activity is greatly reduced. The Area Housing Officers are processing all Housing Applications and the Tenant Liaison Officers are dealing with anti-social behavior issues as they arise.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

The Technical staff continued to progress and monitor all of our Capital Projects. Working with consultant teams from home has allowed many projects to proceed with funding stages and applications as can be seen in the updated Capital Schedule below. All of our live sites are back in action since Monday 18th May 2020, the sites have been inspected and revised programs for delivery have been or are in the process of agreement. New sites have been surveyed in the last week because we had procured consultancy services, confirmed funding approval and we had put all of the paperwork and permissions in place during the shutdown.

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Construction complete	Completed in Dec 2019
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Construction complete	Special needs completed in Dec 2019
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete Sept 2020
The Ballagh	7	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete Oct 2020
Taghmon	18	Rosslare	Under construction	Due to complete Sept 2020

Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary & Environmental issues unresolved (no activity)
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved	Open eTender June 2020 Fire Certificates complete, DACs nearing completion but this will not delay tenders.
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 3 approved, 11 Tenders have been received	Construction Tenders returned 28 th May 2020. Recommendation to follow in June 2020.
Rosetown, Rosslare	23 (phase 1)	Rosslare	Stage 3	Stage 3 to DHPLG June 2020 Fees re-negotiated in May 2020
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2	Propose CPO of land for access (no activity) Discussion with landowner scheduled for June 2020
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Women's refuge Stage 2 to DHPLG April 2020. Further information and discussions on going.
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG Q2 2020 consultants appointed. Surveys to be undertaken in June 2020
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 – Higher densities. Design alternatives to be discussed prior to Stage 2 submission. Design discussion June 2020
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 Q2 2020. Consultants appointed to undertake Surveys in June 2020
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 – Q2 2020 Design team appointed. Knotweed cordoned off. Management plan in place. Site cleared and topo surveys complete.
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Q2 2020 - reviewing Knotweed. Knotweed Management Plan in place. Consultant Architects tenders due in on 9 th June 2020. S2 Q3
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 2	Demolitions complete, Appoint Design Team Q3 2020 through OGP. Topo Surveys scheduled for June 2020.
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 1	Stage 2 Q2 2020
TOTAL	257			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage – Tender Q2 2020
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design commenced Structural Survey booked for June 2020
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Archaeology investigations under way and initial site surveys approved. Consultants appointed.
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – not approved by DHPLG (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold, no funding stream (no activity)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, site ownership to WCC – Land transfer complete. Part VIII approved. Trial pits and Topo Surveys scheduled for 4 th and 5 th June. Tender July 2020
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – Funding approved from WCC. Documentation complete for Tender 1 st Week of June 2020
Newtown	1	Ferns	
TOTAL	7		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road Once road levels are known we will re-design a scheme for the site.
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water (no activity)
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q4 2020)
Daphney View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussion with Focus (no activity)
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site will follow once Rosbercon is progressed.
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works Q2 2020
TOTAL	87		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Site Clearance June 2020. Awaiting signed PEP to proceed with site clean up in preparation for demolitions. Assess then for HSE build or site sale. Demolitions Q3 2020. Site clean-up tendered
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q2

			2020. CPO commenced, in newspaper. Single stage Q2 2020 awaiting CPO action.
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling works 2020.
King Street	2	Wexford	Municipal District approved, Stage 3 Q4 2020
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC. Tender Q3 2020
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to next Municipal District meeting July 2020
TOTAL	16		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Delivered
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	13	Wexford	13 units delivered
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Due to be delivered Q3 2020
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 units to be delivered Q3 2020, 8 units to be delivered Q2 2021.
Hunters Hill, Gorey	3	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To be delivered Q3 2020
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver by end Q4 2020
Clonhaston /Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	4 units to deliver 2020, 1 unit to deliver 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	6 units to deliver by Q4 2020
TOTAL	93		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	3	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delivered (7 units delivered 2019)
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2020
Michael St, New Ross	3	New Ross	Delayed on site. To deliver Q4 2020
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit delivered. 18 units to deliver Q1 2021
Whitewater Estuary, Ballyhack	3	New Ross	To deliver Q3 2020

Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2021
5 The Break, Aylesbridge	1	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delivered
64 & 74 Chapelwood, Kilmuckridge	2	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Clonattin Upper, Goreybridge	8	Gorey Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2020
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Enniscorthy	DHPLG approval received Mar 2020. To deliver 2021.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	DHPLG approval received Apr 2020. Expected to deliver Q4 2021
TOTAL	124		

Turnkey proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by the Internal Housing Committee.

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be delivered Q3 2020
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020 and 2021
Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts	67	Wexford	DHPLG approval received May 2020.
Tuath			
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	All units delivered
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	10 units to be occupied by Q4 remainder to be occupied as completed
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020/2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	To deliver Q1 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey	To deliver 2020
Peter McVerry Trust			
Tuskar House , John's Gate St Wexford Town	12	Wexford	CAS Funding. To deliver Q4 2020
TOTAL	261		

A number of Housing Contractors returned to site on 18th May, 2020. All contractors are obliged to comply in full with National Return to Work Safety Protocol.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) & Local Action Group (LAG)

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

Over the course of this period, 4 Project Partner meetings were held virtually. Albeit, the tourism industry is at a standstill, the Project is busier than ever. A Risk Assessment was compiled and submitted to enable the granting of Project extension, as the project in its current phase is due to finish in December 2020. A detailed analysis of the Irish tourism sector as a whole was completed by the Project Officer as an Annex to the risk assessment document. Re-profiling of budgets will also be undertaken. When we received confirmation that this submission is successful, amendments to the Business Plan timeframe will be agreed.

