



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council

ANNUAL REPORT



2015

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**Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council**

“Our mission is to lead the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the county and to provide high quality services at local level.

The Council will use all of its available resources and work in partnership with others in order to overcome infrastructural deficits that inhibit the economic development of the county.

The Council is committed to building strong sustainable communities with enhanced education and better employment opportunities for all our people.

We will promote County Wexford nationally and internationally as a place to visit and invest in.”

Offices and Opening Hours



HEADQUARTERS

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Wexford
Y35 WY93

Telephone: **053 91 96000** E-mail: postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie Website: www.wexfordcoco.ie

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS

9.00 A.M. – 5.00 P.M.

BOROUGH DISTRICT OF WEXFORD

Spawell Road, Wexford
Y35 FPC2
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wexfordborough@wexfordcoco.ie

ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Market Square, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford
Y21 W2V4
Tel: 053 92 33540
enniscorthy@wexfordcoco.ie

GOREY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co Wexford
Y25 V1W5
Tel: 053 94 83800
gorey@wexfordcoco.ie

NEW ROSS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Tholsel, New Ross, Co Wexford
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ENNISCORTHY DISTRICT OFFICE

Machinery Yard, Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy,
Co Wexford Y21 YY04
Tel: 053 92 32300

NEW ROSS AREA OFFICE

37 South Street, New Ross, Co Wexford
Y34 YW84
Tel: 051 421300

WEXFORD JOINT DEPOT

Whitemill Industrial Estate, Wexford.
Y35 FT89
Tel. 053 91 96340

OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS SERVICE – EMERGENCIES ONLY – 1890 666 777

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Freephone Number:

1800 DUMPED (1800 386733)

FIRE BRIGADE – ALL UNITS

999 or 112



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Cathaoirleach's Introduction

It was an honour to represent the people of Wexford during my time as Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council. With the office of Cathaoirleach comes responsibility, considerable demand and public expectation and I was proud to have had the opportunity to lead my fellow Councillors as we worked alongside the Chief Executive and his team throughout 2015.

The year was a very exciting one, with many policies, projects and initiatives substantially progressed. The year 2015 saw the first full year of operation of the new local government structure where the former town authorities of County Wexford have been dissolved and Wexford County Council is now the single local authority for the entire county. The Council has particularly focused on ensuring that the excellent representation provided by those town authorities for more than 100 years continues to strengthen and grow under the new Municipal District structure.

The 34 members of Wexford County Council represent a variety of political parties plus non-party representatives. It is the job of the Cathaoirleach to ensure that each elected member is afforded proper opportunity to participate in debate, to express their views and represent their constituents, while ensuring that the outputs of the Council meetings in terms of policies adopted and decisions made are cohesive, practical and, above all, best for Wexford.

My fellow elected members have shown great leadership and courage in our Council Chamber, keeping Wexford to the forefront when debating issues and formulating policy. As Cathaoirleach it has been my privilege to lead them, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved to date as we work together for the betterment of our county and its wonderful people.

Mar ní neart go chur le chéile.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Dempsey".

Cllr Tony Dempsey

Cathaoirleach

Chief Executive's Statement

The year 2015 has been one of very strong performance by Wexford County Council across all our service areas. A number of exciting projects were progressed, while the Council's overall financial position also improved substantially, building on the progress achieved in 2014.

I am particularly pleased that we have made considerable strides in relation to one of our key corporate objectives – the improvement of job creation opportunities throughout the county. Progress in this area includes the acquisition of lands in Wexford Town for the development of a business park, the development of a public/private partnership for the creation of an IT hub in Gorey, with renewed emphasis on the development of similar office accommodation facilities in Enniscorthy and New Ross.

The existence of a modern and robust road network that provides easy access to and from the main centres of population is essential to the economic development and growth of any county region. In this regard I am delighted that both the New Ross and Enniscorthy motorway bypasses have commenced and I am certain that when complete, these strategically important developments will contribute significantly to the improvement of Wexford's economy over the next number of years. Substantial progress has also been made in relation to such challenging service areas as housing, water infrastructure, unfinished housing estates, and tourism development.

The work of Wexford's Local Community Development Committee has just begun, and one of their first tasks will be to complete the Local Economic and Community Plan. This document will create a roadmap for the future, setting out how the Council will interact and engage with and support community development, in addition to identifying opportunities, objectives and actions to support economic development. I look forward to working with the elected members in achieving the objectives of the plan, and to help Wexford County Council build closer links with the community.

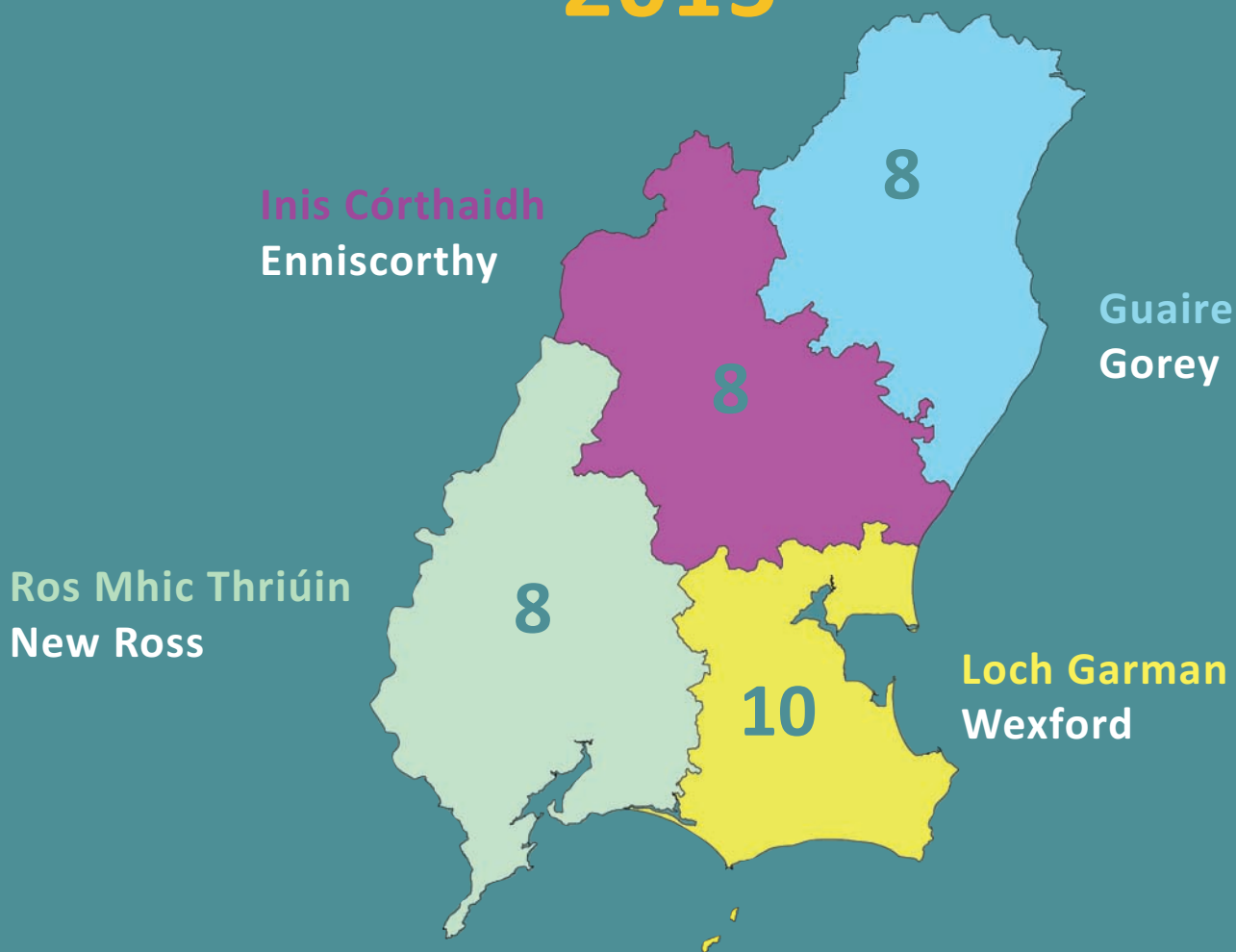
I take the opportunity to thank the elected members for their valued advice and assistance and congratulate them for their absolute and unflinching support of Wexford over the past year. I also wish to record my sincere thanks to the staff of the Council, whose loyalty and commitment to their employer and to their county has been the cornerstone of our success in delivering and improving the Council's many and varied services to the people of Wexford.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Enright', written in a cursive style.

Mr Tom Enright
Chief Executive

Members of Wexford County Council 2015



34 Members in 4 Districts

BOROUGH DISTRICT OF WEXFORD



Cllr Deirdre Wadding
People Before Profit Alliance



Cllr Fergie Kehoe
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Frank Staples
Fine Gael



Cllr Anthony Kelly
Sinn Féin



Cllr Ger Carthy
Non Party



Cllr George Lawlor
Labour



Cllr Jim Moore
Fine Gael



Cllr Davy Hynes
Non Party



Cllr Tony Dempsey
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Mick Roche
Sinn Féin



ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr James Browne
Fianna Fáil



Cllr John O' Rourke
Non Party



Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Fine Gael



Cllr Oliver Walsh
Fine Gael



Cllr Keith Doyle
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Paddy Kavanagh
Fine Gael



Cllr Johnny Mythen
Sinn Féin



Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy
Fianna Fáil

NEW ROSS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Larry O' Brien
Fine Gael



Cllr Michael Whelan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Oisin O' Connell
Sinn Féin



Cllr Martin Murphy
Non Party



Cllr Michael Sheehan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Willie Fitzharris
Fine Gael



Cllr Anthony Connick
Non Party



Cllr John Fleming
Fianna Fáil

GOREY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Mary Farrell
Non Party



Cllr Anthony Donohoe
Fine Gael



Cllr John Hegarty
Fine Gael



Cllr Malcolm Byrne
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Robert Ireton
Labour



Cllr Joe Sullivan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin
Sinn Féin



Cllr Pip Breen
Fianna Fáil

Council Committees & Meetings 2015

– Elected Members

Title	Purpose	Number of Elected Members	Number of Meetings Held During 2015
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	To act as a mini-cabinet for Council business, to link and co-ordinate the work of the different SPCs and to provide a forum where policy positions affecting the whole council can be discussed and agreed for submission to the full council.	7	11
Housing, Community and Environment Strategic Policy Committee	To formulate, develop, monitor and review policies which relate to the functions of Wexford County Council and to advise the Council accordingly	14	6
Transportation and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee		11	2
Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee		18	5
Planning and Building Control Strategic Policy Committee		9	3
Local Traveller (Accommodation) Consultative Committee	To advise in relation to the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme for the functional area of the appointing authority concerned.	13	3
Audit Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the Council's financial reporting practices and procedures To foster the development of best practice in the local authority internal audit function To review the Council's financial reports and to report to that authority on its findings To assess and promote efficiency and value for money To review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks 	5	4

Meetings of Wexford County Council + Municipal District Members

Body	Number of Meetings Held in 2015
Wexford County Council	15
Enniscorthy Municipal District	12
Gorey Municipal District	12
New Ross Municipal District	12
Wexford Borough District	20

Title	Purpose	Number of Elected Members	Number of Meetings Held during 2015
<p>Cont.</p> <p>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have primary responsibility for coordination, governance, planning and oversight of local development spend, whether that spend is delivered by local authorities or on behalf of the State by other local development agencies and structures • Bring a more coherent approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, seeking to ensure an integrated approach to local community and local development services between providers and delivery structures • Develop approaches that focus on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between practice and policy development • Explore and pursue opportunities for additional funding resources for the area, whether Exchequer, EU, private or other sources 	17	11
Joint Policing Committee	To develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Wexford County Council and its elected representatives, and the community and voluntary sector	15	4
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	To monitor and advise on the development and implementation of policy in relation to the locally devolved rural water programme	11	3
Corporate Policy Group	To link and coordinate the work of the different SPCs and to provide a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be discussed and agreed for submission to the full Council. The CPG acts as a mini-cabinet for Council business and is supported by the city/county chief executive	7	11



Membership of Other Bodies – Elected Members

Association of Irish Local Government	Cllr J. Browne/Cllr M. Byrne/Cllr L. O'Brien
Brown Clayton Monument Committee	Cllr J. Fleming/Cllr L. O'Brien
Bunclody REDZ Committee	Cllr B. A. Murphy
Courtown Waterworld	Cllr M. Farrell/ Cllr J. Sullivan
Duncannon Fort Trust	Cllr M. Murphy/Cllr W. Fitzharris
Education Training Board	Cllr B. A. Murphy/Cllr M. Farrell/Cllr K. Codd Nolan Cllr M. Byrne/Cllr J. Moore/Cllr G. Carthy/Cllr F.Ó'Suilleabháin
Enniscorthy Athenaeum	Cllr P. Kavanagh/Cllr J. Browne
Enniscorthy Strawberry Fair	Cllr B. A. Murphy
Fethard Castle	Cllr M. Whelan/Cllr M. Murphy
Holmestown Environmental Monitoring Committee	Cllrs. P. Breen /Cllr. O. Walsh
Hook Heritage Ltd	Cllr L. O'Brien/Cllr M. Whelan/Cllr M. Murphy
Irish National Heritage Park	Cllr B. A. Murphy
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances	Cllr J. Browne
JFK Trust	Cllr. W. Fitzharris
Local Authority Members Association	Cllr. P. Kavanagh
National 1798 Centre	Cllrs. J. Mythen/Cllr. J. Browne
New Ross Coarse Angling Ltd	Cllr. L. O'Brien
New Ross Sport & Leisure Ltd	Cllr A. Connick/Cllr J. Fleming
Regional Assembly	Cllr P. Breen/Cllr L. O'Brien/Cllr O. Walsh
Regional Health Forum	Cllr J. Sullivan/Cllr J. Browne/ Cllr F. Staples/Cllr G. Lawlor
Wexford Heritage Trust	Cllr B. A. Murphy
Wexford Monument Trust Ltd	Cllr J. Fleming/Cllr L. O'Brien

Training Attended & Expenses 2015

– Elected Members

Training Attended by Members of Wexford County Council in 2015		
Training Availed of by Members (Title)	Training Provider	Number of Reps at Training Event
AILG Training Module 1 Governance (Part 1) of Local Authorities	Association of Irish Local Government	2
The Companies Act 2014	n/a	1
LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Local Authority Members Association	5
AILG "In Service" Training	Association of Irish Local Government	6
LCDC Training Conference		1
AILG "In Service" Training Module 3 – LCD & LCDC	Association of Irish Local Government	5
AILG Training – Local Authority Finance & Housing	Association of Irish Local Government	6
Planning & Building Regulations	n/a	5
Regulation of Lobby Act 2015	n/a	1
Planning & Development (No. 2) Bill – Office of Planning Regulator	n/a	2
Regulation of the Lobbying Act 2015	n/a	1
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar – The Lobbying Act – Implications for Councillors	Local Authority Members Association	3
AILG "In Service" Training Module 5 – Roads Transportation & Safety – Training Day	Association of Irish Local Government	1
Building Control (Amendment) Regulations	n/a	1
AILG Training – Module 6 – Septic Tanks Ground Water & Water Pollution & Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015	Association of Irish Local Government	4
AILG Training – Module 6 – Septic Tanks Ground Water & Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015	Association of Irish Local Government	1
Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	n/a	2
Local Authority Budget 2016	n/a	1

Elected Members of Wexford County Council - Expenses incurred - 2015

Travelling and Subsistence Costs		Conference Fees (Paid to Conference Provider)	Training Fees (Paid to Training Provider)	Other Expenses	Mobile Telephone Allowance	Allowances for Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	Total
Within the State	Outside the State						
€210,665.77	€11,949.92	€5,282.52	€31,285.36	€732.22	€6,955.11	€6,000	€266,870.90

Conferences Attended – Elected Members

Conferences, seminars and similar events attended	Event Purpose	Within or Outside the State	Number of Representatives who Attended
Government's Construction Strategy 2020 – Housing Supply	Conference	Within	2
Sustainable Tourism Development	Conference	Within	1
Regenerative Local Spaces through Effective Community Planning	Conference	Within	1
AILG Second Annual Conference	Conference	Within	6
The Future of Towns in Ireland Summit	Conference	Within	1
Crime Prevention & Community Safety	Conference	Within	3
Safe Ireland – Promoting Social & Emotional Wellbeing – Women & Children who have experienced Violence	Conference	Within	1
Local Government & Economic Development	Conference	Within	4
Douglas Hyde Conference	Conference	Within	1
Local Economic & Community Plans Conference	Conference	Within	1
The Housing Debate: Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government	Conference	Within	1
AILG Autumn Seminar 2015	Conference	Within	7
Cannabis – Why not – conference for those working with young people and families	Conference	Within	1
22nd Annual AOIFE Conference	Conference	Within	1
Consumer Rights	Conference	Within	1
New Regions, New Roles, New Responsibilities	Conference	Within	1
2nd Annual SBP Property Summit	Conference	Within	1
Local Government Environment Policy – Opportunities for Local Communities	Conference	Within	1
EU Cohesion Policy 2014–2020	Conference	Within	1
Lugo, Italy	Twinning	Outside	2
Fleurus, Belgium	Twinning	Outside	2
Coueron, France	Twinning	Outside	1

Conferences, seminars and similar events attended	Event Purpose	Within or Outside the State	Number of Representatives who Attended
London	London/Wexford Association	Outside	5
London	800th Anniversary Lord Mayor	Outside	2
Mexico	Invitation to William Lamport Anniversary	Outside	1
New York	Invitation to St Patrick's Day Celebrations	Outside	1

Borough & Municipal Districts



Borough District of Wexford

Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting held on 29 June, 2015 Councillor Ger Carthy was elected to the office of Mayor of the Wexford Borough District of Wexford County Council to succeed the former Mayor, Councillor George Lawlor, for the following period of 12 months. Councillor Jim Moore was elected to the position of Deputy Mayor for the same period.

Festivals Programme 2015 – Borough District of Wexford

Wexford Borough District continued its support of the following festivals which took place throughout the District during 2015:

- St. Patrick's Day Festival
- Wexford Maritime Festival
- Art in the Open Festival
- Wexford Food Festival
- Kilmore Seafood Festival
- Leo Carthy Music Weekend
- Wexford Motor Rally
- Culture Night
- Wexford Festival Opera
- Wexford Spiegeltent Festival
- Wexford Winterland Festival

The following new additions to the Festival Programme for 2015 were also welcomed and supported by Wexford Borough District:

- Jestfest
- Zorrofest
- Cannonball Run
- Light Up Bridgetown

Civic Honours/Receptions

Wexford Borough District hosted a number of civic and mayoral receptions during 2015. The following groups and individuals were honoured:

- Stephen Murphy, Wexford Academy of Martial Arts on winning a World Title
- Dean Walsh on winning his first European boxing title
- Gavin and Ned Buggy, Robert and Mark Doyle, Josh & Daniel Kavanagh' and Noel Houlihan for their success at the World Handball Championships
- Hores Stores/Hore Family – 70th Anniversary
- Fr. James Fegan – departure from Wexford Parish
- Wexford Festival Opera Voluntary Workers
- Our Lady's Island Parish Committee
- Kennedy Cup Soccer Squad

Civic Events 2015 – Borough District

Renaming of Bishopswater Roundabout



During his term of office, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor George Lawlor, proposed that the Bishopswater Roundabout be renamed as Fr Harry Sinnott Roundabout in memory of the late Fr Harry Sinnott, a popular Wexford priest who founded the nearby St Joseph's Club in Bishopswater. The renaming ceremony took place in June, 2015 in the presence of the Mayor and elected members of Wexford Borough District, family and friends of Fr Harry and representatives of the St Joseph's Club and Community Centre, Bishopswater.