The Expression of Interest and the Project Execution Plan for Phase 2 of the Celtic Routes Project are almost complete, as are the matching budget allocations. Preliminary consultations are being had with major stakeholders within the Irish tourism industry.

The social media contractors have reported a Total Opportunities to See of: 21,590,556 on both print and social media avenues. To date the following media outlets have all engaged with the Project and all express interest in undertaking Press Trips in the Project Partner Areas - Coast magazine, Guardian, Choice magazine, The Irish Sun, Daily Mirror, Irish Independent, Conde Nast Traveller. Social Influencers have been chosen and consultation is on-going regarding itineraries for them when it is safe to travel.

INTERREG Ancient Connections Project

Meetings: 1no. Ancient Connections Board Meeting and various sub-group meetings held during the period, including the Destination Marketing group, Pilgrimage project group and Artist in Residence group. Project Officer held various virtual meetings with Artists, Community groups, local Stakeholders and project team on foot of these, with actions on re-adjusting and progressing project plans during COVID19 lockdown.

Schedule: All customer facing project activities have been postponed for the foreseeable future due to COVID19 restrictions on public gatherings and travel. The project team have re-scheduled various activities due in May/June/July this year, to either later in September 2020 or further into the respective seasons of 2021. These postponed/cancelled activities included a cultural school exchange between Ferns and St. Davids primary schools; the IAFS archaeological field school in Ferns; the launch event for the Creative Camino and various community engagements for the tourism ambassador scheme by Abarta Heritage.

Procurements: Pilgrimage Feasibility Study contract was awarded to Cartwright Associates by Pembrokeeshire CoCo (under €25K); the 2-stage evaluation process for the Artist in Residence, in association with Wexford CoCo Arts Office, is ongoing. Also a filming contract for the Creative Camino project has been awarded to a company from North Wales called Lliff Flow (also under €25K). Destination Marketing tender being written and to be procured by Wexford CoCo (€200K) by September 2020. Public Art Commissions procurement to be administered by Wexford CoCo (€200K).

Finance: At present there are no major issues to report, however, the COVID 19 situation is likely to result in expenditure variance from the profile. This is unavoidable at this point and will inform the project team's request for re-profiling with funding partner Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) in the coming months. Wexford CoCo is paying local contractors

where required, though most of the current procurements have been handled by Pembrokeshire CoCo.

Legal and Funding Applications: SLA's between project beneficiaries drafted and circulated to the Board for comment. Project Team drafting a risk assessment, a 6/8 month project extension request proposal and an Expression of Interest for a Phase 2 for funding by WEFO.

LEADER

Two claims received for Article 48 pre-payment check. Both were checked with 1 returned for minor queries to the implementing partner, Wexford Local Development. Queries dealt with promptly and have progressed to the next stage of the process. A total of 10 claims to the value of €102,890.38 was paid out to projects. A total of 14 projects have been received and are currently at stage 4 & stage 7 of the process. All 14 have been manually checked and once received at Art 48 checking stage (stage 8) will be updated on the system.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 8th June has now been re-scheduled and will be held at a later date.

PLAYGROUNDS

Repairs commenced in the Gorey District playgrounds by Kompan on Monday the 18th of May. Work orders for repairs in the other three districts have been placed.

HEALTHY IRELAND



The impact of Covid 19 continues to impact on the planned **Healthy Ireland Fund Actions**. The Healthy Ireland Coordinator has been working with partners to review activity in response to Covid 19 and also to review and revise activity in light of Covid 19. Revisions have been provided to Pobal for review and we await approval to progress.

The second meeting of the Healthy County Committee was held on 12th May. Included in this meeting were plans for release of the **Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022**, with formal launch to follow, when possible. This plan will be available to view on Wexford County Council Website. The committee also agreed to establish a **Mental Health & Wellbeing Working Group** which will take into consideration the impacts of Covid 19 in addition to the work planned in the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022. This group will meet for the first time in late May.

The Healthy County Coordinator continues to work with the **Community Response Forum**, and its associated committees, to support them in any way possible. One such committee is the **Meals Coordination Steering Group** which looks at meals and food parcel distribution across the county.

Our Healthy County Coordinator is also part of the communications working group to unite and drive the Government's #Inthistogether message with localised content for Wexford. This umbrella initiative is **#WexfordTogether** and will be utilised during the crisis and as we emerge into recovery. In addition to replicating the categories of content delivered nationally with local content, plans are to extend this content to cover business & tourism aspects also.



The PPN continue to have an active role in the Covid-19 response as follows:

- Communicating with members at a local level through information bulletins, phone calls, emails and social media.
- Continuing to identify any vulnerable members of the Community through our membership and offering assistance through the Community Call Helpline.
- Attending the weekly meetings of the Covid-19 Community Response Forum.

Work is currently underway on the production of the 2019 Annual Report for the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). The PPN Secretariat met for the first time since March by teleconference to approve the draft report. The final report which outlines all the work of the PPN in 2019 will be submitted to DRCD by the end of May.

A new PPN Resource Worker, Edel Reck has been appointed by Wexford County Council. We look forward to working with Edel in the future.

Age Friendly:

Daily Covid19 updates are sent to members of the Older Peoples Council and the Age Friendly Alliance which include information on local and national initiatives as well general information on supports and other services that may be of interest to older people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Town and Village Renewal Programme (TVR) 2020

The Council will be issuing a call for Expressions of Interest under the TVR Programme 2020. New measures in the 2020 scheme are directed at the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19.