John Barry Commemorative Wreathlaying Ceremony

The 58th annual wreathlaying ceremony at the John Barry Memorial on Crescent Quay was held on Sunday, 21 June, 2015 at which Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, TD, inspected the guard of honour before delivering the keynote address. Wreaths were laid by Minister Brendan Howlin on behalf of the Irish Government, by Sergeant First Class Jamilah Posey on behalf of the Government of the United States, by Philip Dillon on behalf of the descendants of the Barry family, by Mr. John Fowler on behalf of the Commodore John Barry Branch of ONE and by Government Chief Whip and Minister for State at the Department of An Taoiseach and Defence, Paul Kehoe TD.

Unveiling of Memorial to the Heroic Crew of the MV Kerlogue

Also on Sunday, 21 June, 2015 a new memorial was unveiled by His Worship the Mayor of Wexford, Councillor George Lawlor, on the quayfront at Crescent Quay to the memory of the valiant crew of 10 from the Wexford Coaster the *MV Kerlogue* who rescued 168 injured and shipwrecked German sailors whose destroyer and torpedo boats had been sunk in an engagement with the British Navy in the Bay of Biscay on 29 December, 1943. For the families and descendants of the crew of *MV Kerlogue*, they were immensely proud that their loved ones were finally being recognised in their home town for their role in an amazing wartime rescue.



World War 1 Remembrance Ceremony at Redmond Square

On Remembrance Sunday, 8 November, 2015 following the annual Remembrance Day Service in St Iberius Church, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Ger Carthy, laid a wreath at the War Memorial Monument in Redmond Square on behalf of the people of Wexford. First introduced by the Council in 2013, this is now an annual ceremony to remember the Wexford war dead who sacrificed their lives in the defence of freedom in the First World War, 1914–1918.

Town Twinning

Coueron, France

In February, 2015 we were saddened to learn of the untimely death of the Mayor of Coueron, Mr Jean-Pierre Fougerat, who passed away after a short illness. Mr Fougerat had been instrumental in developing and nurturing the unique relationship between Wexford and Coueron over the previous 30 years. Wexford Borough District was represented at his funeral in France by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor George Lawlor and the District Manager, Angela Laffan. Shortly afterwards, Councillor Carole Grelaud was elected by the Council of Coueron as Mr Fougerat's successor.

In conjunction with Wexford Borough District, DMP Athletic Club hosted a group of visitors from Coueron Athletics Club in May, 2015 for a weekend of athletics. DMP organised an impressive programme of events and the visitors took part in the Johnstown Park Run in Johnstown Castle where they were welcomed by Mayor George Lawlor. This was a new cultural exchange between our two towns and we hope that the relationship will continue to develop into the future.

In July, 2015 members of Wexford Swimming Club travelled to Coueron as part of the long standing annual cultural exchange programme between Wexford and Coueron Swimming Clubs.

In November 2015, the Mayor and members of Wexford Borough District once again welcomed the official delegation from Coueron Council including the Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

Lugo, Italy

Also in November 2015, the Mayor and members received a delegation from our twin town of Lugo in Northern Italy.

Wexford Tidy Towns

Wexford Tidy Towns Committee was delighted to retain the Bronze Medal in the 2015 National Tidy Towns competition. For this we must thank the committee and their team of dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time to ensure that our town and our public spaces are presented to the highest possible standard.

In the 2015 competition, Wexford also received two additional awards – the newly introduced Diversity Award and the Gum Litter Task Force Award.



Sporting Facilities

Wexford Acro Gymnastics Club

A new purpose-built gymnastics training facility was opened in October, 2015 at Ferndale, Coolcotts on a site provided by the former Wexford Borough Council. Home to the successful Wexford Acro Gymnastics Club which now has in excess of 600 members, the premises is located adjacent to Coolcotts Community Centre and the new SIPTU offices. The development received funding support under the Sports Capital Programme and was completed by local contractors, Cleary & Doyle.

St Mary's GAA Complex, The Rocks, Maudlintown

St Mary's GAA Club moved back to its roots in the heart of the community in Maudlintown in 2015. A new state of the art playing pitch together with new clubhouse facilities were developed on lands made available by the former Wexford Borough Council at The Rocks.

Designed by local firm DCS+P Architects, the complex was completed with funding support under the Sports Capital Programme and the County Council's RAPID Programme and was officially opened by Minister Brendan Howlin.



Enniscorthy Municipal District

Roads and Transportation

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government funding of €1,299,765 along with funding of €2,470,000 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) allowed further improvements to the road network throughout town and district. Numerous footpaths in the district were also improved in relation to access. Works on the new M11 Enniscorthy bypass also started in late 2015.

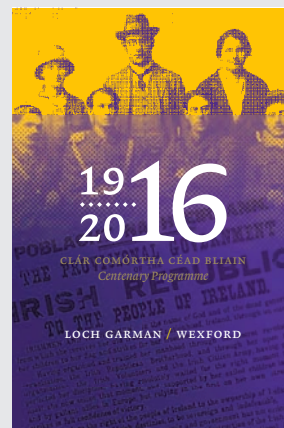
Following torrential rain throughout the month of December, Enniscorthy experienced significant flooding on 30 December 2015, The Council responded by putting local emergency measures in place to protect and assist the public. This included the mobilisation of over 80 staff members who manned traffic diversions, filled sandbags and updated local media and the deployment of Slaney River Rescue, Civil Defence and the Army to assist with public. Over 4,700 sandbags were deployed to strategic locations within the area for use by affected residents and businesses.

Development Incentives and Control

County Wexford's 1916 Centenary Commemorative Programme

Wexford's historic place in the 1916 Easter Rising will be marked by a spectacular programme of events across the entire county, with a series of cultural, historical and traditional activities being organised for 2016.

Councillor Tony Dempsey officially launched the County Wexford 1916 Centenary Commemorative Programme on 9 November, 2015. In attendance were relatives of the Volunteers along with members of Cumann na mBan who took part in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford. Joining the relatives were the County Wexford 1916 Centenary Committee, members of the Oireachtas and members of Wexford County Council, together with many dignitaries and invited guests. A company of uniformed 1916 re-enactors from County Wexford also took part in the launch, which added to the occasion.



A number of legacy projects are planned in the programme including:-

- A range of ceremonial events
- Historical lectures, conferences and literary publications on various aspects of 1916
- County Wexford 1916 Educational Resource Pack
- County Wexford 1916 Exhibition
- A range of concerts, film recordings, 1916 themed song and poetry compilation
- Community-based commemorations
- Dedication of a memorial garden
- Commissioning of the Patriot's Flag
- Restoration of the Athenaeum
- Easter Monday 1916 Celebration which in 2016 will form part of a select national State Ceremony and Wreath Laying followed by Ireland's largest 1916-themed battle re-enactment.

Environmental Protection

The presentation of the district is of utmost importance to Enniscorthy Municipal District as represented by the Council's annual Parks Improvement Programme which continued in 2015. In addition to the maintenance of green areas throughout the town of Enniscorthy, the Council also planted roundabouts on the entrances to the town and maintained impressive streetside floral displays in many areas.

Council street cleaning and town presentation crews continued to present the town in an excellent light and the fruits of their labours were enjoyed throughout the year by shoppers, visitors and residents alike.

The Tidy Towns Committees throughout the Enniscorthy Municipal District, supported by the Council, made further progress in search of national honours with Enniscorthy Town securing a Bronze Medal in the Tidy Towns Awards 2015. Congratulations are extended to all the Tidy Towns Committees and it is hoped that their commendable efforts will receive further recognition in the near future.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

The town of Enniscorthy, located on the banks of the River Slaney, has a long history of flooding. Extreme floods have occurred in 1924, 1947, 1965, 2000, 2002, 2009, 2011, 2014 and more recently in December 2015. Flooding has resulted in the inundation of properties and roads in the town and represents a risk to the health and safety of its inhabitants, causing property damage and traffic disruption and adversely affecting commercial activity in the town and its environs. Over 130 properties were affected by the flooding in December 2015.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) in conjunction with Wexford County Council undertook a study of the flooding problem, following which a preliminary design for the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme was exhibited for public consultation in 2009. This was further improved and went on public display again in 2012.

In March 2015 Wexford County Council employed a Project Resident Engineer for the scheme and consultants were appointed in November 2015 to start work on the detailed design. It is expected that the developed design will go on public display in summer 2016. Construction is expected to start in early 2017 following confirmation of the scheme by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The scheme will take three years to complete.

The Flood Defence Scheme combines a number of measures to prevent flooding in the town. These include river channel widening, river deepening, bridge relocation, and the construction of extensive glass-panelled flood walls through the town.

The proposed construction works will cover a 3.5 km stretch of the River Slaney, extending from 1.5 km upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge to 2 km downstream. The main elements of the project include:

- Construction of flood defence walls on both banks upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge, through the town, finishing just south of the Riverside Park Hotel
- River channel widening and deepening
- Construction of a flood diversion channel within the flood plain to the south
- Deepening of the riverbed beneath the existing Railway Bridge & the Old Enniscorthy Bridge
- Construction of a new road bridge over the River Slaney and Railway Line, located approx. 100 m south of the Riverside Park Hotel
- Removal of the existing Seamus Rafter Bridge
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre

Scheme costs are estimated at between €30m and €40m.



Recreation and Amenity

The role of community groups in the provision of recreation and amenity facilities in the Enniscorthy District has long been recognised by Wexford County Council. In 2015 the Enniscorthy Municipal District further supported these worthy organisations by distributing funding in excess of €40,000 to some 78 local groups under the Amenity and Arts Grants Scheme 2015.

The Enniscorthy Municipal District also administered funding in excess of €10,300 to some 19 residents' associations throughout the district to assist with planting and general estate improvements.

Grants Awarded under the Amenity and Arts Grants Scheme 2015

County Wexford Community Workshop	€350
Icons Pool Club	€700
Enniscorthy Juvenile Athletic Club	€550
Courtnacuddy Youth Club	€400
Ballymurn Celtic AFC	€800
Beneath My Angel's Wings	€325
St Paul's Scout Group Blackwater	€530
Enniscorthy Basketball Club	€550
Enniscorthy Musical Society	€300
Little Angels Toddler Group	€650
National '98 Pike Association	€50
Ballaghkeen ARA	€250
Duffry Rovers GAA Club	€600
Raparees Hurling/Starlights	€800
Blackwater Christmas Lights Committee	€50
Wexford Garda History Project	€700
Shamrocks Camogie Club	€800
Blackwater Historical Society	€400
Old School Centre Glenbrien	€800
Jim Campbell Photography	€250
Wexford Walking Trails	€1,400
Schools Soccer Coaching Scheme	€300
Kilrush Brownies	€450
Marshalls AED	€400
Sacre Coeur Boxing Club	€875
Delightful Dollies Women's Group	€350
Enniscorthy United Soccer Club	€750
Enniscorthy Country Markets	€50
Enniscorthy Choral Society	€1,100
Moyne Rangers AFC	€1,500
St Patrick's Pitch and Putt Club	€350
Monageer Grotto Group	€925
St David's Well	€100
Richard Redmond	€280
O.N.E.	€250
Enniscorthy Brownies	€300
St Nicola's Cygnet Girl Guides	€520
Bunclody AFC	€1,100
Shamrocks GAA Club	€550

Royal British Legion Wexford Branch	€50
Enniscorthy Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	€300
Templeshannon Brownies	€500
Bree United Soccer Club	€300
Ajax Athletic AFC	€650
Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society	€500
Touched by Suicide	€570
Enniscorthy Boxing Academy	€625
CGI Enniscorthy	€50
CGI Blackwater	€200
Marshalstown/Castledockrell GAA Club	€1,000
Furlong Productions	€200
Marshalstown Community Centre	€500
St Senan's Parent's Council	€300
Bree ICA	€400
Courtnacuddy Development Group	€1,200
Glenbrien Village Renewal Co Ltd	€900
Oulart Tidy Towns	€500
Bree Tidy Towns	€200
Cemetery The Ballagh	€700
Davidstown Development Association	€500
Blackwater '99 Club Senior Citizens	€750
Catholic Guides of Ireland Enniscorthy	€550
Ballindaggin Development Group	€1,000
Blackwater Tidy Towns	€600
Irish Red Cross Enniscorthy	€200
Enniscorthy Drama Group	€400
Co Wexford Community Games	€100
Castledockrell Amenity Group	€750
London Wexford Association	€600
Wexford GAA Supporters Club (Dublin Branch)	€700
Men's Shed	€650
St Brigid's Coiste na nÓg	€500
Caim Development Association	€570
Marshallstown Development Group	€380
Kiltealy Tidy Towns	€250
Oylegate Development Committee	€50
Bunclody Tidy Towns	€300
St Johns Amenity Group Caim	€100

Grants Awarded under the Residents' Association Grants Scheme 2015

Ballymurn Social Club	€600
Bellevue Court Residents Association	€600
Cois Abhainn Residents Association	€600
St Aidan's Neighbourhood Watch	€150
Slaneyview Park Resident Association	€350
Westbury Woods Residents Association	€600
Mayview Park Residents Association Oulart	€600
Hempfield Close Neighbourhood Watch	€600
Ryland Wood Residents Association	€600
Maderia Wood Residents Association	€600
Meadowbrook Residents Association	€500
Maderia Grove Residents Association Nos. 1 to 18	€600
Caim Development Association	€600
Bunclody Tidy Towns Association	€600
St. John's Amenity Group Caim	€600
Kiltealy Tidy Towns	€600
Marshallstown Amenity Group	€600
Oylegate Development Committee	€600
Clonegal Tidy Towns, Watch House	€300

The Council has always recognised the importance of festivals and social events as a means of promoting towns and villages in each district and attracting visitors to Wexford.

In 2015 the Enniscorthy Municipal District supported the following festivals:

- All Ireland Farmers Market
- Strawberry Fair
- Enniscorthy Show
- Rockin' Food
- Easter Monday
- St Patrick's Day parades throughout the district
- Blackstairs Blues Festival
- Street Rhythms
- Art in the Open
- Christmas lighting in Enniscorthy, Bunclody and Blackwater
- Eileen Aroon Festival, Bunclody
- Focal Festival
- Brooklyn Film Festival
- St Colman's Church, Templeshambo
- All Saints Church, Castledockrell

In 2015 the Enniscorthy Municipal District facilitated the amalgamation of a trio of festivals to create one strong Enniscorthy Festival. The Rockin' Food Festival, which took place over the August Bank Holiday Weekend and featured live rock "n" roll music, dancing, craft & beer Markets, the 1798 Battle Re-enactment, along with a free outdoor screening of *Grease* proved to be a huge success.

Enniscorthy Sports Hub

This state of the art, eight-lane all-weather sports track was officially opened on Saturday 16 May 2016 by Councillor Barbara-Anne Murphy with special guest Mr John Treacy, Chief Executive, Irish Sports Council and included a parade of athletes from around the County. This facility is showing a significant increase in usage and throughout 2015 hosted a number of sporting events. Opening hours have been extended to include early mornings, afternoons and weekends.



Presentation Centre

Enniscorthy Presentation Centre is a Council owned community and arts facility in Enniscorthy and has been operational for three years. The centre experienced further growth in user numbers in 2015, with many local organisations and individuals availing of these first-class local facilities. In December alone the centre hosted an art exhibition, an open mic night, craft making and the all-time children's favourite, the production of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, along with a number of other seasonal events. Rental of this facility is offered at a very reasonable rent to the entire community.

Santa's Enchanted Castle

In November 2015 Enniscorthy Castle was transformed into a wonder of enchantment and was alive with festive cheer. 'Santa's Enchanted Castle' was launched in October 2015 by Enniscorthy Municipal District and opened its doors on Sunday 29 November with two fantastic tours, 'Santa's Enchanted Castle Tour' and 'Mrs Claus Castle Tour'.

The 50 minute tours comprised of the following attractions:

- The Elves Workshop and Magic Toy Machine
- Mrs Claus Kitchen
- Santa & Elves Bedroom
- Frozen Room with Queen Elsa & Olaf
- Santa's Audio Visual Room
- North Pole Post Office
- Santa's Magical Grotto

Santa's Enchanted Castle was a phenomenal success and will become an annual event in Enniscorthy Castle to the delight of children and adults alike.

Brooklyn

Following the making of the film *Brooklyn* in Enniscorthy in 2014 Wexford County Council in association with Lionsgate UK hosted a *Brooklyn* premiere night in the Riverside Park Hotel on 28 October, 2015.

Enniscorthy became Hollywood for a night with the transformation of the Riverside Park Hotel's ballroom into a state-of-the-art cinema complex, complete with tiered seating, wrap-around sound system, down lighting and a 16 ft by 8 ft screen.



Guests on the night included author, Enniscorthy's own Colm Tóibín on whose book the film is based, a number of actors who took part in the film, representatives of the film's production team, representatives of Lionsgate UK, the film's distributors, a number of government officials and the members of Wexford County Council.

Media interest in the premiere was unprecedented, with many of the national newspapers, television stations and radio outlets covering the event.

As a result of the huge local interest, a second screening of the film followed the 8.00 pm premiere. The premiere was a night to be remembered and one for which the town of Enniscorthy and Wexford County Council are very proud.

Refurbishment of Market House, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

Project Description:

It is intended to refurbish Market House to create a modern civic office while reinstating some of the original architectural features of Market House.

The proposals provide for the enhancement of the front elevation of the building with the restoration of the original five-bay three-storey building. The plans provide for an improved public area with meeting rooms, as well as improved office workspaces on the first and second floors. The proposed refurbishment includes health and safety improvements and fire safety improvements.



Gorey Municipal District

The municipal district structure had its first full year operating in 2015. There were a number of new developments and opportunities to build on existing projects and worthwhile initiatives.

North Wexford 2k Clean-up



This initiative was championed by local Tidy Towns and community groups who together cleaned almost 100 km of road throughout the Gorey Municipal District. The idea of the North Wexford 2K Clean-Up emerged from a series of networking meetings with tidy town representatives, who highlighted that litter on approach roads detracted from the good work being done in the villages.

The project was launched in March 2015, 20 groups registered and each undertook to keep a two kilometre stretch of road litter free during the month of April when judging took place. Awards were given according to Gold, Silver or Bronze standard based on the level of littering found. Judging took place on two separate days during April. Groups who adopted five or more stretches had the opportunity to obtain an overall area award. Any road rural or urban could take part as long as at least 2 km was apt of the clean-up.