The Programme overview is outlined below. The closing date for standard submissions is August 28th 2020.

2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme -

The 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme will operate on the same basis as has been delivered in recent years, albeit with a particular focus on projects delivering an economic dividend and enabling towns and villages to respond to COVID-19 challenges. The scheme will also continue to support public-realm type activities and the enhancement of town centre amenities, particularly where this aids the economic and/or social recovery of a town or village.

Categories of Town/Villages

Two categories of Town/Villages are eligible for support under the scheme:

Category 1: Towns/villages with a population of less than 5,000 people.

Category 2: Towns with a population of 5,000-10,000 people.

At least of 60% of the funding available will be awarded to Category 1 towns and villages. Successful proposals will demonstrate close collaboration between communities and business interests in the design and delivery of proposed projects and must have the support of the Local Authority.

Sustainable impacts

There is a particular emphasis this year on projects that support the economic and social recovery of our towns and villages in response to COVID-19.

Projects which have clear positive impacts on a town or village in terms of place-making and town centre regeneration, or which stimulate economic activity between a town/village and its neighbouring town lands will be particularly welcome, as will proposals seeking to develop initiatives to encourage town centre living.

Projects which demonstrate leveraging of, or linkages with, other schemes operated by Government Departments or agencies (e.g. in the areas of heritage, arts, culture, tourism, re-use of vacant premises, vacant sites, energy efficiency schemes, etc.) will also be encouraged.

Grant levels

As a once off measure, in recognition of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the maximum grant level has been increased to 90% of the total cost of a project. The minimum grant which is available is €20,000 and the maximum is €100,000. A higher maximum of €200,000 will be considered for a limited number of projects where a strong case can be made demonstrating exceptionally strong benefit to a town and/or its outlying areas.

Expressions of Interest

A maximum of 6 proposals will be selected for development into detailed applications which will be submitted to the Department.

All interested town/village groups should complete the Expression of Interest form and return to the Community Development Section no later than: **5pm on Tuesday the 07th July 2020.**

Sports Active Wexford

Since March 18th Sports Active Wexford has been working under alternative arrangements, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We have continued to support the people of County Wexford by promoting exercise at home during the 'lockdown' and supporting positive mental health; this has been carried via social media and includes a sound cast for older adults and vulnerable people.

The Physical Activity Promotion grant scheme has been assessed and has been with 48 successful applications, totalling €21,000 in grants awarded. Clubs and groups will be notified in the coming month and have until mid - November to draw down their allocation.

Sports Active Wexford has been a part of the team of departments working with the Communications department to support the #WexfordTogether Campaign, which is signposting the national #Inthistogether campaign as a part of the Covid-response and recovery. We are also a part of a national working party with Sport Ireland working on standardised communications related to physical activity resources for older adults, people with a disability and families.

Active Home Week took place from April 27th – May 3rd, this was part of Active School Flags national Active School Week. Sports Active Week organised 31 challenges over the seven days for primary school children and their parents. Schools and families were asked to tag us on social media to be in with a chance of winning a bag of sports equipment for their school or a voucher for their family. We had five winners in the schools section: Ballaghkeene N.S, Tagcoat N.S, Taghmon N.S, Rahnure N.S, Rathangan N.S and two family prize winners.

150 people have signed up to Couch to 3K programme which SAW have organised. As the demand was so high we are also putting the plans each week on our social media.

SAW is linking in with Wexford GAA Coaching and Development team on the current two week Wellness campaign they are running. SAW are providing them with resources for older adults, disabilities, mental health and also the Couch to 3K programme.

SAW is linking together with Local Sports Partnership's around the country to come up with resources for specific target groups and also to plan a national sports day from your home. Staff are learning constantly about online technology and resources that are best used to reach their target audience. They are now using social media daily, youtube mail chimp, Eventbrite, making videos and also signing up to other online training courses to constantly improve how they interact with the public.

Staff Training (1.2)

Sports Active Wexford staff attended the following training (On Line) during the month:

2 Staff – Webinar for “reaching more people through inclusive marketing & communication”

1 Staff – Webinar for “Guidance on the correct use of PPE in Different Healthcare Settings”

1 staff ‘Leading Remotely ‘ _ Sports Ireland

Older Adult (2.1)

We worked with Wexford Mental Health services and designed a 10-minute older adult exercise sessions that can be found on our social media and Soundcloud. This is also aimed towards people with mental health issues, Men's Sheds, COPD group and rock-steady-boxing Parkinson's group.

Spotify Podcasts (2.2)





We have set up a Spotify podcast to educate people on a range of topics around physical activity which is primarily aimed towards the Mental Health Services. We have posted another Spotify podcast educating people about the detrimental effects of sedentary behaviour on our health and how it differs from physical inactivity.

Slainte care (2.2)

IEP has liaised with the WIT research team to help with the development and finalisation of the research forms, in time for the proposed launch of the programme on the 8th of June.

ENVIRONMENT

Environment Services Report June 2020

Service		Update
Piers and Harbours		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kilmore Quay channel dredging contract has commenced and is due for completion in early July. 2. New Ross Port- Plans are under way to upgrade buoyage and to carry out other essential works to facilitate resumption of pilotage services
Coastline and beaches	 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue Flag Awards were awarded to the following beaches Ballymoney, Courtown, Morriscastle, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare & Carne. (Subsequently the Blue Flag was withdrawn for Courtown by WCC as the beach hadn't recovered from coastal erosion damage) 2. Green Coast Awards were awarded to the following beaches Cahore, Oldbawn, Culleton's Gap, St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown , Grange, Bag in Bun (1st time) and Booley
Water Air Quality Monitoring		<p>The Dept. of Housing Planning and L.G. recently outlined details of the revised grant system for improvement to "septic tanks" etc.</p> <p>The main provisions are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirement that the treatment system was registered. 2. Means test provision is removed. 3. Maximum grant of €5,000 or 85% of cost (lower amount)

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Libraries, Archives and Arts June 2020

LIBRARY SERVICE

The **Book Call delivery service** continued to run in May serving those cocooning and vulnerable members of the community. Two posts promoting the service were sent on the 5th and 22nd May by all libraries Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. There were 1612 checkouts in May.

Services for Children and Young People

Parenting Today 2020, this series of talks for Parents transferred online in April. Twelve talks were held in libraries in the months to mid-March, it is planned to hold 8 more talks online in 2020.

The second **Parenting Today** online talk premiered on the Wexford Libraries YouTube Channel on 14th May 2020. Paediatric Sleep Consultant, Erica Hargaden presented the second talk 'Sleep Solutions, Healthy Sleep Habits for Babies and Children' received 64 views. The June online talk, 'Play and Early Development' is scheduled to be posted shortly.

Spring into Storytime

'Spring into Storytime' is the libraries' annual celebration for younger children with their families reading together. This year Spring into Storytime continued online throughout May. Children and their families enjoyed library storytime and other activities from their homes. In total 64 videos were posted in April and May, these reached 87,105 people and were viewed by 30,313 on Facebook. 6697 people actively engaged. 15 videos were posted on YouTube and received 514 views. Instagram had a total reach of 1102 and there were 2645 views on twitter with 169 engagements.

Bookmark Competition

To mark World Book Day in last April, Wexford Libraries launched a Book Mark competition for children in four age categories. The 4 winning entries were announced on May 14th. This completion was independently judged by an artist. The winning entries will be printed as Wexford Public Library bookmarks and available for child and teen readers in all libraries in County Wexford.

The **Wexford Public Libraries YouTube Channel** launched in late April. A total of **20 videos** were uploaded in May. 4 Monday Crafternoon videos; 1 arts and crafts video; 4 storytimes; 2 rhymetimes; 6 e-resources tutorials; 1 bookmark competition video; 1 Parenting Today Online talk; 1 reader development video. There were 32 new subscribers and 526 views.

eResources were promoted on all social media platforms throughout the month. In total there were 71 Tweets with 401 engagements, 278 likes, 109 retweets, 14 replies during May.

Four craft videos, **Crafternoons**, were posted on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram on 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th May, Build Your Own Cereal Box Aquarium; Clothes Peg Dragonflies; Paper Caterpillars, and Tissue Paper Butterflies

Local Studies

Online research and Genealogical queries, including a query from Italy on the Wexford and Kilmore Carols and help with family genealogy query from New Zealand. Online content from local papers was posted highlighting Wexford 100 years ago. Digitised local newspapers, for 1920 were made available for local research.

Online tutorials on how to use Vital Digital Asset Portal and Oral History collection are now available on the Wexford Library Service YouTube channel.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2020

Ireland's national day of free creative activities for children and young people took place on Saturday 13th June. Wexford County Council in partnership with Creative Ireland celebrated our culture and creativity through a virtual day of online resources. This consisted of a fun filled programme of 17 individual events to cater for all ages and tastes. It was an opportunity for parents, guardians and young people to create, make and try something new from the comfort of their own homes.

Events included dancing workshops for all ages, singing workshops, recording techniques, ice-cream experiments, a short film commissioned for the day on the history of the Vikings in Wexford, printmaking and creativity thinking through a series of workshops. Interactive online workshops were also available that included opera singing, music recording and access traditional arts through technology.

A budget of up to €15,000 was made available to Wexford County Council to support the delivery of the programme of events.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 was also a collaboration between the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Creative Ireland Programme, local authorities and RTE, and is part of the Government's #InThisTogether campaign which is supporting everyone to stay connected, stay active and look after our physical and mental wellbeing.

ARTS

Living Art Programme 2020/2021 – Schools & Artists announcement

This programme is a partnership between the Arts Office and Wexford Art Centre and involves four primary schools around the county being selected for an artist's residency programme with a lead and assistant artist. The selection panel met in early June and the schools selected were Bunscoil Ris in New Ross, St. Mary's NS in Enniscorthy, St. Teresa's in Gorey and Scoil Naomh Maodhg in Gorey. The lead artists consist of Els Dietvorst, Caoimhe Dunn, Kate Murphy and Deirdre Buttimer while the assistant artists include Aoife Banville, Deirdre Buggy, Rachel Rothwell and Nadia Corrigan. Due to Covid 19, to facilitate the schools, the artist's residencies will start later in Nov 2020 in each school and run until March 2021 with final exhibition in Wexford Art Centre.

Arts & Education Portal Day Wexford Living Arts programme and its new online arts resource pack for school teachers were featured on the national Arts & Education Online Seminar Day on 25 May 2020. Arts Officer Liz Burns, Curator Karla Sanchez and artists Clare Breen presented at this event held on zoom and attended by over 80 people, including artists, teachers and curators nationally.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency Awards Wexford writer Lucy Moore and visual artist Laura Ni Fhláibhinn were selected the 2020 Tyrone Guthrie awards residencies following an open call. These annual Residency awards enables two artists in all art forms who are resident in County Wexford to spend two weeks at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artist workplace in County Monaghan. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a two-week period, plus the use of a studio stipend of €300 towards expenses.