Groups received awards over the three categories, with five groups qualifying for an overall award.

Group	Award
Askamore Community Council/Tidy Towns	Bronze
Forchester	Bronze
Limbrick –Pallas	Bronze
Barracurragh – Laraheen	Bronze
Ballycanew Tidy Towns	Silver
Ballyduff Development Group	Silver
Ballyfad Community Alert	Silver
Ballygarrett Tidy Towns	Silver
Coolgreany Tidy Towns	Silver
Ferns Tidy Towns	Silver
Tinnock – Kilanerin	Silver
Inch – Kilanerin	Silver
The Gap Tidy Towns & Heritage Group	Silver
Balamon\Currlane 2k	Gold

Castletown Development Association	Gold
Gorey Tidy Towns	Gold
Hollyfort Development Group	Gold
Clonroe – Rathpierce Hill	Gold
Pallas	Gold
Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns	Gold

Special Award for areas who "adopted" 5 roads

Hollyfort Development Group
 Ballygarrett Tidy Towns
 Kilanerin Tidy Towns
 Ferns Tidy Towns
 Ballyduff Development Group



Hollyfort were also presented with a Special Award North Wexford 2k Clean-up at the 2015 Keep Wexford Beautiful Awards.

All Ireland Drama Festival Kilmuckridge

Gorey Municipal District was delighted to support the Kilmuckridge Drama Festival to host the 2015 All Ireland Confined Drama Competition. Groups from Cork, Galway, Armagh, Clare, and Cavan as well as Ballycogley and Kilrush competed in the competition which was adjudicated by Patrick Sutton. There was an excellent fringe programme, with Kilmuckridge Resource Centre hosting an art exhibition with an array of the works of various local artists including painting, photography and sculpture. Art works from local children were displayed in the hall and in businesses around the village. The festival also saw the introduction of the County Wexford Youth Drama Competition. This event was particularly successful and is scheduled to run again in 2016. The festival was a great opportunity to showcase the district and an added bonus was that first place stayed within the County going to Kilrush Drama Group. The achievements of both groups were recognised by the members of Gorey Municipal District in 2015.



Gorey Town Park and Showgrounds Perimeter Walking Track

2015 saw another phase in the Town Park and Showgrounds re-development project successfully completed. Some 550 metres of walking track were installed around the perimeter of the showgrounds and Town Park linking into the existing path. The project was funded jointly by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and Wexford County Council, with a total investment of €126,000. Public lighting was installed as part of the project. The other significant change was that the newly appointed Gateway Scheme took over the management of the facilities in September. The availability of extra workers has made a noticeable improvement to the overall appearance of the area.

Gorey Christmas Lights

At the beginning of 2015, Gorey Municipal District resolved to bring the wow factor back to Gorey's Christmas lights. District staff worked with a committee of local business people and secured almost €25,000 from businesses in the town and district.

This supplemented the €100,000 investment from Wexford County Council and paid for a complete re-wiring of fittings, new connections, new lights and a sound system for the Main Street and Esmonde Street. The new lights added to the great Christmas atmosphere during the festive season in Gorey.



Grants Awarded under the Amenity & Arts Grants Scheme 2015

Askamore Community Council	€450
Askamore Vintage Club	€300
Ballycanew Tidy Towns	€650
Ballycanew–Ballyoughter Community Development Association	€650
Ballyduff Community Alert	€200
Ballyduff Development Group	€200
Ballyfad Comhaltas Ceoltoiri	€750
Ballyfad Community Alert	€600
Ballyfad Hall	€500
Ballyfad ICA	€600
Ballygarrett National School	€450
Ballygarrett Tidy Towns	€350
Ballymoney Community Fund	€250
Ballyoughter National School	€400
Boolavogue National School	€600
Boolavogue Textile Studio	€400
Boolavogue Tidy Village	€250
Buffers Alley	€650
Buffers Alley GAA Club	€600

Byrne Perry Summer School	€350
Cahore Inshore Rescue Service	€550
Castletown Development Association	€650
Castletown Liam Mellows GAA	€380
CCE Tuaisceart Loch Garman	€475
Chipper's Sanctuary	€545
Christ Church Parish Gorey	€800
Conradh na Gaeilge Guaire	€650
Coolgreany Amateur Dramatic Society	€500
Coolgreany Community Committee	€400
Coolgreany Tidy Towns	€500
County Wexford Community Games	€200
Court National School	€650
Courtown Tourism Promotion Group	€200
CFR Riverchapel	€250
Craanford Drama Group	€250
Croghan Athletic Club	€1,200
Ferns Dramatic Society	€250
Ferns Tapestry	€200
Ferns Tidy Towns	€355
Friends of Local People with Multiple Sclerosis	€500
Gap Arts Festival	€650
Gap Tidy Towns & Heritage Group	€400
1st Gorey Boys Brigade	€150
Gorey Choral Group	€250
Gorey Hockey Club	€50
Gorey Men's Shed	€200
Gorey Men's Shed	€200
Gorey Musical Society	€400
Gorey Rangers Schoolboys & Girls	€500
3 Gorey Scout Group	€200
Gorey Educational Trust, t/a Gorey School of Art	€250
Gorey Senior Citizens Christmas Party	€800
Gorey Tidy Towns	€400
Hollyfort Development Group	€450
Holy Trinity Church Ballymore, Camolin	€400
Irish Wheelchair Association	€200
Irish Wildlife Sanctuary	€100
Kilanerin Tidy Towns	€1,025

Kilmuckridge Community & Family Resource Centre	€500
Kilmuckridge Drama Group	€300
Kilmuckridge Memorial Hall Community Enterprise Ltd	€475
Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns	€300
Kilmuckridge Tourism Development Group	€230
Kilmuckridge Tourism Development Group	€350
London Wexford Association	€500
May Byrne Trust	€350
Monamolín Community Group	€550
North Wexford Historical Society	€650
North Wexford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	€300
Open Gorey	€200
Organisation of National Ex-Service Men & Women (ONE)	€50
Oulart Tidy Towns	€505
Oulart Community Text Alert	€200
Oyster Lane Theatre Group	€0.00
Rasper Players	€100
Riverchapel Schools of Hurling & Camogie	€100
Riverchapel Community Complex	€800
Sliabh Buidhe Rovers AC	€325
South East Sri Lankan Irish Association (Gorey)	€250
St Aidan's Boxing Club Ferns	€500
St Columba's Old Folks Club	€675
St Patrick's Snooker Club	€535
Tara Hill Ladies Club	€380
Tara Rocks Community Field Trust	€2,000
The Green Team	€100
Week of the Elderly	€480
Wexford GAA Supporters Club (Dublin Branch)	€405
Wexford Walking Trails	€2,160

Grants Awarded under the Residents Association Grants 2015

Allenwood Drive Residents Association	€500
An Bruach Residents Association	€500
Ard Lios Residents Association	€500
Ardamine Grove Residents Association	€500
Ballycanew Court Residents Association	€500
Ballymoney Community Fund (Includes Amenity)	€500
Beechbrook Park Residents Association	€500
Bibi Management Ltd (Riverchapel View)	€500
Branogue Park Residents Association	€500
Camolin Community Development Association	€500
Chapelwood Residents Association	€500
Chestnut Grove Residents Association	€500
Clonattin Village Residents Association	€500
Clonattin Village (Phase 2) Residents Association	€500
Craanford Community Association	€500
Croy/Lodgewood Residents Association	€500
Ferns Tidy Towns	€500
Glen Aoibhinn Residents Association	€500
Gorey Hill Residents Association	€500
Harbour Court Residents Association	€500
Hazelwood Residents Association	€500
Hollyfort Development Group	€500
Middletown Valley Residents Association	€500
Monaseed Village Group	€500
Pearsons Brook Residents Association	€500
Ramsfort Residents Association	€500
Riverchapel Wood Management Ltd	€500
The Chase/The Heath Residents Mgt Committee	€500
The Gallops Residents Association	€500
Willow Park/Ashwood Grove Residents Association	€500
Woodbury Residents Association	€300
Woodlands Courtown Residents Association	€500

Festivals Supported by Gorey Municipal District

- Gorey St Patrick's Day Parade
- Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations
- All Ireland Drama Festival (Confined) Kilmuckridge
- Byrne Perry Summer School
- Gorey Market House Festival
- A Very Gory Halloween



Civic Receptions and Events Hosted by Gorey Municipal District

- Opening of the Paul Funge Boulevard and exhibition of the artists' work
- Gorey Municipal District Civic Honours Ceremony
- North Wexford 2k Certificate Presentation
- Screening of Gorey Town Council Commemorative Film
- Visit of the French Ambassador
- Amenity Grants and Resident Association Grants Presentation
- Launch of County Fleadh
- Kilrush Drama Group
- Byrne Perry Summer School
- 30,000th Last Post – Tribute to Firefighters
- Celebrating 25 years of visiting German students
- Opening of Market House Festival
- Wexford Walking Trails Festival 2015
- Presentation of "The Ghost Pool" in Gorey Market House
- Halloween Family Fun Day and the official opening of running track and playground
- Switching on of Christmas Lights in Gorey
- What is a Republic?

New Ross Municipal District

New Ross Municipal District had its first full year in 2015. New Ross Municipal District has a population of 32,122, is a category one municipal district and the 25th biggest out of the 80 in the Country. It proved to be a very busy and eventful year with New Ross leading the way on tourism projects in particular. Our rich and significant history has allowed the district to be a big player in the Ireland's Ancient East tourism initiative. We have worked closely with Fáilte Ireland in particular in highlighting the many attractions that New Ross Municipal District has and we have promoted these both nationally and internationally.

Physical (Infrastructure, Public Realm, Public Safety)

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for New Ross Quay Front Re-Development

Wexford County Council won a very prestigious national award from Chambers Ireland in the Enhancing the Urban Environment category at the Chambers Ireland Awards ceremony in December 2015. The award was for the New Ross Quay Front which was deemed to be the best in the country in this category. This is the fourth national award for the Quay Front and is a reflection of the pride the people in New Ross Municipal District have in this fabulous amenity.

Greenway Plans

Two public consultations were jointly held in 2015 by Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils to inform the public of the Greenway and Redbridge Projects. A baseline ecology and revised Appropriate Assessment Screening was undertaken by Kilkenny County Council in 2015 in preparation for the commencement of the planning process. Our aim is to have this project shovel-ready in 2016 and to apply for funding to ensure its completion thereafter.

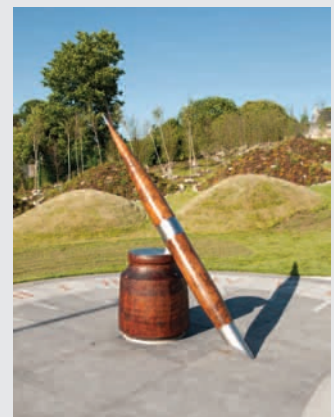
Library Park, Barrack Lane

Design and construction work commenced on the Library Park in 2015. The new state-of-the-art facility will completely transform the town centre site. The park will have themes of Time, Knowledge and Learning and is situated on the site of 20 derelict social housing units and the Kennedy Memorial Swimming Pool. It is on schedule for an April 2016 opening.

Designed by an in-house team including Eamonn Hore, Abraham Dunne, David Codd and Elisa Woods, the park will feature an amphitheatre with a fully functional gnomon sundial as the centre piece in the form of an Ink quill pen and ink pot. It also includes an ogham pathway and a monastic way.

The magical park's garden was designed by Ireland's youngest ever Chelsea Flower Show gold medal winner, Mary Reynolds, a Wexford native.

The park continues the magnificent work in improving the public realm spaces in the town of New Ross.



Barrow Navigation/Unlocking the River Barrow

New Ross Municipal District along with Carlow County Council and other agencies, including Waterways Ireland, held a number of meetings in 2015 with a view to moving towards unlocking the River Barrow for leisure, commercial use and establishing a significant tourist attraction in the South East. This working group will continue in 2016 with a view to securing funding and progressing the project.

Economic (Enterprise, Development, Micro & Social Enterprise)

St Dubhan's Church

St Dubhan's Church on the Hook Peninsula underwent major conservation works in 2015. The site is one of the most important archaeological and heritage sites in the county.

A large crowd including Councillors and Officials from Wexford County Council attended an open day which was held on the 3 December. The Project Archaeologist, Ms Catherine McLoughlin, Conservation Engineer Ms Yvonne Byrne and Master Craftsman Stone Mason Mr Martin Codd were also present on the day.

Social (Housing, Community, Recreation)

Gateway Scheme

The Gateway Scheme started in 2015. This scheme which included 15 participants has been very successful in terms of litter management and environmental enhancement works around the town.

Festivals/Events

New Ross Municipal District provided funding of €100,000 towards festivals and events in 2015. Below is a small taste of just some of the established festivals held annually in the district.

New Ross Piano Festival

The 10th Annual New Ross Piano Festival took place in 2015.

The event featured performers not just from Ireland but from as far afield as the Netherlands, Germany & the Ukraine, also included a gala opening concert with a performance by the RTE Concert Orchestra.



One of the highlights of the festival was The Ros Tapestry Suite which was launched in 2014 and brings together two cultural pillars of our town – the Ros Tapestry and the New Ross Piano Festival. The Ros Tapestry is a modern-day Bayeux embroidered by voluntary stitchers from the South East over the past 15 years. It recounts in 15 magnificent panels the twelfth century Norman invasion, the founding of the town of Ross and the settlement of the surrounding area. Last year the first five panels of the tapestry were brought to musical life. For this second year, aided by the Arts Council, five equally diverse Irish compositions were commissioned to re-imagine in music the second five panels of the tapestry.



RTE cameras captured performances over the weekend from piano students, seasoned performers and impromptu performances on pianos randomly placed around the town, bringing the festival to a national audience.

The highly successful festival went by in a blur of concerts, wonderful pianists, new music, chat with composers, old favourites, and appreciative audiences from both home and abroad.

Irish American Festival 2015

The 2015 festival proved to be another great weekend of Irish American celebration with events in New Ross, from Friday 3 July to Sunday 5 July.



An action-packed programme of events for all the family included arts and crafts on the Quay Front, along with a carnival followed by live entertainment on the main stage with a fantastic line-up of nationally renowned artists and bands including Frances Black, Sharon Shannon and The Fureys, as well as the Johnny Cash and Gareth Brooks Tribute Band. This was followed by a spectacular Fourth of July fireworks display over the River Barrow.

Grants Awarded under the Amenity & Arts Grants Scheme 2015

Duncannon FC	€866
The Cockleshell Gallery	€66
Campile Utd FC	€1,116
Templeudigan Parish Council	€866
Danescastle Musical Group	€566
New Ross & District Pipe Band	€466
Ballycullane Veggie Group	€266
New Ross Boat Club	€346
Wexford Walking Trails	€960
Trinity Art Group, Taghmon	€66
Ramsgrange Tidy Towns Association	€366
Book by Liam Ryan <i>The Land War in the Barony of Shelburne 1882-1888</i>	€166
New Ross Musical Society	€266
Organisation of National Ex-Service Men & Women	€491
FDYS Mary St New Ross The Shambles Youth Cafe	€244
Clonroche Community Centre	€1,066
Clonroche Pantomime Society	€366
Carrigbyrne Pike Choir & Group	€566
St Martin's Parish Committee, Ballycullane	€466
Horeswood Parochial Hall	€1,246
New Ross Piano Festival	€120
Adamstown Athletic Club	€266
Bannow Historical Society	€66
Ballyhack/Arthurstown Residents Association	€466
New Ross Allotment Group	€441
St Michael's Boxing Club, New Ross	€766
Duncormick Area Action Group	€466
Fethard Tidy Towns	€346
Carrig on Bannow Tidy Towns	€66
Cloughbawn Community Field	€466
St Kearns Rowing Club	€966
Cloughbawn GAA	€866
New Ross Men's Sheds	€466
New Ross Sparks Basketball Club	€266
First Friends Community Playschool, c/o Michael St School, New Ross	€166
Adamstown ICA	€366
Terrera Community Council	€766
Teach Spraoi Community Childcare, Taghmon	€466
12th Wexford Scouts, Horeswood	€866
Carrickbyrne Amenity Group	€466
Lacken Hill Community Group	€366
Gusserane O'Rahily's GAA Club	€466
Ballycullane Foróige Youth Club	€666

St Leonards FC	€466
New Ross Needlecraft Ltd (Ros Tapestry)	€166
Donard NS	€1,166
HFC Brass Band	€371
St Mary's Church New Ross, Building Fund	€266
2 Many Dance Moves, New Ross	€141
The Wexford GAA Supporters Club	€316
New Ross Town Football Club	€766
London Wexford Association	€800
Horeswood Camogie Club	€546
Hook Sub Aqua Club	€566
Irish Red Cross, Enniscorthy Branch	€266
Duncannon Sand Sculpting Festival	€1,346
Ballycullane Tidy Towns Group	€66
Taghmon Action Group	€666
Tintern Community Childcare	€566
Huggybears Community Playschool	€566
Clonroche Development Assoc	€66
Horeswood GAA Club	€2,066
Killanne Development Group	€266
Camross Drama Group	€66
Camross ICA Guild	€166
New Ross River Search and Rescue	€466
Wexford Sport & Classic Car Club	€466
Rosbercon United Soccer Club	€666
Geraldine O'Hanrahan's GAA Club	€566
Bannow Folk and Traditional Society	€566
Three Bullet Gate Community	€166
Three Bullet Gate Resident's Association	€466
Tintern Abbey Parish	€666
St Kearns Explosion Commemoration Committee	€1,066
Ballykelly Parish Fund	€1,526
Rathnure Buzzy Bees Club	€250

Grants Awarded under the Residents Association Grants 2015

Woodview Drive, Adamstown, Residents Association	550
Ban Na Cheile Residents Association, Cassagh	600
Willow Park Residents Association, New Ross	600
Deerpark Residents Association, New Ross	600
St Martin's Park, Ballycullane	600
Dowsleys Barn Residents Association, New Ross	600
Duncannon Beachview Management Co Ltd	600
St Aidan's Green Residents Association	402
Rathroe Meadows Residents Association, Ramsgrange	600
Taghmon Action Group	600
Bosheen Neighbourhood Watch	600
Friary Residents Association The Bullawn, New Ross	600
Woodlands Residents Association, Clonroche	600
Monastery Ave, Taghmon	600
Ard Munna Tenants Association, Taghmon	400
Parkfield Residents Association, New Ross	600
Grange Road Residents Association	600
Mount Ross Estate, New Ross	600
Lacken Valley, New Ross	600
Ballywilliam Residents Association	600
Brandon Park, New Ross	600
Grange Lawn Residents Association	600
Riverview Estate, New Ross	400
Fairgreen Residents Association	600
Shelbourne Place, Campile	600
Abbeyview, Campile	600

Housing Services

Roads Services

Water Services

**Development
Management Services**

Environmental Services

**Recreation and
Amenity Services**

**Agriculture, Education,
Health and Welfare**

Miscellaneous Services

2015 Final Accounts Summary



Housing Services

The Housing Services Department of Wexford County Council provides housing solutions to individuals and families who are unable to fund appropriate accommodation from their own resources.

These housing solutions include:

- Provision of local authority houses
- Leasing of private housing for letting to persons on the housing list
- Provision of house purchase loans
- Provision of grants to improve private houses
- Repair and maintenance of local authority houses
- Housing services for the homeless
- Assistance to Approved Housing Bodies
- Traveller Accommodation Programme

Wexford County Council has a stock of approximately 4300 houses all across County Wexford for letting to families and individuals and we supplement this housing stock by leasing more than 855 private houses. Each year, we carry out approximately 7,000 housing repairs.

There are just over 4,000 households on the Council's housing list.

In 2015, Wexford County Council spent almost €20m on housing services, which was funded through a combination of rental income, government grants and other charges.

Housing, Community and Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

This SPC comprises a membership of 14 and includes elected councillors, representatives of farming interests, trade unions and community and voluntary members. The committee is tasked to advise and assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy.

The committee has a large remit. The principal areas of activity encompass issues such as housing, community, environment, libraries, the arts services and emergency services.

The committee met six times in 2015. Two meetings were held off site, including one held at Holmestown Recycling Centre where a tour of the facility was organised, and another at Kilmore Quay, where a tour of the Kilmore Quay Marina and Environs was facilitated.

John Fleming – Chairperson
David Hynes
Mary Farrell
Anthony Kelly
John O'Rourke
Ger Carthy
Fionntáin Ó'Suilleabháin
Joe Sullivan
Oliver Walsh
Lisa McDonald
James Brennan – Farming Pillar
Ciaran Scallan – Trade Union Pillar
Frances Ryan – Community & Voluntary Pillar
Kathleen Fitzpatrick – Social Inclusion Pillar

Among the policies and programmes considered by the Committee during the year were the following:

- Regional Waste Management Plan (2015–2021)
- New Public Library Strategy (2013–2017)
- Litter Management Plan (2015–2018)
- Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)
- Arts Report – A Framework for Development, 2015–2019
- Supporting Literacy in the Local Authority
- Wexford Age Friendly County Programme
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
- Housing Capital Programme
- Improvement to Local Authority Stock
- Social Housing Strategy 2020

2015 Capital Building Programme

- Commenced construction of 8 houses at Shanna Court, Wexford
- Continue construction of 10 units at Riverchapel, Courtown
- Repair/reconstruction of 58 Sliamh Amharch, Enniscorthy
- Design, planning, tender and commence construction of special needs house in Commodore Barry Park, Rosslare
- Completion of service road in Coolcotts to serve the Ard Aoibhinn Project
- Repair / Reconstruction of 40 St Martins Park, Ballycullane – June 2015
- Repair/Construction of 30b Oonavarra Park, Ballycanew – Aug 2015
- Ard Aoibhinn, Coolcotts, Wexford 14 voluntary housing units – completed
- Kilanerin, Gorey, 6 Voluntary Housing Units – completed
- Camphill, Ballymoney, reports complete, awaiting funding from DECLG
- Radon Testing in 1400 houses (formerly urban authority properties)
- NAMA properties - inspected 13 houses – purchase 10 recommended
- 28 Ross Road, Enniscorthy–tender documents are being prepared
- Francis Street, Wexford–tenders received
- Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy –planning and tender processes completed
- Baile Eoghain, Gorey – 9 houses. Tender completed
- Clonard, Wexford – planning in progress
- Bungalow in Oilgate – design completed – planning in progress
- Killeens, Wexford – 10 houses design completed

Rented Sector

Housing authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the standards set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 2008 and 2009. These regulations set out the minimum standards which rented houses must meet.

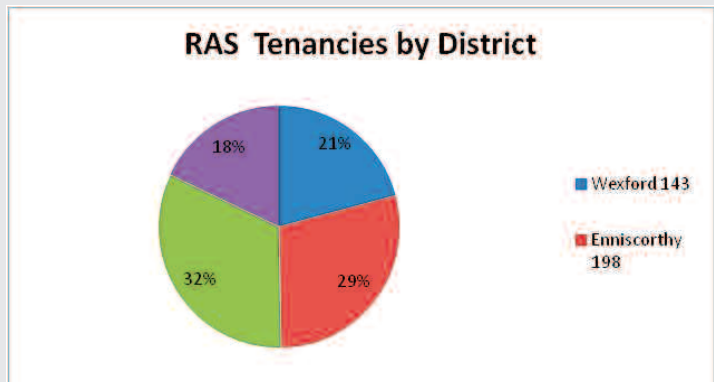
There were 239 inspections carried out in 2015. A 35% compliance rate was achieved regarding properties inspected for the first time in 2015.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)



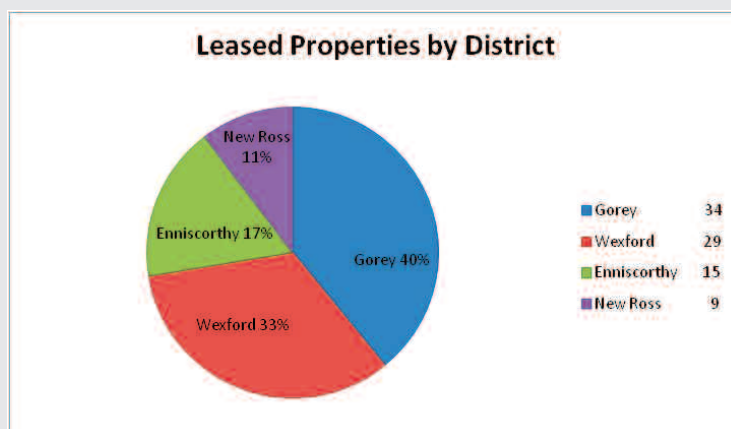
The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a government initiative providing an alternative housing option for tenants in the private and voluntary housing rented sector who are in receipt of Rent Supplement from the Department of Social and Family Affairs for specific periods. In 2015 a total of 51 households were transferred into RAS.

The RAS Unit had a very challenging 2015 as 42 tenants left RAS, of which 37 landlords left the scheme. This resulted in 37 family units needing to be re-accommodated (as they were at risk of homelessness) through existing vacant RAS properties, sourcing new properties and social housing accommodation.



Leasing Initiative

Wexford County Council had 85 leased units at 31/12/2015. Properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from the local authority waiting list. Leased properties are allocated to tenants, in accordance with the local authorities allocations scheme.

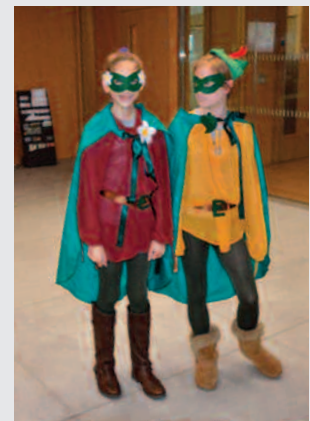


Eco Kids Expo – 30 October 2015

An event for all local authority residents associations has been held yearly over the last number of years, with a children's fringe event consisting of a competition and prize-giving ceremony.

This year the focus was entirely on the children and the Housing Section organised the Children's Expo 2015 event for children of local authority tenants. The children entered a competition by completing a Competition Workbook. Each child in every local authority rented accommodation throughout the county was invited to take part in the Children's Expo 2015 Workbook Challenge. The workbook consisted of:

- Section to tell us about yourself, hobbies, etc.
- Section for drawing/collage
- Halloween-themed wordsearch
- Eco Maze – link Eco Cat with Eco Girl
- Scavenger Hunt (pictures of items you might see in your community/suggestions of things you could do in your community)
- Space to enclose pictures of yourself
- Design a Halloween mask for Eco Kid
- Dot To Dot



The Eco Kids are superhero characters who were introduced by the Housing Department in a number of years ago to promote involvement, community and harmony in their work throughout local authority estates in the county of Wexford. Each year the Eco Kids encourage children living in local authority houses to get involved in their communities.



This year Eco Kids explored how children interact with where they live: do you plant trees or flowers, do you keep your house/street/garden/play area looking well/do you keep a community herb garden/do you weed or pick up rubbish with a residents association? Tell us what you do or would like to do? The Eco Kids want to see what impact you as children can have working with other people where you live to improve where you are living, by making it a place for everyone to enjoy and benefit from.

The event saw children participating in talks on Estate Living and Caring for Animals, together with a hands-on planting demonstration as well as an arts and craft area, and activity and sports area with dance mats, goal kicking, face painting and wii's.

Over 100 participants accompanied by their parents/grandparents/guardians attended the event.

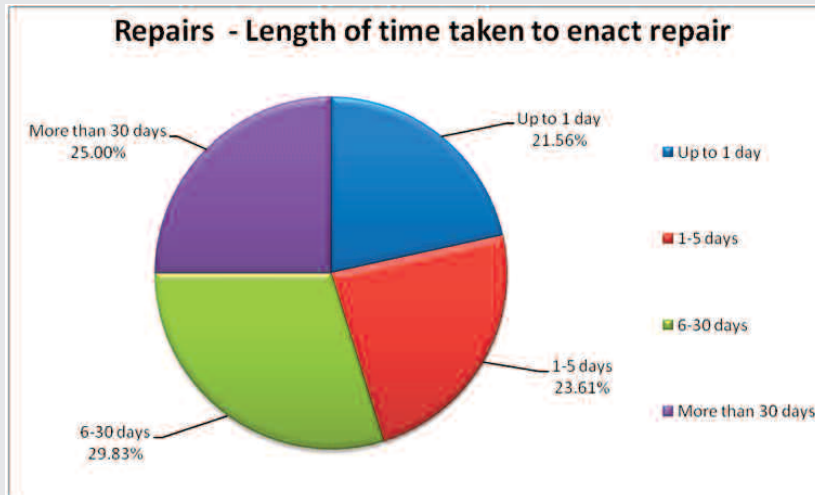


Housing Maintenance (Response Maintenance)

Number of houses maintained: 4231 – owned by WCC
 36 – long term leased
 Repair requests logged: 6,731 (approx. 130 per week)
 Number of pre-let repair houses: 197

Percentage of jobs

Maintenance crew: 43.8%
 Contractor: 56.2%
 Revenue budget: €2.7 million



Note: Requests that are more than 30 days fall into the planned maintenance category of long term repair.

Location breakdown of housing stock location for 2015

Area	WCC Houses	Long Term Leases	Repairs 2015
Wexford	1,404	10	2,024
Enniscorthy	1,118	4	1,817
New Ross	1,123	4	1,943
Gorey	586	18	947
Totals	4,231	36	6,731

2015 Energy Improvements

- Phase 1 completed on all housing stock
- Phase 2 commenced with Wolf Tone Villas

Type of Properties

14 houses units
Wolfe Tone Villas Community House
Women's Refuge

General Works incl.

Attic insulation
Cavity wall Insulation
External insulation
Mechanical ventilation
CFL's

Costs

Wexford County Council contribution: €129,946
SEAI contribution: €84,263
Total scheme cost: €214,209



Wolfe Tone Villas



Planned Maintenance 2015

Strategic planned works on older housing stock with a budget of €1m.

Works included

Barleyfields, Enniscorthy –
Castan Close, Ballywilliam –
St James Drive, Tomhaggard –
Bosheen and Nunnery Lane, New Ross –
St Martin's Tce, Sinnottstown Lane, Wexford –
Haughton Place, New Ross –

House entrances
Doors replacement
Kitchen and windows
Roofing and chimney Repair
Footpaths, kitchen and painting
Painting (see below)



Haughton Place, New Ross



Housing Vehicle Upgrading

In 2016 the housing maintenance took possession 8 new vehicles which included Small Panel Vans, 3.5T crew cab pickup and large panel van (4x4). These were to replace older vehicles which were older and required replacement. Some included (for health and safety) a full kit out with shelf and storage units as seen below.



Significant Investment Funding Announcement of €25m

Wexford County Council was delighted to welcome the funding announcement of €25m for Wexford in the delivery of social housing units over the next three years from 2015 to 2017. The key housing programme will utilise a range of housing supply measures including house acquisition, construction and leasing to provide homes for the people of Wexford, thereby reducing the housing list by 27%. The investment programme will see 677 new accommodation units delivered in County Wexford. This announcement will re-instate the local authority to a central role in providing housing for the people of Wexford. The ambitious programme will not only reduce the housing list but also act as a job stimulus by creating employment opportunities within the construction sector.

The funding announcements that have been made in relation to the Housing Construction Programme for Wexford.

Project Name/Address	Units	Estimated Cost
Riverchapel, Gorey	10	€1,500,000
Shanna Court, Wexford	8	€1,200,000
Francis Street, Wexford	1	€129,000
Baile Eoghain, Gorey	9	€1,300,000
Killeens, Wexford	10	€1,300,000

The table below shows the funding announcement of €4.6 million that was made in relation to the Capital Assistance Programme for Wexford in August 2015

Approved Housing Body	Address of Proposed Project	Category of Tenant	Construction or Acquisition	No. of Units	Estimated Cost
Cluid Housing Association	St Aidan's Road, Wexford	Homeless	Construction	14	€2,200,000
Camphill Communities of Ireland	Hillview House, Ballymoney, Gorey	Disability	Acquisition	4	€400,000
Grantstown Voluntary Housing	Barrystown, Wellingtonbridge	Disability & Elderly	Construction	16	€1,830,000
Cluid Housing Association	11 Westfield Park, Gorey	Disability	Acquisition	1	€246,506
TOTAL					€4,676,506

The Taobh na Coille housing scheme, providing six units for the elderly with Kilanerin Sheltered Housing Association and funded under the Capital Assistance Programme at a cost of €687,875, was officially opened by Minister Brendan Howlin on Friday 11 September 2015.



House Acquisitions

An allocation of over €1.6m was received from the DECLG to fund the purchase of 14 new properties under the House Acquisition Programme during 2015.

Housing Grants

The Housing Department continues to assist works which improve the living conditions of people with a disability and 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 2015 a total of over €1.4m was allocated to the grant schemes to assist 275 households.

Table 1: Summary of allocation of 2015 Budget

HGDs	MAGs	HOPs	TOTAL
€298,341.19	€482,906	€625,273	€1,406,520

Co Wexford Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Under Section 21 of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998, Wexford County Council appointed the County Wexford Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) to advise on the provision and management of accommodation for Travellers.

Co Wexford LTACC is constituted as follows:

Chairperson	Chairperson of Wexford County Council Ex Officio.
Nominated by Wexford County Council	Five elected members: Ms Deirdre Wadding MCC, Wexford Borough District Mr Joe Sullivan MCC, Gorey Municipal District Mr Robert Ireton MCC, Gorey Municipal District Mr Larry O'Brien MCC, New Ross Municipal District. Mr Paddy Kavanagh MCC, Enniscorthy Municipal District
Traveller Representatives	Mary Connors, New Ross Municipal District Margaret Kelly, Enniscorthy Municipal District Mary Helen Connors, Enniscorthy Municipal District Vacant: Wexford Borough District Vacant: Gorey Municipal District
Staff	Ms Elizabeth Hore, S E O, Housing & Community Development Mr Brendan Hynes, Social Worker Mr Ray Colfer, Secretary

County Wexford LTACC met 3 times during 2015. Items discussed included:

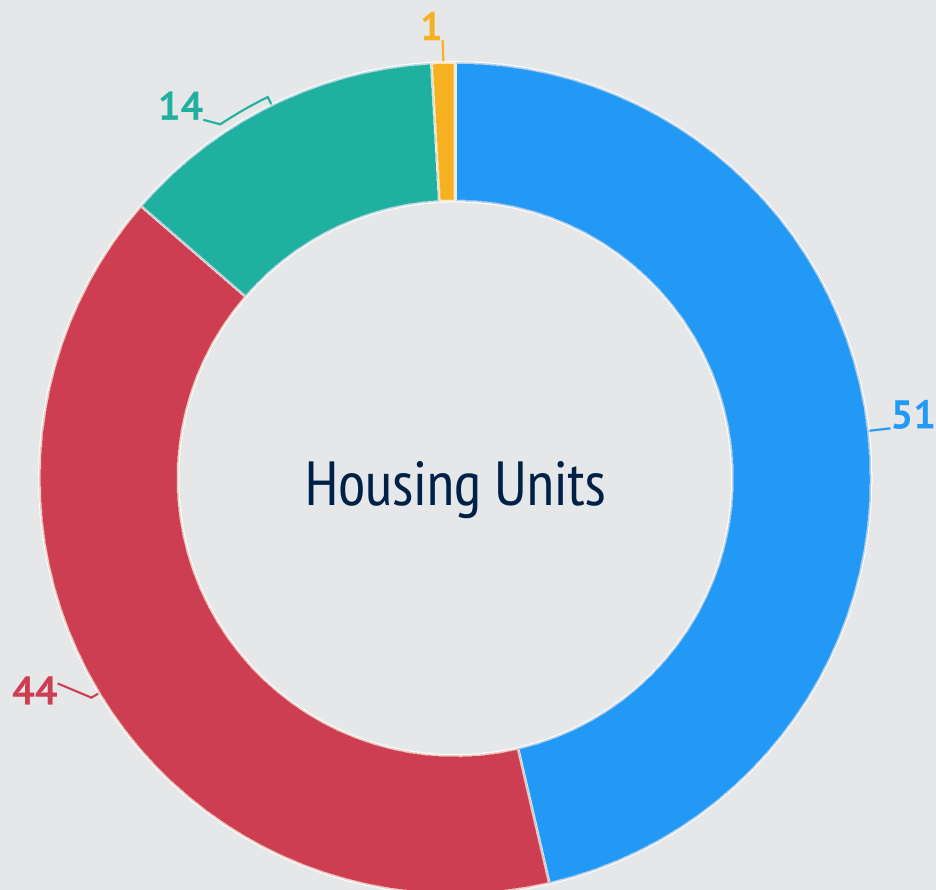
- Election/co-option of Traveller reps to fill vacancies
- Involvement of Wexford Local Development team with the Traveller community at large
- Fire and safety audit of specific traveller accommodation
- Annual count of traveller families (703)
- Re-organisation of Traveller Interagency Group
- Re-opening of Marshmeadows halting site
- Central funding for accommodation for specific traveller families
- Progress of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018

In November 2015 representatives of the committee attended a national seminar at Dublin Castle in relation to Traveller accommodation issues.