'Artlink's' Collaborative Award announcement, Artlinks supports artists in the south east region through annual bursaries and mentoring and is a local authority partnership between Wexford, Carlow, and Kilkenny and Waterford Arts Offices. In 2020 Artlinks initiated a new

Collaborative award of €10,000 for artists' collaborations across 2 or more Artlinks counties. After an open call three artists from the south east region were awarded €10,000, Clare Breen a Wexford artist based in Carlow, Laura Ní Fhláibhín also from Wexford and Mary Conroy, from Kilkenny. The Awarded project is titled 'Materials Matter' and involves practical research by the artists in developing art materials and tools from natural and sustainable sources. All three artists have a common denominator of sustainability and environmental awareness within the processes of their art production and they will share the finding of this research through a project website, which will include an Irish language translation.

VAI show and Tell Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) hosted a national online Show and Tell focusing on Wexford on Tuesday 26th May 2020 with an invited contribution from Arts Officer Liz Burns, Wexford Art Centre curator Catherine Bowe and a presentation by five Wexford artists from their studios and new work being developed. These online webinars are designed to support artists practice and peer learning and are also an excellent way for artists to network in a time of social isolation.

'Ancient Connections' - Public Art Programme Wexford & Wales

Wexford Per Cent for Art is partnering with Wales & Wexford on the EU funded Ancient Connections programme in Pembrokeshire and Wales on two artists residencies, one in Wexford (Ferns) and one in Wales (St David's, Pembrokeshire). During the 2 year residency period (2020 – 2022), both artists will connect across Wexford and Wales around the residency themes of 'Exploring a Shared Past' and work with local communities in both countries with awards of €20,000 each. Final outcomes will be new public artworks presented in Wexford and Wales in 2022. 8 artists were shortlisted to develop Phase 2 Proposal for Wexford and Wales and all Phase 2 proposals were received in May 2020. Selection panel is convening by videoconference on Wednesday 10th June to select two artists.

Creative Hub Update The Creative Hub Studios were closed for the month of May in keeping with government COVID guidelines and opened on Monday 8th June in keeping with Phase 2 and HSE guidelines around social distancing etc. Wexford Arts Centre is drawing up H& S guidelines for the Creative Hub and a meeting took place with all tenants online in advance of moving back in. Over thirty artists are currently in residence in the Creative Hub across 9 studio/ units combining individual group's studios and retails units as well as a dance studio which is managed by Wexford Arts Centre on behalf of the Arts Office.

The Wexford Playwrights Studio Wexford County Council Arts Office is partnering with Wexford Arts Centre (WAC) on a new Wexford Playwrights Studio initiative to support and nurture playwriting in Wexford as part of ongoing support to theatre practice development in the county. An open call took place in April 2020 and applications were assessment by a panel in May. Out of 31 applications 8 writers were selected in a very competitive selection process. The programme is free and the eight writer members will attend monthly meetings in Wexford Art Centre where they will be mentored by invited experts including Billy Roche, Deirdre Kinehan, Thomas Conway and Ben Barnes. The programme will run over 6 months from June to November 2020. It is envisaged initial meetings will be via Zoom to facilitate social distancing.

ARCHIVES

Work continued apace on cataloguing the extensive papers of **T.D. Sinnott**, Wexford County Council's first County Manager.

The first **40 minute books of Gorey Board of Guardians (1840-67)** were returned to the county archive in late May having been digitised by a commercial company. It is hoped to make them available online in the near future.

As editor of a forthcoming publication on the **1920 local elections in Ireland**, the Archivist compiled the final draft in May. The booklet which is due to be published in early autumn is being funded by the Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government with the text and images supplied by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM).

Research on text and suitable images for a small online exhibition on the 1920 local elections in County Wexford is in progress with an anticipatory launch in early autumn.

The first video meeting of LGARM took place on 25th May, among the items under discussion were the group's Strategic Plan and discussions around a Covid-19 response/collecting policy.

FIRE SERVICE

Wexford Fire Service Report June 2020

Fire Station Priorities for 2020.

Wexford County has further updated the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to proceed with the appointment of the successful building contractor following the completion of the tendering process.

COVID-19

COVID-19 recovery Plans have been updated and include operational plans, fire prevention plans and the reintroduction of main-stream training and Special Projects.

In coordination with the Health & Safety Section further COVID-19 related training continues to be delivered to ensure consistent, safe work practices. A PPE committee has been set up with the Health & safety and Procurement sections to ensure an adequate, consistent and cost effective supply of PPE to the Organisation.

Fire Operations

There were 87 incident responses in April and 83 incidents in May as detailed below.

Fire calls by brigade for April

Incident Type	Calls April 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	7 / 7 (14)	77	76
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 6 (7)	21	25
Road Traffic Accident	2	22	35
Industrial fire	4	5	4
Commercial fire	1	4	4
Assembly fire	0	0	0
Agricultural fire	2	2	1
Motor Vehicles	3	23	11
Forest/bog/grass etc	21	31	16
Rubbish	7	21	21
Non-fire rescues	2	15	7
False alarms – good intent	18	87	84
Malicious false alarms	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	6	17	25
Total	87	326	309

Fire calls by brigade for May

Incident Type	Calls May 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	4 / 4 (8)	85	78
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	0 / 3 (3)	24	30
Road Traffic Accident	2	24	46
Industrial fire	1	6	5
Commercial fire	1	5	4
Assembly fire	2	2	0
Agricultural fire	0	2	1
Motor Vehicles	3	26	15
Forest/bog/grass etc	19	50	30
Rubbish	19	40	30
Non-fire rescues	5	20	9
False alarms – good intent	18	105	105
Malicious false alarms	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	2	19	34
Total	83	409	387