Housing Services Performance Indicators 2015

Sub-Category	Details	Value
Number of Housing Units	Number of dwellings constructed in 2015	1
	Number of dwellings purchased in 2015	14
	Number of units provided under Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	51
	Number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI)	44
	Total number of additional units provided by WCC in the period 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015	110
	Total housing stock of WCC (constructed or purchased)	4,234
	Total number of units provided under the RAS	752
	Total number of units provided under the SHLI	132
	Total number of social housing	5,118
Maintenance and Repair	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock in 2015	€3,099,288
	Expenditure in 2015 on repair and maintenance, divided by WCC housing stock	€732
Re-Letting of Vacant Units	The number of dwelling units within the overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2015	39
	Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	13.70 wk
	Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted and ready for re-letting	€7,298
	No. of units that were re-tenanted in 2015	174
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the units included above	€1,269,866
Private Rented Accommodation	Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area	8,407
	Number of inspections carried out	247
Emergency Accommodation and Homelessness	No. of adults in emergency accommodation long term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	34.21%
	No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of 31/12/2015	38
	No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously	13

HOUSING SERVICES STATS



- Provided under RAS
- Provided under SHLI
- Purchased
- Construced

HOUSING STOCK AT YEAR END

5,118



Roads Services

The Roads Services Department of Wexford County Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the road infrastructure of County Wexford. The department is also responsible for the management of some 13,000 public lights, the provision and maintenance of carparking facilities and the operation of our Road Safety Promotion and Education Programme.

The county's road infrastructure is divided into four categories:

- Motorway 25 km
- National roads 171 km
- Regional roads 457 km
- Local roads 2,756 km

Wexford County Council shares the responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of the county's motorway, national and regional road network with TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland).

In 2015 Wexford County Council expended more than €26m on the above services. This was funded by government grants, income from commercial rates and parking charges.

2015 Highlights

M11 Enniscorthy Bypass PPP Scheme

Following a competitive tender process by the TII, the contract for the above scheme was awarded in October 2015. The successful tenderer is a consortium of BAM/Iridium/PGGM, who have extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of major road projects worldwide.

Work commenced on the project during the last quarter of 2015 and will continue to July 2019. The scheme comprises approximately 40 km of new road works including 27 km of motorway.

N25 New Ross Bypass PPP Scheme

As for the M11 scheme, the N25 project was tendered and awarded in late 2015. The consortium of BAM/Iridium/PGGM was successful in winning this project also. Works commenced in the last quarter of 2015 and will continue to 2019. The scheme comprises approximately 12 km of new road works and will include what will become the largest bridge in Ireland crossing the River Barrow.

National Roads

Four improvement schemes, totalling 9.5 km, were carried out as part of the Gorey to Enniscorthy and New Ross Bypass Residual Network Pavement Improvement Schemes.

An additional 3.5 km of local road improvements were also carried out under the Enniscorthy to Gorey Residual Network Scheme.

Non-National Roads

A total of 47.34 km of the county's non-national roads were improved under the Restoration Programme, with a further 76.80 km surface dressed, representing a surface dressing return cycle of 44.9 years.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

Each year the Department of Transport provides funding to local authorities to allow low cost road improvements to hazardous or potentially hazardous road locations. In 2015, Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes were carried out at seven locations around the county.

Low-Cost Road Safety Improvements 2015		
Location	Description of Work	Cost
Lacken , New Ross	Improvement of sightlines	€15,000
Newbawn Village	Installation of footpaths	€13,000
Junction R746 and L 20053	Improvement of sightlines	€20,000
Junction R739 and L7092	Road surface improvements and line marking	€40,000
Ballycomclone, Gorey	Improvement of sightlines	€20,000
Wexford Town	Road widening, installation of footpath and public lighting	€40,000
Gorey Hill	Upgrading of pedestrian crossing and extending public Lighting	€35,000
Total Cost		€183,000

Public Lighting

In May 2015 a new public lighting maintenance contract was signed with Killaree Lighting Services Ltd for the maintenance of the county's 13,000 public lights. The new contract has resulted in savings of almost €80,000 per annum on public lighting maintenance costs.

Road Safety

Wexford County Council continues to work closely with An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and various other government agencies and local voluntary organisations to promote the message of road safety in County Wexford. In addition, all fatal road collisions are investigated. A key element of the Council's road safety programme is the Road Safety Initiative – Just One Life. Wexford County Council, The Rotary Club of Wexford, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive continued with this road safety initiative which is aimed at transition year students. Some 1,500 students from all of the 20 secondary schools within the county participated in the event over six dates during 2015, which was the ninth year of the programme.

Active Travel Towns

In 2015 construction commenced on the Active Travel Town Scheme on the Rosslare Road from Maudlintown to Drinagh. This scheme involves the installation of cycle tracks, footpaths, bus bays and traffic calming measures. The main aim of this project is to reduce car usage in this area and increase walking and cycling activities.

Community Employment Programme

Wexford County Council was responsible for two community employment schemes covering five locations, employing two supervisors and 70 participants. The schemes operated over six locations including Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey engineering areas, Duncannon Fort and Wexford Library.

Many of the participants on the Scheme have secured employment either during or directly after their involvement on the Scheme.

Strategic Policy Committee – Roads and Transportation

The Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met twice during 2015 and the following items were discussed:

- Advancement of major by-pass schemes
- Flood relief projects – New Ross and Enniscorthy
- Traffic management in towns and villages
- Environmental issues
- Winter maintenance
- Public lighting

Roads and Transportation SPC

Cllr Larry O'Brien – Chairperson

Cllr Michael Whelan

Cllr Mick Roche

Cllr James Browne

Cllr Anthony Connick

Cllr Pip Breen

Cllr Deirdre Wadding

Brendan Crowley – Business/Commercial Pillar

Michael Bennett – Construction Industry Pillar

Declan Roche – Trade Union Pillar

Bernie Mullen – Social Inclusion Pillar

Roads and Transportation Performance Indicators 2015

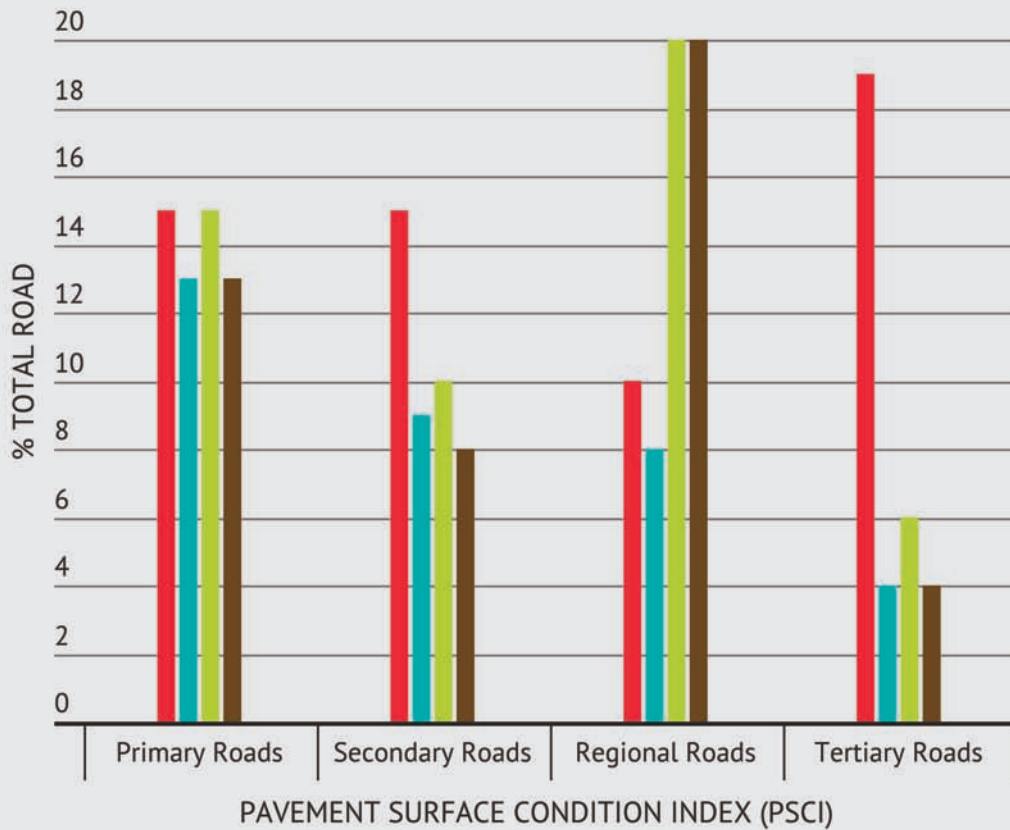
Roads Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)

Road Category	PSCI Rating				% of total kilometres of road category with a PSCI rating
	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	
Primary roads	15%	13%	15%	13%	56%
Secondary roads	15%	9%	10%	8%	42%
Regional roads	10%	8%	20%	20%	58%
Tertiary	19%	4%	6%	4%	33%

Other Roads Performance Indicators 2015

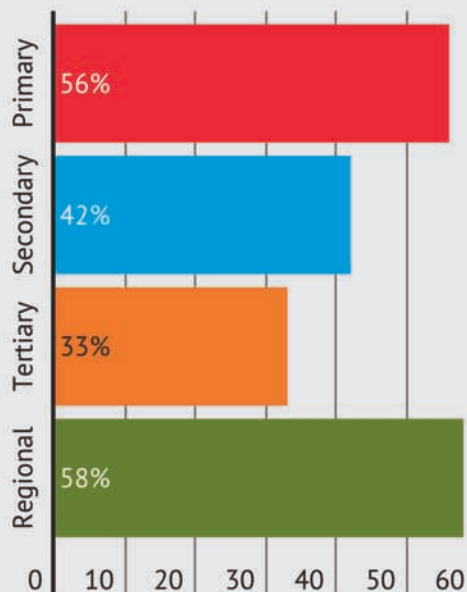
Regional Road Improvement Grant 2015	€1,561,686.00
Regional Road Maintenance Grant 2015	€540,200.00
Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using road improvement grants	10.2 km
Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using road maintenance grants	20.7 km
% of motor tax transactions online	58.44%

ROAD SERVICES STATS



● 1-4 PSCI ● 5-6 PSCI ● 7-8 PSCI ● 9-10 PSCI

% of total kms of road category with PSCI Rating



€1,561,686

Regional Road Improvement Grant



€540,200

Regional Road Maintenance Grant



Water Services

The Water Services Department of Wexford County Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the county's water infrastructure. We do so under a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water who recoup the costs involved back to Wexford County Council. Our water infrastructure is made up of approximately 2,050 km of water supply piping, 647 km of sewer, some 100 water treatment plants, more than 50 sewerage treatment plants, 130 wells and 8 water abstraction locations.

In addition to the above, the Council supports a large number of group water and sewerage schemes. These are privately owned networks, constructed and maintained locally with the support of Wexford County Council.

Wexford County Council also provides and maintains a network of public toilet facilities throughout the county. Some of these are in urban locations while others are located at a number of public beaches. Every day, Wexford County Council produces more than one million litres of treated water.

In 2015, Wexford County Council spent more than €11m in the provision of water services. The majority of this expenditure was recouped to the Council by Irish Water.

Waste Water

On behalf of Irish Water WCC continue to operate 189 facilities, and 647 Km of public sewer throughout the county treating the waste from both domestic and trade/industrial sources. There are also 5 Wexford County Council plants operated by private contractors.

Drinking Water

On behalf of Irish Water Wexford County Council continues to operate 212 facilities and 2,050 km of public water mains serving approximately 105,000 people. Drinking water production in 2015 was 14,132,777m³. WCC also supervises the operation of the group water schemes (128 schemes serving approximately 2,200 people) and the Individual Well Grant scheme.

There were 270 new applications in 2015 making a total of 6,287 individual well grants administered to date.

Approximately 75% of the population of County Wexford is served by public water, 5% by Group water schemes and 20% by private wells.

Drinking Water quality: Compliance with microbiological, chemical and indicator standards laid down by SI 122 (2014) were 99.37%, 99.90% and 99.64% respectively.

The percentage of unaccounted-for water (UFW) continues to decrease from 51% at the start of the Water Conservation Project to 35.2% at present. (The target figure for UFW for a rural county like Wexford is 20–25%.) In 2015 692 leaks on public watermains were repaired.

Capital Projects

In 2015, 1.92 km of new pipelines were laid. Locations inc. Long Lane, Coolgreany and Creagh, Gorey.

Gorey/Courtown Sewage Scheme

Upgrade to the Courtown plant ongoing. Gorey plant has been decommissioned.

Enniscorthy Sewage Scheme

Procurement of contractor for upgrade works is ongoing.

Gorey Regional Water Supply

Design of new treatment plant at Ballyminaun has started.

Water Conservation

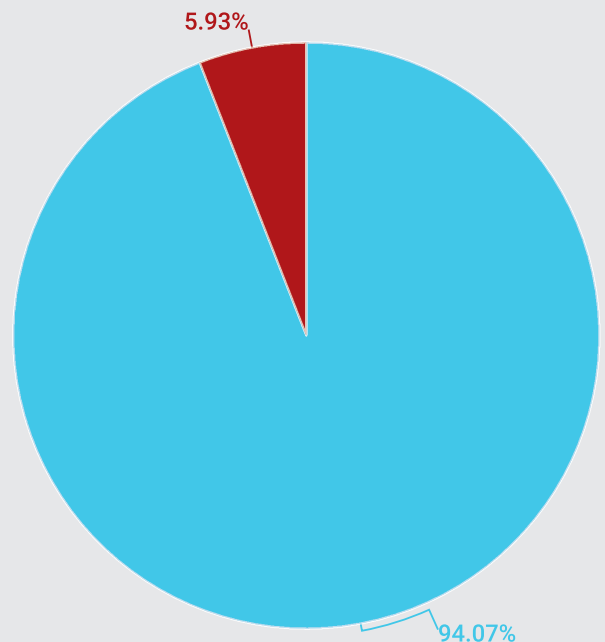
Approval has been given for the replacement of 9 km of water main (rural) and 12 km (Wexford Town) plus 872 backyard services.

Water Services Performance Indicators	
Percentage of private drinking water schemes in compliance	94.07%

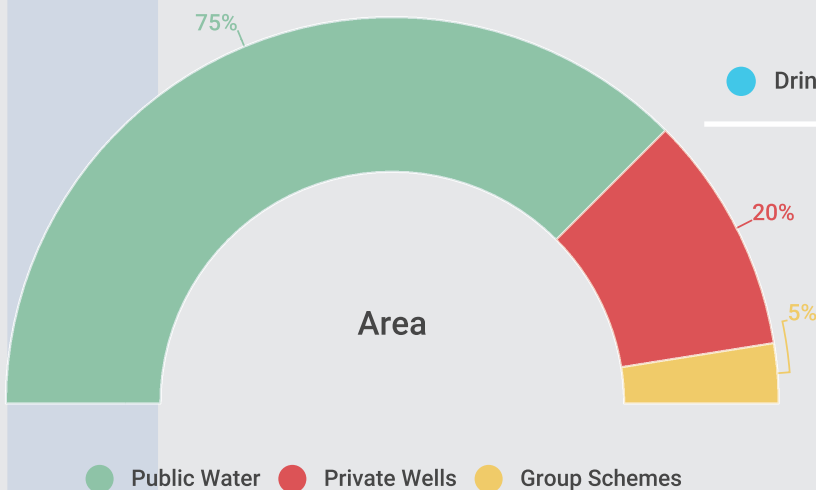
WATER SERVICES STATS

2,050 KM of public water mains serving 105,000 citizens

212 drinking water facilities under operation by Wexford County Council on behalf of Irish Water



● Drinking Water schemes in compliance ● Non-compliance



● Public Water ● Private Wells ● Group Schemes

UFW
UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER
35%
DOWN FROM
51% AT START OF
PROJECT



Development Management Services

Wexford County Council's Development Management Services include such areas as:

- **Planning**
- **Economic Development, Local Enterprise and Tourism**

Expenditure in 2015 in the area of Development Management Services amounted to more than €9m which was funded through charges for services and commercial rates.

Planning

includes areas such as Forward Planning (development plans, local area plans, policies) Development Management (planning applications), Planning Enforcement, Unfinished Housing Estates, Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures, Building Control and Conservation and Built Heritage.

Forward Planning

A development plan is a blueprint for how an area should be developed into the future in terms of infrastructure, services and facilities. It provides the overall policy background against which all planning applications are assessed and decided. Wexford County Council has developed five such plans, one for each of the main urban centres in the county and an overall plan for the county.

A local area plan could be described as a “mini development plan” and is usually prepared in respect of any area which the planning authority considers suitable, such as areas which require economic, physical and social renewal or areas likely to be subject to large scale development. Local area plans are currently in place for Gorey Town and environs, Courtown and Riverchapel, Ferns, Bunclody, Clonroche, Taghmon and Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane.

The Council's Planning Department also produces policy documents that provide guidance in relation to specific areas of activity. These policies operate alongside developments plans and local area plans in guiding overall development within the county. Policies have been developed in relation to such areas as wind energy, forestry development and telecommunications infrastructure.

The Courtown/Riverchapel Local Area Plan was adopted on 2 February 2015, following in-depth consultation with the community and representative groups. The Plan presents a positive planning strategy for Courtown and Riverchapel, outlining key policies to guide public and private development and key objectives to be achieved with regard to services and amenities over the lifetime of the plan.

During 2015 a review commenced of the **Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015**. A significant amount of survey work took place including a detailed land use survey, a review of 1,500 planning applications to complete a planning history of the town, a retail vacancy survey in the town centre and a review of the structure, function and zoning of the existing Master Plan Zones.

In 2015 the Council also commenced a review of the **Gorey Local Area Plan 2010**.

During 2015 the Forward Planning Section also prepared advice/reports in relation to Designated Urban Centres Grants Scheme, Accessible Gardens Brochure, Zoning of Lands for Economic Purposes, Regional Enterprise Strategy, Social Housing and Chamber of Commerce – Retail Review.

Submissions were also prepared with regard to CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study), Grid Link, neighbouring local authority plans, Irish Water and the Wexford Local Development Local Development Strategy.

Statistics

In 2015, Wexford County Council received a total of 1,291 planning applications, representing an 18% increase over 2014. Other department statistics for 2015 include:

- 11,407 phone queries
- 4,208 queries at the public desk
- 724 applications for preplanning advice
- 1,054 decisions
- 89% of applications granted planning permission

A total of €2.8m was collected in respect of development levies (contributions) in 2015, and compares with a figure of €1m for 2014.

Planning Enforcement

During 2015, Wexford County Council received complaints under planning enforcement legislation. In total, we resolved 411 cases, issued 176 Warning Letters and 53 Enforcement Notices and referred a further 9 cases for legal proceedings.

Dangerous Structures/Derelict Sites

Wexford County Council's statutory responsibilities in this area are managed by our Planning Department. During 2015, substantial progress was recorded in this area. We issued 130 notices under the Derelict Sites Act, involving 21 premises. Eight cases were formally resolved while a further eight cases reached resolution without the necessity of a formal S.8 (7) notice issue. In 2015, Wexford County Council also issued 26 notices in respect of Dangerous Structures. These included four cases where the Council carried out emergency works to make the structure safe.

Building Control

A total of 346 Commencement Notices were received by Wexford County Council under the building control legislation. The national guidelines recommend an inspection rate of 12% – 15% annually and Wexford County Council carried out 30% inspections in 2015. Seventeen estates were taken in charge in 2015.

Throughout 2015, significant progress was made in relation to unfinished estates, with a total of €1,465,148.42 spent by Wexford County Council in resolving issues in this area. A wide range of works were undertaken on 83 estates throughout the county, including public lighting, provision of amenity space, roads and footpaths, clearance of undeveloped lands, provision of waste water treatment and improvement to drinking water.

Also in 2015, two security bonds were successfully claimed and settled equating to €277,315.24, while 15 cash bonds totalling €546,734.27 were formally transferred to the Council and subsequently released to fund remedial works in the respective estates.

Conservation and Built Heritage

Traditional Skills and Thatching Workshop

A workshop was held on Friday 27 March to gather the practitioners and professionals in the field of traditional skills in an effort to identify the skills required to meet the needs of today's conservation work. The workshop included a discussion on how these skills could be delivered through the existing third-level framework – for instance through apprenticeships programmes, Level 5 to Level 8 daytime college courses, or through lifelong learning options.

Wexford County Council considers such courses an important component of our rural economic development programme and would fit alongside our heritage conservation initiatives, including the Norman Way.

Restoration Project – St Dubhan's Church, Hook Peninsula

Works at St Dubhan's Church were completed at the end of 2015.

The works were undertaken to the highest conservation standards and were overseen by Wexford County Council, the conservation engineer, archaeologists and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



Lime Jamboree at the Heritage Park

During Heritage Week 2015 the Building Limes Forum of Ireland (BLFI) in conjunction with the Planning Section of Wexford County Council hosted a “Lime Jamboree” at the Irish National Heritage Park. This event involved using a recently installed medieval mortar mixer to make traditional hot lime mix to build a piggy. The aim of the weekend-long event was both to educate professionals including stonemasons, engineers and architects and allow members of the public an opportunity to see old traditional skills in action and participate in the work involved if they wished to do so.



The event was a great success and the Irish National Heritage Park now has a new structure and story to add to their park.

Accessibility

The Planning Department’s Access Section:

- **engages** with the Planning Department year on year to inform and advise planning applicants on Part M, Building Regulations’ requirements by carrying out Disability Access Certificate (DAC) pre-assessments
- **promotes** universal design within all Wexford County Council infrastructure works and capital programmes, through disability proofing projects at design stage
- **supports** an accessible and sustainable tourism industry via audits, recommendations, and site visits inclusive of our heritage sites and our beach and tourist locations
- **collaborates** with other Departments to ensure that the services of Wexford County Council continue to provide a universally accessible service for all users

Beach Wheelchair Pilot Initiative

The Year 2015 saw the provision of beach wheelchairs on two prominent beaches in County Wexford. For many disabled persons these specially designed wheelchair facilities represent their first opportunity to enjoy what most of us take for granted – a day out at Wexford’s renowned beaches.

Wexford County Council was the first local authority in the country to take such innovative steps. Launch of Beach Wheelchair, Rosslare Strand. This initiative, which has been a resounding success, was a collaborative programme with Wexford County Council working in conjunction with the support of local business and community associations: the Surf Shack in Curracloe and the Rosslare Community Development Association Rosslare.



Gardens, Parks and Community Spaces

In May 2015, Wexford County Council’s Cathaoirleach, Cllr Malcolm Byrne launched a new visionary booklet and competition for community gardens, parks and community spaces. The competition intended to assist community groups from around the county in making their public park, garden or space a more inclusive and accessible space for all, with particular reference to those with a disability.

Rosslare Community Development Association was the proud recipient of the first prize of €7,000, while runners-up Monageer Grotto Group, Foulksmills Tidy Towns and Oulart Tidy Towns received prizes of €5,500, €4,500 and €3,000 respectively.

Browsealoud

In 2015, the Council introduced a facility on our website known as Browsealoud.

This enhancement allows the easy translation of the website information into any one of 32 different languages and also provides an aural option, which enables the public to “listen” to the information contained on the website.

The Browsealoud application is seen as a proactive and forward thinking development in the provision of accessible services and significantly improves access for all to information and services provided by the Council while accommodating the growing diversity of the current populace.

Disability Access Certificates – Dispensations and Relaxations (Part M)

All new buildings, including apartment blocks, extensions to and material change of the use to buildings require a Disability Access Certificate (DAC) under the Building Control Acts 1990–2007 and Building Control Regulations 1997–2015.

In 2015, the Council received 67 Disabled Access Certificate applications, together with 14 applications for a Dispensation from, or a Relaxation of a Requirement of Part M of the Building Regulations.



Economic Development, Local Enterprise and Tourism

This section of the Council’s Development Management Services is responsible for leading a co-ordinated approach to economic and enterprise development in the county. The section has a dedicated staff of 11, including Head of Enterprise, County Development Officer and County Tourism Officer. Services include those delivered through the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and under the brands of “Wexford Means Business” and “Visit Wexford”.



Among the services provided by this section are the provision of land for enterprise development, a range of supports for enterprise centres, promotion of job creation initiatives, urban and village renewal, town twinning and tourism supports. It also includes the Council’s support of the Three Sisters bid for European Capital of Culture 2020.

“The Three Sisters” was a combined bid by Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny to bring the European Capital of Culture to the south east for the year 2020. The bid was launched in 2015 with a regional bid team established in Waterford. The bid book entitled “Currents of Culture” was submitted for Phase I of the selection process to the European Judging Panel in October 2015 and was successfully shortlisted for Phase II in December 2015.

Economic Development

Launch of Foreign Direct Investment Toolkit

In July Wexford County Council launched a business promotional toolkit at an event held in Johnstown Castle.

The aim of the toolkit is to promote Wexford as a great place to do business and to attract investment and jobs to the county.

The toolkit comprises the “Our Wexford” publication; a full colour, glossy magazine showcasing Wexford through Our People, Our Place and Our Passion; a promotional video on the county and a Choose Wexford brochure series.



South East Action Plan for Jobs 2015

In September the Economic Development Department of Wexford County Council assisted in the hosting of a promotional event in relation to the Government's South East Action Plan for Jobs, a highly significant strategy document which was produced with the assistance of a number of government departments, state agencies and local authorities, including Wexford County Council.

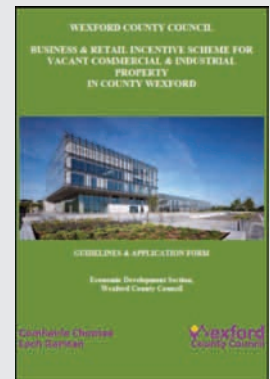
This ambitious plan aims to deliver 10–15% employment growth (25,000 extra jobs) in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. It includes a commitment to the development of an Innovation/IT Hub in North Wexford and further development of the financial services sector in Wexford Town.



Property Solutions



In 2015 the Economic Development Unit also commenced work on a property solutions strategy for the county. As part of the strategy, Lisney & Future Analytics were commissioned to undertake a vacant industrial and commercial land study (September 2015) which will inform where future needs lie.

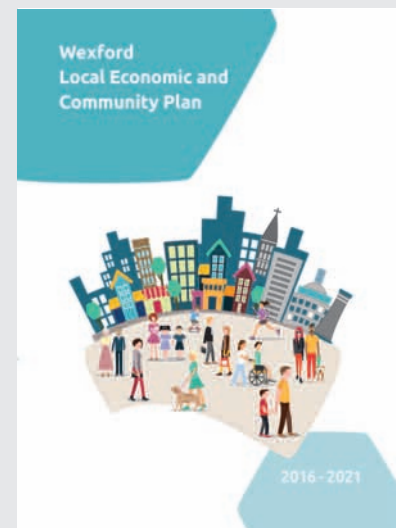


Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Economic Development Unit worked on the development of the LECP in conjunction with the Community Development Department in Wexford County Council.

Early in 2015, Wexford County Council commissioned the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) Maynooth University to draft the Wexford Socio-Economic Baseline Report to inform the development of the LECP.

Following this report and a series of public consultation and stakeholder engagement meetings, the socio-economic statement and six High Level Goals (HLG) for the plan were agreed in September 2015. The LECP is due to be finalised and approved by the Council in early 2016.



Wexford County Council Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

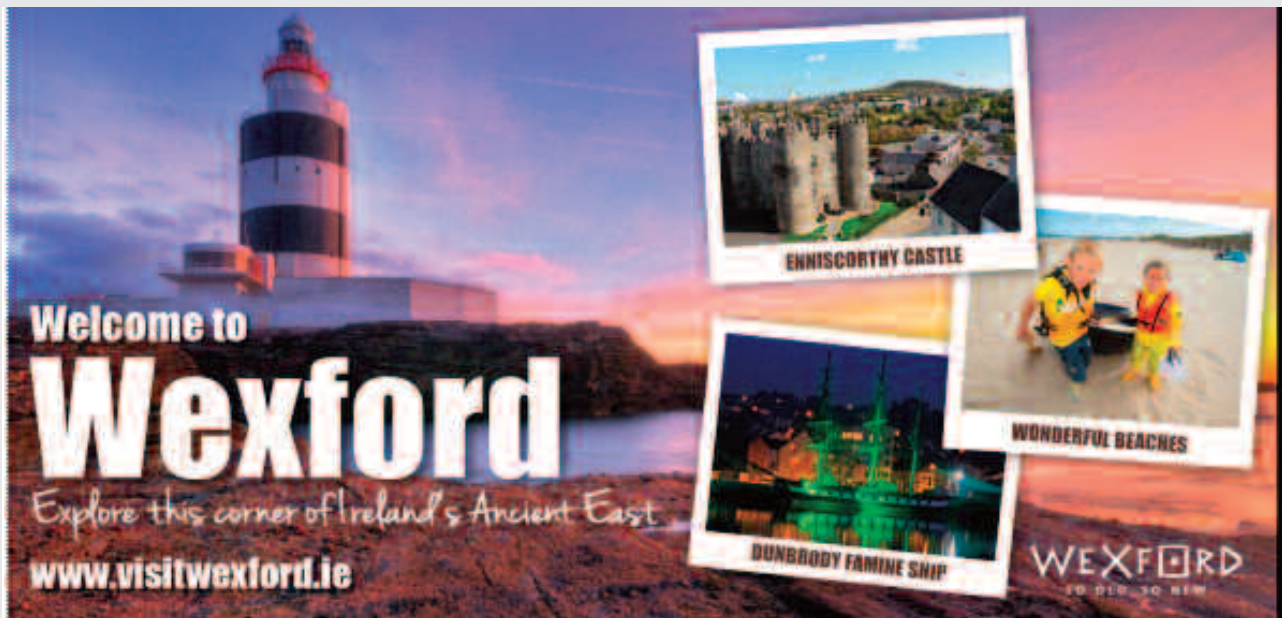
The LEO was established in April 2014 to replace the former County Enterprise Board and the support services it provides are now a very important function of the Council's enterprise and economic development unit. The LEO operates under the terms of a service level agreement between Wexford County Council and Enterprise Ireland. The LEO is required to develop and implement an annual action plan setting out the key services, actions, projects, programmes and targets it intends to deliver each year. The LEO is housed in Block A, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford and can be found online at www.localenterprise.ie/wexford. LEO Wexford is staffed by a team of six people led by the Head of Enterprise.

The LEO delivered a significant programme of activity during 2015 which included:



Tourism Development

County Wexford has enjoyed significant upward trends in tourism numbers again in 2015. Wexford County Council has been very supportive of the tourism sector over many years and works closely with the sector's stakeholders including hotels, tourism attractions and tourism providers through the Visit Wexford initiative which has been a great success for the county. In 2015, Visit Wexford undertook a major marketing campaign to boost the county's national profile. The campaign involved a TV advertisement, a radio campaign and a billboard campaign at key locations around the country. There has also been significant focus on festivals in the county including the hugely successful Spiegeltent Festival, the Winterland Festival, the Jest Fest and many others throughout the county.



Fáilte Ireland – Ireland’s Ancient East

Wexford County Council works closely with Fáilte Ireland to enhance the tourism attractions in the county and the marketing of our key attractions such as Hook Lighthouse, The Irish National Heritage Park, Enniscorthy Castle, National 1798 Centre, Dunbrody Famine Ship and the JFK Kennedy Homestead, among others.

Fáilte Ireland launched “Ireland’s Ancient East” in April 2015, the complementary initiative to the Wild Atlantic Way. The area covers 16 counties from County Louth to County Cork and seeks to build on the wealth of historical and cultural assets in this part of the country. The initiative will encapsulate 5,000 years of history in a lush countryside with legends and tales from the best storytellers in the world. County entry signage has been erected on the county borders while orientation signage will be established at 12 initial sites in the county, encapsulating the essence of Ireland’s Ancient East.

The Norman Way

As part of Fáilte Ireland’s Ancient East Initiative, Wexford County Council sought grant aid of approx. €178,000 towards



the development of “The Norman Way” Heritage Route. This proposed heritage and leisure tourist route links historic Norman settlements in counties Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny and when completed will act as a strong central support to the county’s overall tourism infrastructure.

New Ross and Hook District Tourism Report

A report was conducted into the tourism product and potential of the New Ross and Hook District in 2015. The report highlighted the key assets in the area as well as future plans. These include the development of a greenway between New Ross and Waterford; a river explorer ferry experience or blueway and the development of the Norman Quarter in New Ross Town.

Tourism Ireland Co-operative Marketing

The fund is in place to support regional international access points into Ireland and to reduce pressure on the Dublin access points. In 2015 Wexford County Council was involved in a co-operative marketing campaign for Waterford Airport with Waterford and Kilkenny County Councils, targeting the VLM Birmingham route, in partnership with VLM and Tourism Ireland. A plan is also in place for the development of a similar project for Rosslare Europort.

Tourism Industry Skills Development

An industry information and network event was held in April 2015 with over 200 attendees from County Wexford’s tourism industry. The event introduced the Ireland’s Ancient East concept to County Wexford and launched the 2015 Visit Wexford Tourism brochure and Festival Guide, as well as the overall Visit Wexford Marketing campaign.

Ennis and Co. Consultants also gave an informative workshop on collaborating with other tourism businesses. A further networking event took place in November 2015 with an input from tourism consultants SoolNua.

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC
Cllr Michael Sheehan – Chairperson
Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Cllr John Hegarty
Cllr Martin Murphy
Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy
Cllr Paddy Kavanagh
Cllr Frank Staples
Cllr Frank Johnny Mythen
Cllr George Lawlor
Cllr Keith Doyle
Sam Rose - Farming Pillar
John Doyle – Development/Construction Pillar
Ernest Livingston
Karl Fitzpatrick – Business/Commercial Pillar
Mr. Michael Bennett – Construction Industry Pillar
Caroline Beale – Trade Union Pillar
Susan Murphy – Social Inclusion Pillar
Dan Kennedy – Community/Voluntary Pillar
Vacant Position – Environment Pillar

Topics considered in 2015

Natural Gas

A business group of high energy users in New Ross met with Gas Networks Ireland on foot of the presentation to the SPC to examine the feasibility of an extension of the gas pipeline into New Ross Town.

Business Information Nights

In October 2015 the committee hosted two information sessions (Enniscorthy and Gorey) for local businesses to outline supports available from Wexford County Council, Wexford Local Development, Department of Social Protection and local Chambers.

European Capital of Culture

The bid by the South East counties of Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny to host the European Capital of Culture in 2020 got into full swing during 2015. Under the brand “The Three Sisters” a full, dedicated project team was put in place to facilitate the task of pulling together a bid for phase 1 of the process, including a full project officer resource from Wexford. The Three Sisters team were successful in their efforts at phase 1 and invited to prepare a full bid for phase 2 of the process in October 2015.



Broadband

The committee examined the state of broadband infrastructure and services in County Wexford. As part of this examination, the committee organised a presentation from SIRO.

Other



During 2015 the committee also contributed to projects such as Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur and supported Wexford, Gorey and New Ross Chambers of Commerce in their continuing efforts to maximise business opportunities in Wexford’s four municipal districts.

The committee also contributed to a draft research paper on the capacity of secondary schools in the Wexford District.

Business Training

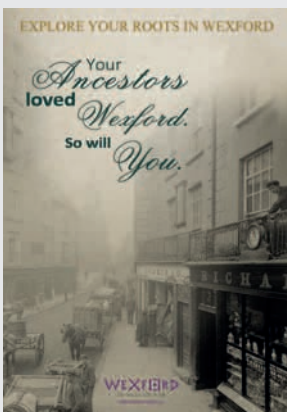
In 2015 the Tourism Section collaborated with the Local Enterprise Office to deliver a suite of tourism specific training including Delivering Exceptional Customer Service, Effective Marketing, Social Media Marketing and Customer Experience Mapping. The courses were well attended and continue into 2016.

Community Diaspora Fund

The Community Diaspora Fund is a three way partnership between Fáilte Ireland, IPB Insurance and Wexford County Council, established as a follow on from the success for the Gathering in mobilising local communities to harness diaspora links and attract overseas visitors. The fund will be in place until 2016.

Name of Group/Organisation	Amount Granted
Small Boat Anglers of the UK & Ireland	€2,500
Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFAI)	€1,500
South East Sri Lankan Irish Association Gorey	€500
Cannonball Ireland	€2,500
25th Anniversary Reception for German Students	€1,000
Wexford Arts Centre	€2,000
Kilrane Rosslare Harbour Tops Community Group	€1,500
Danescastle Music Group	€2,000
Gorey Agricultural Show	€1,500
Hook Rural Tourism	€2,000
Wexford Golf Club	€1,500
Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	€3,000
Art in the Open	€1,000
Wexford Wanderers RFC	€1,500
Wexford Male Voice Choir	€1,500
South East Rock 'n' Roll Club	€2,500
FCJ Secondary School	€2,000
Ferns St Aidan's GAA Club	€2,000
Wexford Military Show	€1,000
Totals	€33,000

Genealogy Brochure



A Genealogy brochure has been developed in 2015 which provides a resource for visitors wishing to investigate their ancestral roots within the county.

The brochure is available online through www.visitwexford.ie/myfamilyhistory

PLANNING STATS



11,407

Phone queries received



4,208

Queries received at the public desk



724

Applications for preplanning advice



1054

Decisions made



89%

Applications granted permission

TOURISM

Let the Normans lead the way...

TheNormanWay.com



€178,000
funding from
Fáilte Ireland

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
ARTWORK COMPETITION 2015
'Wexford's Coast'
Overall Winner - Primary School



Overall Winner - Primary School



Environmental Services

Coast and Harbour Management

Throughout the year, the Environment Services Department continued to monitor the effects of coastal erosion along the county's extensive coastline.

Blue Flag beach awards were awarded to the following beaches in 2015:

- Ballinesker
- Courtown
- Morriscastle
- Curracloe
- Rosslare



In 2015, Blue Flag marina awards were awarded to the following Council-owned/operated marinas:

- Kilmore Quay
- New Ross

Green Coast awards, which recognise beaches with excellent water quality, environmental information and local community involvement, were awarded to the following beaches in 2015:

- Culleton's Gap
- Cahore and Old Bawn
- Ballyhealey
- Booley Bay
- Grange
- St Helen's Bay

Air Quality, Water Quality and Noise Monitoring

Throughout 2015 the Water, Air and Noise Section monitored, sampled, analysed and reported on the quality of water, wastewater, air, noise and various other aspects of the environment in accordance with EU and national legislation.