Fire Safety

The number of applications for fire safety certificates and Fire Services Acts inspections for the months of April and May were as follows:-

April 2020

Applications Received	Year to date	April
Fire Safety Certificates	48	8

Number of Inspections	Year to date	April
FSA Inspections	50	1

May 2020

Applications Received	Year to date	May
Fire Safety Certificates	52	4

Number of Inspections	Year to date	May
FSA Inspections	51	1



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation



COVID -19

- Water Services has returned to normal service following the lifting of restrictions on non-essential construction work due to Covid - 19. Irish Water is back to business as usual.
- Water Services is carrying out its activity in line with COVID-19 Local Authority Standard Operating Procedures issued by the LGMA.
- Office operations are being carried out remotely and external queries can still be answered. General queries still go through Irish Water 1850 278 278.

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Surveying work continuing in Enniscorthy to enable hydraulic model of the sewer network be completed. Surveying works have recommenced and will be ongoing for June and early July ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will follow in Q3, 2020.
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ New infrastructure is expected to be operational in 2022.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Deferred survey works due for completion Summer 2020.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. ➤ Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. A new delivery date is yet to be decided.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. ➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both reservoirs completed with work now beginning on the treatment plant ○ Borehole work ready to proceed
Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor selected. ○ Planning permission granted. ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded until November 2020 at the earliest which will impact on delivery of the scheme ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scheme design complete and ready to tender. ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be awarded in 2020 and a new delivery date is yet to be advised.
Wexford Town Water Main Rehab and Gas Network	Irish Water has advised it is no longer funding this project.
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Works in Ballindagin are now complete and the new water main has achieved a 50% water saving immediately compared to the old main. ➤ The direct labour crew have commenced the find and fix programme. This is designed to target specific areas of leakage within the County and is designed by our Water Conservation office.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At detailed design stage

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disinfection Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disinfection upgrade project at 95% complete county wide excluding snagging. ○ Works completed at Creagh WTP. Works at Glynn WTP and Newtown WTP restarted week commencing June 15th. Snagging to recommence shortly. ➤ Treated Water storage programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilmallock Bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be submitted for planning by summer 2020
IW Minor Wastewater Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trinity Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generator Upgrade works expected to take place Q4 2020 ➤ Fairgreen Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works to decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP have commenced on site, and will continue during Q3. ➤ Sinnottstown Lane Pumping Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade works practically complete, with telemetry connection to be done during July to complete the project. ➤ Iona Pumping Station, Rosslare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade works scheduled for July 2020 ➤ Carcur Pumping Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacement pump was installed during June. ➤ Rosetown Village Pumping Station, Rosslare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civil, mechanical and safety upgrade works currently out for tender. Expected on site Q3 2020. ➤ Pumping Station Rationalisation <p>Several proposals for rationalisation and decommissioning of pumping stations located close together have been submitted to Irish Water for review.</p>
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide. ➤ 219K of expenditure has been committed to the end of May
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 applications received for Water Connections ○ 6 applications received for Wastewater Connections ➤ Physical connection works resumed as of 18th May for all connections

Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Delayed due to COVID 19. Expected completion now Q4 2020. ➤ O'Rahilly View WWTP (TIC), Gusserane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow in Q3. ➤ Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curraclloe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow in Q3.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All works resumed as of 18th May with COVID-19 precautions in place. ➤ Standard operating guidelines rolled out to water services staff. ➤ Some Water Services staff continue to work from home where possible ➤ Key Water services staff have been trained for entry through properties during COVID-19 by fire services.

3. Rural Water Programme



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mullawn GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turbidity Meter was installed by EPS on the 26th May. Works have been completed and require inspection. ➤ Killaneran GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awaiting quotations for the engagement of a Hydrogeologist. ➤ Ticknock GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installation of new ph unit, manganese and iron filtration system was completed on the 15th May.
Measure 3 - Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works on the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure have been rescheduled until 2021. ○ Investigative works for the relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir are to commence 22nd June, 2020.
Measure 5 - Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bing GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement to be reached in regard to Road Re-instatement before Site Investigation quotations can be sought. Site

Sewerage Schemes	<p>investigation quotations expected to be sought once confirmation of numbers is received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part XI application on hold until Ecological Report complete
Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Battlestown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader that scheme not expected to proceed. ○ Alternative solutions to resident issues currently being investigated. ➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader scheme not expected to proceed ➤ Crosstown GSS Scheme/Orchard Lane GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awaiting confirmation from Irish Water on takeover of both schemes

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Countywide consumption to date, for May 2020 is on average 44.5MLD, an increase of 1.1MLD from April 2020. Of this, 0.23ML relates to large Non-domestic User increases. ➤ This represents a YTD average of 42.32MLD, which means we are currently below our 2020 target of 41.84MLD
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leak repair is ongoing throughout the county as leaks are identified. ➤ Planned Leak detection is operating on a reduced basis with COVID-19 restrictions. During May crews were focussed on Duncannon, Ramsgrange, Enniscorthy, Carraigbyrne and Coolballow.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enniscorthy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffey Northumberland remain stood down in Bellfield due to COVID-19 restrictions during May 2020. ➤ Ballindaggin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wexford Council main rehabilitation construction in Ballindaggin recommenced during May 2020. ➤ Rehab Submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revised submissions were made to Irish Water for watermain rehab on the Old Dublin Road and Coolballow following a large volume of bursts.
Find & Fix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Areas have been selected for intensive leak detection works under the find and fix scheme. During May find crews are focussing on Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy and the South Regional Supply scheme.