Waste Management

The Waste Operations Section maintained 2 closed landfill sites, 4 civic amenity sites and 112 bring bank sites throughout the county. New services introduced at civic amenity sites included segregated food waste at Gorey and New Ross civic amenities.

A total of 2,697 tonnes of glass and aluminium cans were collected through our bring centres. A total of 3,448 tonnes of wastes were collected through our civic amenities, including 2,225 tonnes of recyclable and recoverable wastes.

In 2015 we issued 242 litter fines while there were 17 successful court convictions for litter offences.



The Council received 1,922 reports in relation to littering or illegal dumping incidents in 2015.

Around 1,150 clean-ups were carried out by the crew during 2015.

Wexford County Council uses a combination of Community Wardens, Anti-Litter Freephone – 1800 DUMPED (1800 386733), environment enforcement staff and mobile CCTV cameras to catch illegal dumpers both on the street, in the countryside and at known litter black spots.

County Wexford - Litter Monitoring Percentages

Year	Litter Free	Slightly Littered	Moderately Littered	Seriously Littered	Grossly Littered
2015	10.60%	65.90%	18.43%	5.07%	0%
2014	37.4%	50.41%	12.3%	0%	0%
2013	51.92%	39.42%	7.69%	0.97%	0%
2012	26.79%	60.71%	12.50%	0%	0%
2011	7.50%	82.50%	10%	0%	0%
2010	13.20%	53.90%	28.90%	3.90%	0%
2009	0%	75.30%	21%	3.70%	0%
2008	9.40%	55.20%	26%	9.40%	0%
2007	5.40%	60.90%	17.40%	16.30%	0%

Wexford County Council uses the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System to measure the extent and make-up of litter pollution within the county. The table on the previous page compares 2015 with years going back to 2007.

Litter Fines Issued by Wexford County Council							
2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
242	154	140	182	209	270	345	528

Control of Dogs and Horses

The cost of the service was €249,547, with an income from licences, fines and charges of €166,401.

23 Dog Breeding Establishments were on the register under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010.

The percentage of dogs put to sleep was reduced from 35% in 2014 to 22 % in 2015.

Control of Dogs	2014	2015
No. of dogs in pound at beginning of year	17	12
No. of dogs seized by Dog Warden or An Garda Síochána	862	762
No. of dogs surrendered to Dog Warden or an Garda Síochána	425	299
No. of dogs reclaimed by owner	162	135
No. of dogs re-homed	300	307
No. of dogs transferred to dog welfare groups	375	386
No. of dogs put to sleep	446	232
No. of dogs dying from natural causes	9	1
No. of dogs in the pound at year end	12	12

Control of Horses	2014	2015
No. of horses impounded by ACS Ltd	187	86
No. of horses reclaimed by owners	5	1
No. of horses re-homed	10	28
No. of horses put to sleep	172	57

Environment Education and Awareness

Schools Programme

- 6 schools achieved first Green Flag (total in county: 99)
- A green schools seminar in October was well attended with presentations given on all 7 themes of the green schools programme
- 55 schools participated in environment-themed workshops
- 5 schools visited Holmestown Waste Management Facility
- The Environment Art Competition which promoted Wexford's coast received 1,527 entries
- The Christmas Recycling Competition received the largest number of entries with 308 entries going forward to the county final.



Environmental Competitions

- Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition highlighted a number of splendid projects throughout the county. New category introduced to promote waste prevention and reuse within communities
- Environment Awards held in November with over 300 in attendance
- Snap Into Action Competition, and the National Tree week Competition received a high standard of entries
- 49 voluntary community groups availed of a planting grant



Environmental Campaigns

- Regional Awareness Campaign "A Slice of Advice" to prevent bread waste was the focus for the month of November and European Week for Waste Reduction. A social media campaign was supported by Catherine Fulvio TV chef
- Gum litter Awareness Campaign Launch took place in Wexford Town and the Bin It education workshop visited 5 secondary schools in County Wexford. The campaign is to encourage all to bin their gum responsibly



- Promotion of waste prevention and the Southern Region logo Do 1 More Thing
- A farm hazardous waste collection took place in New Ross Mart on Wednesday 25 November. The day provided farmers with an excellent opportunity to dispose of their hazardous wastes in a manner that protects human health, livestock and the environment. The event was supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Teagasc, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Wexford County Council, WEEE Ireland, European Recycling Platform (ERP) and Enva Ireland Ltd
- Promotion of Green Dog Walker Campaign



Community Initiatives

- Tidy Towns Groups were assisted in preparation for the national Tidy Towns Competition
- Trees for Wexford Scheme distributed 5,961 trees and hedging to 142 community groups
- Christmas trees were shredded at six locations throughout the county
- Food Waste Prevention promoted at Killag Agricultural Show, Wexford Maritime Festival and Wexford Expo
- Greening of Wexford Maritime Festival commenced in 2015. Initiatives included an information stand at the event on food waste prevention and home composting, a reuse art workshop for children on Saturday and Sunday. Signage for bins to encourage proper segregation of waste during the festival
- Promotion and assistance to groups for Clean Coast Week, Big Beach Clean-Up Weekend. 3 2 minute beach clean-up stations installed in Curracloe, Morriscastle and Duncannon
- National Spring Clean was held during the month of April, and assistance for community clean-ups continued throughout the year, with 379 clean-ups carried out
- Sea buckthorn, an invasive species, was removed from the sand dunes in Curracloe. The area will now be monitored closely and any re-growth treated
- Guided walks of the Curracloe Nature Trail took place during June and July every day at 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. This initiative is part of our Blue Flag education programme



Wexford County Fire Service

Wexford County Fire Service maintains five retained fire brigades. These are located in the following towns: Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Bunclody. Each brigade responds from a purpose-built fire station and is equipped and crewed to respond to emergencies.

Throughout 2015 one of the main objectives of the Fire Service was to achieve accreditation to the international quality standard OHSAS 18001:2007 in respect of its health and safety management system. This accreditation was awarded in October, following a significant amount of work and wholehearted engagement undertaken by all staff in the process of developing procedures, ongoing training and everyone's overall commitment to improve health and safety within the Fire Service. As part of this process various works were carried out at stations such as improved storage facilities at Wexford, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Bunclody fire stations and modifications at Gorey Fire Station to house a new second-hand appliance.

During 2015 a new 4x4 pickup vehicle was delivered to Gorey Fire Station to improve operational response. Also at Gorey a second-hand emergency tender (year 2005) was sourced which replaced a 20-year-old appliance. Wexford County Fire Service was included in the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's 2015 capital programme allocation, by the inclusion of a new class B fire appliance with an expected delivery in Q4 of 2016.

Framework for Major Emergency Management

The 2015 Major Emergency Management appraisal was delivered to the Regional Working Group. The Major Emergency Development Programme was maintained with bi-monthly meetings and exercises by the Development Committee. Training and development continued which included Regional Emergency Management Training at Wexford Fire Station for key staff such as Information Management Training in April and On-site coordination training in June. The dedicated local coordination centre was maintained and tested throughout the year to cater for a major emergency response.



Wexford County Council staff participated in several internal exercises throughout 2015 including flooding, heat wave and water contamination preparedness. There was a strong focus on flood and severe weather preparedness in order to ensure a state of readiness for the severe winter storms of 2015. Updated flood and severe weather plans were also completed.

Fire Safety

The fire authority is notified annually of all relevant applications to the district and circuit courts for licenses. During the year, 138 notifications were received. The court and applicant were notified in each case of the conditions recommended by the fire authority and these are included with the license issued by the Court. Following inspections in relation to these license applications, fire safety improvement works in some cases are required to be completed to the satisfaction of the fire authority prior to the license being issued by the court.

During the course of the year a total of 136 inspections were carried out on a broad range of premises types. As a result of the inspections, 12 Fire Safety Notices were issued which prohibited the use of buildings needing attention due to serious fire safety issues. A further 14 warning letters were issued to owners to carry out fire safety improvements at premises.

Community Fire Safety

Fire Safety Week took place in October 2015, the theme of which was “Smoking at home can cause fatal fires”.

For Fire Safety Week and the Christmas period key fire safety messages were advertised in local papers, Council websites and Twitter. Throughout the year, the fire safety message was delivered to various community groups, with fire safety talks and safety messages issued via local papers following incidents.

As part of the National Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme approximately 2,000 third class students received the fire safety message. This involved firefighters visiting primary schools and presenting a fire safety lesson in the classroom.



Building Control – Part B Fire Safety

The table on the right lists the applications received in 2015

Application Type	Number
Fire Safety Certificate	69
Revised Fire Safety Certificate	7
7-Day Notice Fire Safety Certificate	16
Regularisation Certificate	15
Total	107

Planning Advice in Relation to Fire Safety

For the year 65 planning referrals were issued with advice. For various large developments underway around the county pre-application meetings were also held in several cases.

Pre-Incident Planning

The Fire Service's pre-incident planning programme continued in 2015. This involved fire brigades inspecting high risk premises and formulating a plan for responding to an incident at such premises. Throughout the year pre-incident planned visits were carried out at various locations as follows:

- Wexford area – Atlantic Industries, Celtic Linen and Ferrybank swimming pool
- Gorey area – Valencia Nursing Home
- Enniscorthy area – Castle Gardens Nursing Home, Moyne Nursing Home and St John's Hospital
- New Ross area – SSE Power Plant and Green Bio Fuels
- Bunclody area – Millrace Hotel, Slaney Foods and Ros-Aoibhean Nursing Home

As part of enhancing the training for brigades, during some of these visits targeted exercises were carried out by brigades to focus on various scenarios that may be encountered at incidents and to learn from same.

Training

A full programme of training was carried out by Wexford County Fire Service during the year. In addition to the standard two hours on-station weekly training, various initial and refresher training courses were carried out. A total of 27 training courses were organised/attended by fire service personnel during the year with courses ranging from 1/2 day duration to 3 weeks in some cases. Some of the core training courses undertaken by Wexford County Fire Service throughout the year are as follows:



- Breathing apparatus and compartment fire behaviour training
- Road traffic collision
- Advance driving
- National Incident Command System
- Standard Operational Guidance training
- Pump operation
- Recruit training

Incidents

The Fire Service attended 910 incidents in total during the year. The following is a breakdown of incidents attended by fire brigade area:

Incident Type	Wexford	Gorey	Enniscorthy	New Ross	Bunclody	Total
False Alarms – Good Intent	84	49	45	31	7	216
Chimney Fire	77	31	23	51	16	198
Forest/Bog/Grass etc.	28	23	20	9	14	94
Domestic Fire	37	12	14	11	5	79
Road Traffic Collision	26	18	11	12	4	71
Motor Vehicles	24	18	14	9	5	70
Rubbish Fire	29	11	14	11	4	69
Miscellaneous	23	11	11	10	1	56
Non-Fire Rescues	10	4	2	7	1	24
Agricultural Fire	1	2	5	2	0	10
Industrial Fire	3	1	1	1	1	7
Commercial Fire	3	0	1	2	0	6
Assembly Fire	3	0	1	1	0	5
Malicious False Alarms	2	2	1	0	0	5
Totals	350	182	163	157	58	910

Civil Defence

Civil Defence is a voluntary humanitarian organisation managed by the local authority and dedicated to assisting the community in a variety of ways, but particularly in times of crisis.

Civil Defence volunteers are available and are trained to deal with emergency situations.

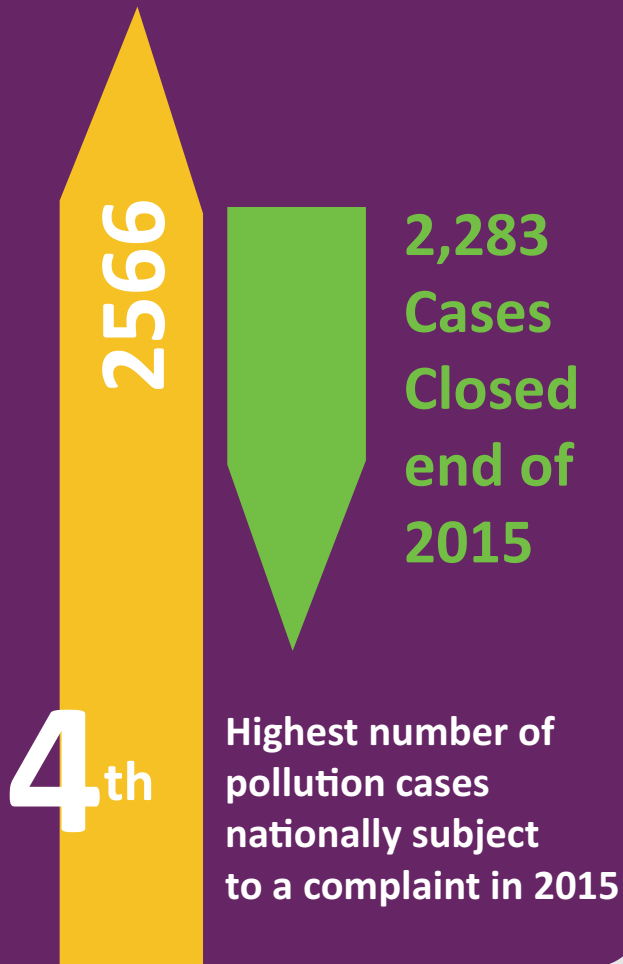
Civil Defence is funded 70% from the Department of Defence and 30% from the Council's own resources. Its functions include provision of welfare, casualty, search and rescue and warden facilities.

Civil Defence members may be called out to give assistance in the event of severe weather events or environmental problems. Civil Defence also attends at many local community events and at national events when asked to provide back-up support to An Garda Síochána.

2015 Expenditure- Civil Defence Function	
Expenditure incurred by Wexford County Council in 2015 in performing its functions in relation to Civil Defence	€210,241
Gifts received by Wexford County Council in 2015 in connection with the performance of the above functions	€3,895



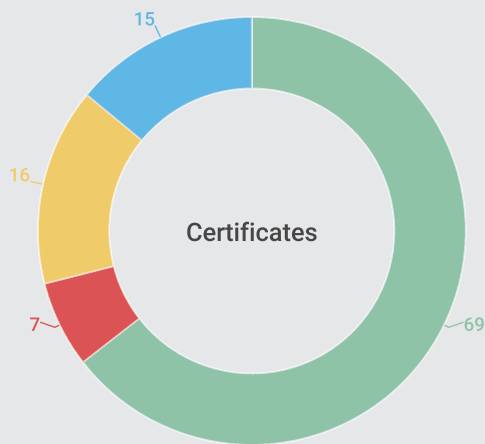
ENVIRONMENT STATS



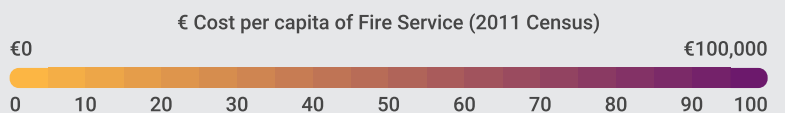
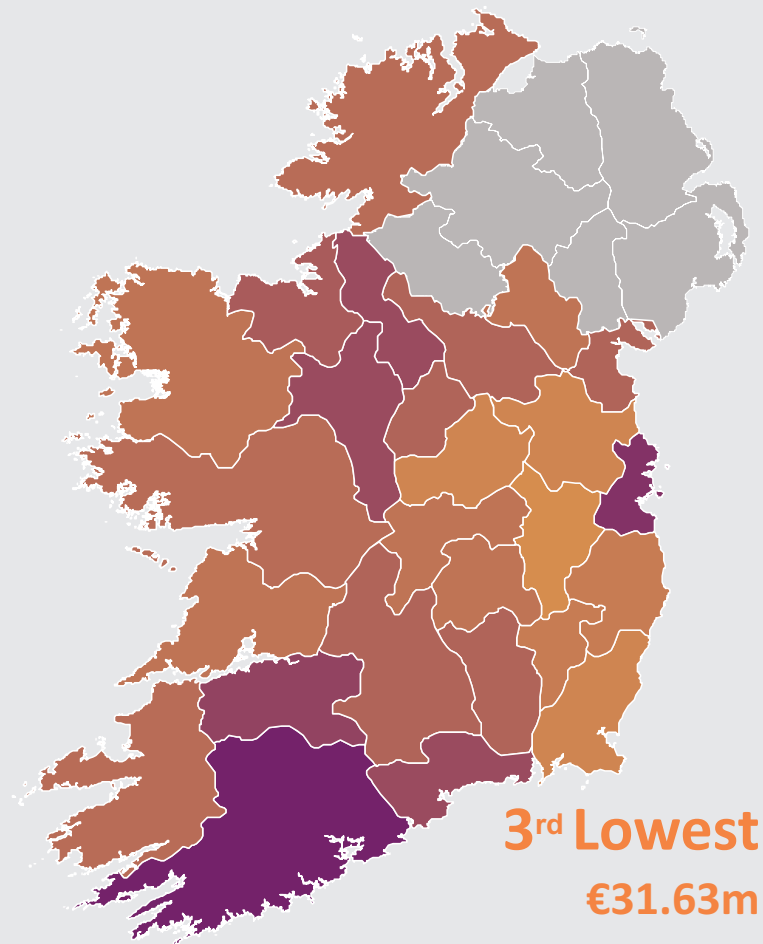
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Blue Flag Beaches

FIRE SERVICE STATS



- Fire Safety Certificates
- Revised Fire Safety Certificates
- 7-Day Notice Fire Safety Certificates
- Regularisation Certificates





Recreation and Amenity Services

The services provided by Wexford County Council in this area include the following:

- Community development
- Operation of our public libraries
- Provision and maintenance of our parks and open spaces, including playgrounds
- Support to public swimming pools
- Sports Active Wexford

Community Development

Community development covers the work of the Local Community Development Committee (including the preparation and implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan), together with such projects as the Gateway Programme, Age Action, Sports Active, and our many social inclusion initiatives.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Throughout 2015, the Council's Economic Development Unit and Community Development Department worked on the development of the LECP. Early in 2015, Wexford County Council commissioned the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) Maynooth University to draft the Wexford Socio-Economic Baseline Report to inform the development of the LECP.

Following this report and a series of public consultation and stakeholder engagement meetings, the socio-economic statement and 6 High Level Goals (HLG) for the plan were agreed in September 2015.

The LECP is due to be finalised and approved by the Council in early 2016.



HLG 1	• Foster the culture of educational attainment and lifelong learning in County Wexford and provide opportunities to develop educational and workforce skills, to improve work readiness and access to employment.
HLG 2	• Support and promote the development of socially inclusive sustainable communities in County Wexford.
HLG 3	• Position and market County Wexford as a great place to live, work, visit and do business.
HLG 4	• Develop an outstanding business environment for starting, growing and attracting business to County Wexford.
HLG 5	• Continue to protect and enhance our infrastructure and promote resource efficiency in order to create the right conditions for long term sustainable economic growth.
HLG 6	• Protect and sensitively utilise our natural, built and cultural heritage assets and capitalise on their economic potential.

Libraries, Archives and Arts

Improving the literacy levels of children and encouraging reading for pleasure were key themes of activities in libraries in 2015.