TRANSPORTATION:

NATIONAL ROADS

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme

M11, N80 Link and N30

The M11, N80 Link and N30 are now open to traffic. Works in relation to fencing, landscaping drainage and general housekeeping will continue until contract completion.

Side Roads

Any outstanding works in relation to side roads will involve the installation of Traffic Management on a temporary basis to enable the works to be carried out safely.

R772 (Underpass on old N11 - Enniscorthy to Oilgate Road)

Works Completed

Liaison Office

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

N25 New Ross By-Pass

Works have recommenced on site in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines in order to close out outstanding items. A number of side roads will be handed back to the Council upon completion and consultations are continuing on this process. Consultations are also continuing with any landowners for whom items of work still need to be completed. The PPP Company continues to provide operation and maintenance services in accordance with covid-19 guidelines. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the completion of the outstanding works.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

It is proposed to proceed with a public consultation in July on the findings the constraints study and to present the scheme options that have been identified. Prior notice of the consultation events will be advertised on the project website <http://oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie> and on local media. The project will also engage with elected representatives in advance of the public consultation.

All information relating to the public consultation will be made available on the project website in advance, and information brochures and feedback forms will also be distributed door to door in the study area. Feedback forms will also be available to be completed and submitted on the website and local residents will be invited to provide their views to the project team for consideration in the assessment process. A freepost service will be set up for the return of postal forms. The project team will also engage directly with the public in response to phone and email queries that are received. It is anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed towards the end of the year.

In the meantime the project team continues to perform their duties in line with Covid-19 restrictions and government advice, and will also continue to address any project queries by phone or email via the contact details provided on the project website.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare and Rosslare Europort Access Road

A public consultation is currently underway on the findings of the constraints study and to present the scheme options. Three scheme options are being considered, two of which are along the existing road corridor and one offline option which also utilises the Ballygerry Link Road. One of the online options assumes there will be no further investment into the existing road corridor

apart from routine maintenance and this option provides the baseline for the assessment of the scheme options. The other online option proposes investment to improve the existing road corridor to provide improved access to Rosslare Europort. This could be achieved through measures such as rationalising junctions and direct accesses on the existing N25 and providing associated parallel service roads, and also rationalising pedestrian crossing points. The offline option would utilise Ballygerry Link Road and a new section of road to provide a new access to Rosslare Europort. The project is consulting closely with Irish Rail and Rosslare Europort to ensure that all scheme options are compatible with plans being prepared for the future development of the Port.

All information relating to the public consultation is available on the project website <http://rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie> and information brochures and feedback forms have been circulated door to door in Rosslare Harbour. Feedback forms are also available on the website and local residents are invited to provide their views to the project team for consideration in the assessment process. A freepost service has been set up for the return of postal forms. The consultation process runs until Monday 29 June and a number of feedback forms have already been received. The project team is also engaging directly with the public in response to phone and email queries that are received. It is anticipated that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed towards the end of the summer.

The project team continues to perform their duties in line with covid-19 restrictions and government advice, and will also continue to address any project queries by phone or email via the contact details provided on the project website.

2019 National Road Pavement Schemes

The following scheme was awarded but only commenced in 2020.

Pavement Repairs N25 Ring Road Wexford, N25 Orristown Junction Killinick

This scheme was tendered in October 2019.

A contractor was appointed in November 2019.

This scheme was commenced on 2 June and is due to be completed on 19 June.

2020 National Road Pavement Schemes

The 2020 TII road improvement allocation has been received from TII.

The following schemes will be carried out in 2020:

- N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme
- N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme
- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great Pavement Scheme
- N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the newly constructed Mountelliot Roundabout to the R731 Ballyanne junction in New Ross.

This scheme was tendered in May. The tender return date was 18 June.

Works should commence in July with an 8 week construction programme.

N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the Ferrycarrig Bridge to the Maldron roundabout on the N11.

Works are progressing on the tender documents. This scheme should be tendered in late June or early July.

Works should commence in September with a 12 week construction programme.

N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from Holmestown junction to Tomcool junction on the N25.

This scheme should be tendered in July.

Works should commence in September with an 8 week construction programme.

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

Preliminary archaeology investigations were carried out in 2019. Further archaeological investigations are required to be carried out in advance of the pavement scheme going ahead. These investigations are due to commence on 22nd. June. Works should be completed within 3 weeks.

The timing of the pavement scheme will become clearer once the archaeological investigations have been completed. It is expected that the pavement scheme will be tendered in the 3rd or 4th quarter of the year.

Construction is likely to commence in the first quarter of 2021 with an 8 week construction programme.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS:

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 21 January 2020. Wexford's allocation was €17,088,007, up €2,646,207 on 2019.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 21 February. It was postponed from 30 March to 18 May due to public health measures.

Roads completed (macadam surfacing) in the last month were: Drumgoold to Castlegardens; Hospital Hill, Bunclody; (both in Enniscorthy District); Arklow Road; Ballynahask; Ballygarrett Lane; (all in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); English's Cross to Ballindoney Cross; Camlin to N25 underpass; Dunmain to Rathumney; Portersgate to Graigue Little; Camlin to Oldcourt; (all in New Ross District); Burrow Road Rosslare (Rosslare District).

Roads completed (clause 804) in the last month were: Raheennahoon; Ballyorrl to Moyne; Ballybuckley; Templescoby; Ballyrankin (all in Enniscorthy District); Shrute Cross to Boley Cross; Ballygullen to Ballyoughter Cross; Tinnacross to Tomsallagh; Monaseed to Craan; Monanarrig; Roperstown; Ballywalter to Ballinahorna; Tobergal Lane; (all in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 22 June. Roads completed in the last month were: Templescoby; Askunshin; Marshalstown Lane (all in Enniscorthy District).

Community Involvement Schemes

Nine roads are being prepared for resurfacing throughout the county.

Local Improvement Schemes

The Department of Rural and Community Development has approved €329,878 grant for County Wexford for 13 lanes. Successful applicants will be contacted shortly.

General Maintenance

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

Public Lighting LED Upgrade

Over 7,000 lanterns have been upgraded to Led since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to upgrade the remaining 5,700 lanterns on non-national roads and housing estates in 2020.

Design works are underway, with 30% of the lanterns already designed.

Installation has commenced in New Ross Town.

Lanterns will be installed at a rate of 1,000 per month.

The scheme should be completed in October.

Wexford County Council applied to TII to upgrade the remaining lights on National Roads to LED in 2020. The locations are listed below:

- N11 Oilgate
- N25 Kilrane and Rosslare Harbour
- N25 Ashfield cross Roundabout
- N25 Barntown
- N25 Larkins Cross
- N25 Balinabola
- N30 Clonroche
- N80 Ballycarney
- N80 Bunclody

TII approved all schemes on 16 April.

Lighting designs have been completed.

These nine schemes will be tendered in four separate Lots.

Lots 1 to 3 have been tendered with tenders due back by 25 June.

It is expected to have all nine sites upgraded by the end of October.

5. Finance:

Audit Committee/Audit

The Audit Committee meetings have been deferred until a time when the government measures associated with the COVID-19 situation allow for them to resume. This in turn impacts on the arrangements for the committee to meet the LG auditor to discuss the 2018 Accounts and associated Audit Report.

The 2019 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service is to commence shortly with arrangements being finalised to implement arrangements in line with government restrictions and guidelines to allow this process to progress.

Annual Financial Statement 2019

The Annual Financial Statement for 2019 has been completed and is listed as a separate agenda item for the June meeting of the council. A copy of the 2019 AFS and associated Report to Members is available on Minutepad. Some particular points of note from the accounts include:

- A reported improvement in the Revenue Balance of €1,642,312 for 2019 financial year bringing the overall Revenue deficit down to €2.1m.
- A total spend of €73m across a range of Capital Projects in the county during 2019
- An increase of €30m in the asset values for the Council primarily informed by the Housing Programme
- Increased collection levels in Major collection areas for the council

The statutory submission deadline of the end of March for local authority accounts has been extended to the end of June 2020 as a direct result of the COVID 19 situation. The 2019 Accounts have also been amended to record a Post Balance Sheet event in light of the potential enormity of the financial impact on the finances of the council in 2020 as a direct result of the Covid Health Emergency.

Q2 Finance Report 2020

The Finance Report for the first quarter of 2020, i.e. to 31st March 2020, has been circulated. The results for Q1 represent the period pre-covid but do indicate a small deterioration over the same period in 2019. While the Qtr 1 accounts are largely in line with expectations at that time the events that have occurred since the completion of the Qtr 1 Accounts will be a major informing factor informing financial management for the remainder of 2020 and beyond.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL)

The 2020 Allocation has been received from the DHPLG and is included as a separate item on the June Agenda to seek members approval for the associated borrowing requirements for the Housing Loan Programme.

COVID -19

The COVID 19 emergency continues to impact negatively on the finances of Wexford County Council across all income sources. During the period since April there have been significant reductions in income and income transactions, most significantly but not limited to Commercial Rates, Housing Rents, Housing Loans and Car Parking income. The emergency also continues to impact on the council's ability to deliver budgeted expenditure for 2020 both in terms of Operational and Capital expenditure while we continue to accumulate unplanned expenditure on our response to the crisis. In the continuing uncertainty it is not possible to determine or estimate the full impact or the extent of that impact on the finances of Wexford Co council but a separate overview report on the financial position is included for discussion and consideration.

Details of the 3 Month Rates Waiver scheme for businesses forced to close from 27th March is still awaited but it expected that details will be announced shortly.

53 Mortgage Customers have applied for the 3 Month Mortgage Break since it was implemented on 20th April as an option for customers struggling to pay their mortgages to the council. An online application is available on the Council's website to facilitate these applications. They have been indications of a possible extension to this mortgage break but no further details have been received at this time.

The focus, for the moment, continue to be firmly on cash flow and financial management as we move through the crisis while also trying to assist our customers in as far as we can. The relaxation of restrictions and public health measures will now see a return of many of the council services which will in turn result in an increase in expenditure as programme recommence and this will place additional pressure on cash flow and when coupled with failing income it is likely that there will be an increased reliance on overdraft in the short term. Planning towards our financial recovery can only really commence when we have some indication that there is a return to some level of normality and some indication of what if any funding will be provided to Local Government to deal with the costs of the crisis and more importantly the financial impact on local incomes.

Unplanned expenditure to date on dealing with the emergency by Wexford County Council is currently at €632k (15th June)

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m for the period to the 31st December, 2020. In light of the COVID 19 crisis and the immediate and potential cash flow difficulties that may be facing the council an extended overdraft to €30m has been sought and approved in principle by the DHPLG and our bank. There is a separate item on the agenda seeking Member's approval for this increased borrowing requirement which will allow the sanction of the minister for the revised overdraft to be formally secured.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**