In July and August almost 1,500 children registered for the Summer Reading Challenge. The aim of the challenge is to keep children reading over the summer in order to avoid the “summer dip” in literacy levels.

This year, libraries targeted children who had not previously participated in the challenge in partnership with NEPS (National Educational Psychology Service).



More than 20 events were held in libraries to encourage children’s reading and participation in the initiative.

The first full year of operation of the Business Information Service was in 2015. Libraries provided a research and information service for businesses and for those seeking employment and career development. As awareness of the service grew, through targeted promotion, the level of enquiries to the service steadily increased.

The library facilitated market research on a broad range of topics from arts and tourism to agri-food. Almost 30 learning support events were held in 2015 aimed at businesses, entrepreneurs and those seeking employment.



Wexford County Council Library Service’s support for the Trinity College Dublin’s MOOC in 20th century Irish history was highly commended for The Best Library Service Award at the Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards.

In 2015, Wexford County Council's Library Service became the first in the country to "switch on" a new co-operative national library catalogue, using a shared computer system. The new system which will be fully implemented before the end of 2016 will mean a range of improved services for library members and the standardisation of library privileges, fines and charges for all library users in Ireland.

Wexford County Archive was involved in the Wexford/Savannah Access Research Project, a collaborative project which involves researching links between Wexford and Savannah, Georgia, USA.

Participation in the County Wexford 1916 Commemorative Programme

In mid-2015, the Library Service developed a series of events as part of the County Wexford 1916 Commemorative Programme. These included:

"Memories of 1916" Project

A number of recorded interviews from the relatives of those who took part in the Easter Rising in 1916 in County Wexford and which will be kept in trust for the people of Wexford and will be available to podcast via the Council's website.

1916 in County Wexford Lecture Series

This series of well-attended lectures continued in all five Wexford libraries during 2015. Talks such as those by Dr William Murphy and Prof Eunan O'Halpin were attended by large audiences. These lectures aimed to provide context, understanding and critical thinking about the Rising in advance of the commemorations.

"The 1916 Rising and County Wexford: An educational resource" was prepared by Wexford County Council Public Library Service. It is an introduction to county Wexford's contribution to the rising. A copy of the pack has been provided to each school in the County and is available in each branch library for use by researchers. A PDF version of the pack is available on www.enniscorthy1916 and www.wexford.ie/library



The Archivist facilitated the restoration of the original Enniscorthy 1st Battalion flag and prepared the 1916 Exhibition to be housed in the newly restored Athenaeum in Enniscorthy.

Wexford County Council Arts Programme

The second year of The Living Art Project was successfully rolled out. Embedded in four primary schools, 200 local children and educators worked with local artists and engaged with contemporary visual art. A new element of an internship programme was also introduced that allowed up and coming artists experience working with professional artists in a classroom environment.



County Wexford Youth Film Project celebrated its 10th anniversary. It has been running in St Michael's Theatre, New Ross since 2005 and has also been facilitating summer courses at the Presentation Centre in Enniscorthy since 2013. This year the youth film project was again expanded with a pilot project in Gorey Library that proved very successful.

The Arts Department presented an exhibition of artwork from the Arts Ability Programme in the main foyer of County Hall in the autumn. The exhibition, which showcased over 70 works, was entitled Preponderance of Colour and aimed to celebrate the creative imagination of people who experience mental health issues and/or intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities.

Gateway Programme

The Local Authority Labour Activation Scheme (Gateway) continued into 2015 with a further six participants appointed in Wexford, bringing total participants in Wexford to 32. In August, 2015 the scheme commenced in our other main towns, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey with 37 participants assigned across these 3 towns.

The main duties undertaken by the participants relate to street cleaning and litter control in and around the four main urban areas.

Age Action – Wexford Age Friendly County Programme

Wexford County Council has committed to becoming an Age Friendly County. The first step of the process is to hold consultations throughout the county and an Age Friendly Strategy will be formulated following the consultations.

The Age Friendly consultations for the New Ross district were completed by November 2015.

The following venues hosted the consultations:

- Ramsgrange
- Grantstown
- Raheen
- Taghmon
- Clonroche
- New Ross Town



The Wexford Area consultations commenced in December are currently in progress. Age Friendly consultations were held in December in the following locations:

- The Faythe, Wexford
- Tagoat
- St Martin's Community Centre Piercestown, Murrintown
- Hotel Rosslare, Rosslare Harbour



To date approximately 271 people throughout the New Ross and Wexford districts have participated in the consultations.

Consultations in more venues and locations throughout Wexford will be held in 2016.

Carlow IT students and some members of the Age Friendly Steering group act as facilitators and note takers at the consultations. Their participation is of great assistance and vital to the success of the process.

Sports Active

Sports Active Wexford (SAW) continues to ensure there are opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity at all levels in our communities in County Wexford, and works to provide safe environments to participate in physical activity.

Monies from dormant account funding in 2015 was utilised to support the improvement of opportunities in the specific areas of the Community Sports Hub, Community Coaching Programme and Leadership Through Sport.

Our engagement with these programmes has highlighted the range of partners we engage with, and how increasingly important these partnerships have become to our infrastructure to enable our capacity to deliver.

SAW supported over 6,500 runners and walkers who participate in the weekly parkruns in Johnstown Castle and JFK Arboretum.

SAW Continually supported national and local mass participation events and camps, such as the Operation Transformation National walk, European Week of sport, Bike Week, 5k events.



SAW's own "Fun in the Sun" camps have regularly reached an attendance of over 700 participants.

ActiveNable Programme initiated a training programme for front line health practitioners in the area of physical activities for people with mental health disabilities which has now developed into a sustainable programme for five providers.

The Sports Leadership Programme developed with second level schools has seen over 400 students access the programme and a further 200 access the events run by these students. Some of them have gone on to volunteer in clubs.

The Co-funded Partnerships with the FAI, Leinster Rugby and Wexford GAA (Leinster branch) have seen an improved involvement social inclusion programmes and events, i.e. Goals for Girls, Sports Leadership, and Community Coaching Programmes.



LIBRARY STATS



In 2015, Wexford had the **8th Highest** number of library visits per head of population (2016 Census)



594,634 items issued
to borrowers during the year





Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare

Veterinary Services

Food Safety

The Veterinary Department of Wexford County Council carries out official controls in local abattoirs and small meat manufacturing premises in County Wexford. All abattoirs and small meat manufacturing premises are approved under EU food safety regulations. This approval allows these premises to trade products of animal origin within the EU.

The Veterinary Department carries out controls at these premises under a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The present contract expires in 2016. All duties carried out under the contract are fully funded by the Department of Health.

There are three local abattoirs in County Wexford. All animals sent for slaughter must undergo an ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection which is carried out by authorised Veterinary Inspectors. A health mark is applied to all carcasses deemed fit for human consumption. There is one seasonal turkey slaughter operation registered with Wexford County Council.

Small meat manufacturing plants are inspected to ensure that products are produced and distributed under appropriate food safety management systems. There are three manufacturing plants and three distributing plants in County Wexford.

The statistics and returns from the abattoirs and meat manufacturing premises for 2015 are set out in the table on the right.

Meat Hygiene Service 2015	
No. of hygiene inspections	92
No. of samples analysed	35
No. of meat inspection visits	550

Zoonosis

The Veterinary Officer is a member of the South East Regional Zoonosis Committee. The committee works to prevent the spread of infectious diseases from animals to humans through education, communication and epidemiological investigations. Meetings were attended during the year and a stand at the Bannow and Rathangan show was manned by members.

Animal Health Surveillance Scheme

The Veterinary Department operates an animal health surveillance scheme on farms contiguous to the landfill site at Holmestown. The purpose of the scheme is to use the animal health status of the herds in the vicinity of the landfill facility as a sentinel for possible human health environmental hazards.

Surveillance of the herds is carried out using blood tests to monitor haematological and biochemical parameters, storing serum, plasma, tissue and milk samples for retrospective analysis, carrying out post-mortems as required and gathering production data. Production data and samples were collected during the year.

The Veterinary Department works in close collaboration with the Veterinary Department of Cork County Council which operates a similar, but more extensive, surveillance scheme on dairy herds in the vicinity of a large industrial complex in the Cork Harbour region.

Annual Abattoir Returns 2015					
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Poultry
No. of animals inspected	496	2,663	848	62	31,266
Rejections on ante-mortem examination	0	0	0	0	96
Carcasses wholly condemned	0	0	0	0	36
Carcasses partly condemned	3	0	0	0	33
Organs only condemned	58	330	36	0	36

Student Grants 2015–2016

As all new applications are made online to a single awarding authority, Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI), through the website www.studentfinance.ie, the numbers of grants awarded by the local authority continued to reduce in volume. There were renewals in 2015.

The Student Grant Scheme 2014 was published by the Department of Education and Skills on 7 May 2014. There were no changes to the income limits or the maintenance grants. However, some further payments / incomes were included as “income disregards” and extra payments were included as eligible payments.

As already flagged the student contribution increased to €2,750.

Dog Licences

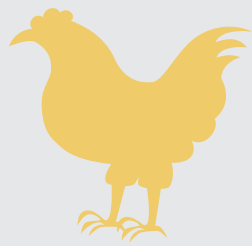
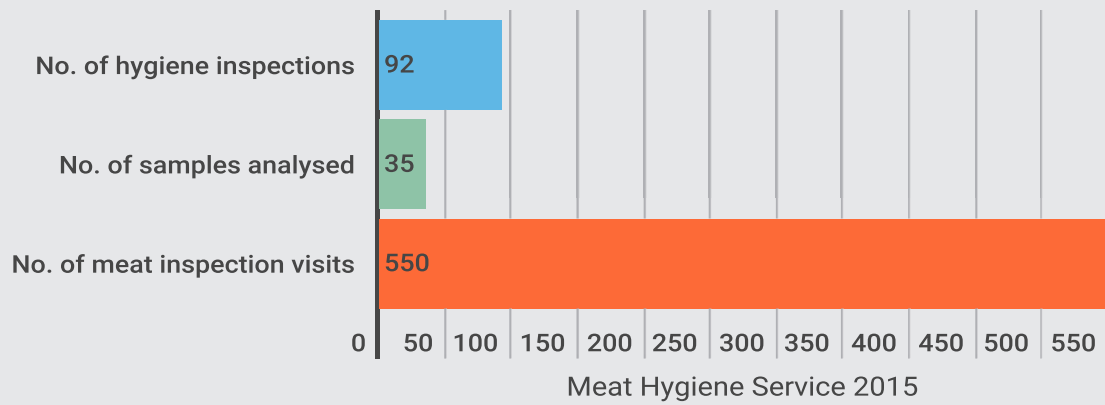
The total number of Dog Licences issued in 2015 was 8,236.

The breakdown of each type of licence was as follows:

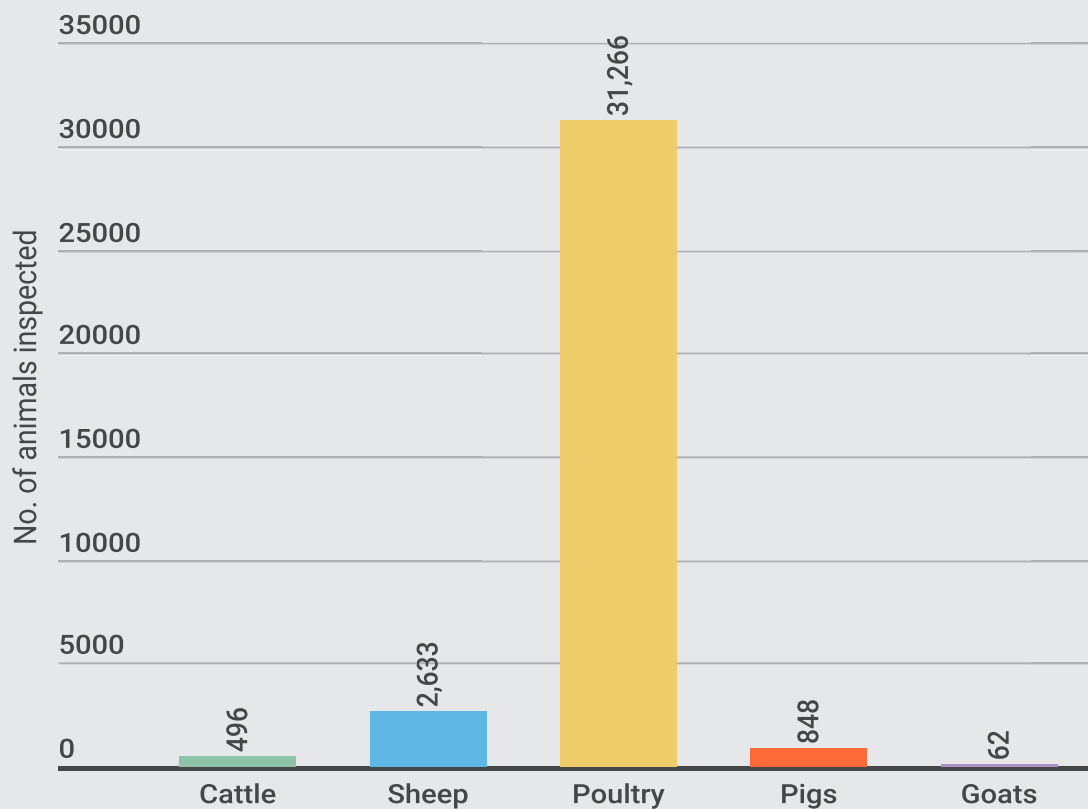
Single Dog Licences €20 each 8,206

General Licences €400 each 30

VETERINARY STATS



31,266 Poultry inspected in 2015





Miscellaneous Services

Finance

The Finance Department provides financial services to the frontline departments of the Council. The mission of the department is to enhance the effectiveness and value of services to the community in County Wexford through the provision of quality financial services which contribute towards the corporate objectives of Wexford County Council.

The Internal Audit, Motor Taxation, Rates, Credit Control, Insurance Risk Management, Water Charges, Housing Loans, Procurement and Local Charges sections are also managed within the finance directorate. The following provides a summary of items and statistics of particular note within the Finance Department for 2015.

Rates Department

The year 2015 saw an improved collection performance over 2014 (see table below). The Credit Control unit focused their efforts on addressing arrears and acting quickly when issues arose.

	2015	2014
Collectable Warrant	€37.10 m	€38.06 m
Collection – €	€27.45 m	€26.85 m
Collection – %	73.99%	70.55%
Arrears at year end	€9.65 m	€11.20 m

Other factors also contributed to this improved performance including increased resources, training, a proactive approach to working with customers towards addressing outstanding debt, and improved information systems.

The upturn in the national economy has also contributed to an improvement in the collection levels as more rates customers strive to deal with arrears that have accumulated during the recession.

The third and final year of Wexford County Council's Rates Incentive Scheme, 2015 gave customers an opportunity to avail of a discount of 6% from their annual rates bill up to a maximum of €300. This has been well received and a number of ratepayers are availing of the scheme to assist in dealing with arrears. In the three years of the scheme over 40% of ratepayers have availed of the scheme and it is proposed to repeat and improve the scheme further in 2016. Approximately 75% of ratepayers in the county pay €5,000 or less in annual rates so the Rates Incentive Scheme primarily benefits the SME sector.

During 2015 the Council secured a landmark decision in the high court when they successfully petitioned the high court to appoint a liquidator to a company based in New Ross, following failure by that company to pay commercial rates. The Council took this unprecedented action following a long history of outstanding rates and a lack of engagement by the company in dealing with the matter.

Wexford County Council will not hesitate to pursue any person or company who do not engage with the Council to address outstanding arrears. The Council had a responsibility to the other ratepayers in the county and in particular to those operating in direct competition to businesses who fail to meet their commercial rates obligations.

Increased efforts will be made in 2016 to further increase the cash collections, improve the collection percentage and reduce the arrears in this critical business area which provides vital funding for the local services provided by the Council.

Local Charges Unit

The Non Principal Private Residence charge (NPPR) and Household Charge were replaced by the Local Property Tax introduced in 2014. However, where the NPPR charge remains unpaid for properties not used as principal private residences in the period 2009–2013 a liability still exists and the Local Charges Unit continue their efforts to actively pursue unregistered properties liable for any or all of the charge years from 2009 to 2013.

During 2015, charges and penalties totalling approximately €2.1m in income were secured under this heading.

Since the introduction of the charge in 2009, a total of €19,268,321 has been collected, broken down as follows:

Year	Nett NPPR Charges Collected
2009	€2,381,820
2010	€2,726,520
2011	€2,551,480
2012	€3,270,360
2013	€3,716,940
2014	€2,507,930

Local Authority Mortgages

At 31 December, 2015, Wexford County Council had a total of 826 mortgages with a combined capital value of €45.8m.

In 2015, Wexford County Council received 26 mortgage applications, 8 of which were advanced totalling €758,500.

Wexford County Council has a five-step process called the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP) to help support mortgage customers who are in arrears or are at risk of going into arrears.

Wexford County Council has dedicated Mortgage Arrears Support staff who are available to discuss any concerns borrowers may have with meeting their mortgage repayments and to work with them to agree a solution that will bring the matter to an acceptable conclusion for all parties.

Water Charges Section

Irish Water became responsible for the provision of water services in Ireland from 1 January 2014 following the passing of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013.

The Water Charges Section continued to act as an agent of Irish Water during 2015 and remains responsible for the management of a database of non-domestic customers who avail of the public water supply and sewerage services infrastructure and for the billing and collection of the appropriate charges.

Procurement Unit

During 2015 Wexford County Council implemented a process to completely review the approach to procurement within the organisation. This process was initiated with the appointment of a procurement officer in March 2015. The initial role of Wexford County Council's procurement officer is to critically review Wexford County Council's approach to procurement with a view to implementing new and improved procurement processes that will deliver improvements in value for money, procurement methodologies, compliance and capacity.

The proposed development programme, which will continue in 2016, will also be aligned with developments which have occurred in national public procurement activities, in particular with the establishment of the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and the Local Government Strategic Procurement Centre (LGSPC).

Motor Tax Office

Throughout 2015, a high standard of service was maintained in Wexford Motor Taxation Office for our customers.

Wexford Motor Tax Office dealt with almost 59,034 customers at the counter and processed a further 23,155 items by post, in addition to dealing with a large number of telephone queries.

A further 115,559 motor tax transactions took place online.

Motor Taxation Transaction Statistics 2013–2015				
	Online Activity	Motor Tax Office Transactions		
Year	Tax Discs Issued	Tax Discs Issued	Other Transactions (MTO)	Other Transactions (MTO)
2013	87,213	87,145	48,220	135,365
2014	105,492	76,744	20,505	97,249
2015	115,559	69,697	16,671	86,368

Franchise

Register of Electors

No. of voters in the constituency of Wexford	110,046
No. of special and postal voters	846
No. of polling districts (of units of the Register)	126
No. of Deletion Notices issued in respect of voters' names being removed from previous years	4,997
No. of additions, deletions and corrections to 2014/2015 Register to make up the 2015/2016 Register	11,440
No. of voters on Draft Register printed on 1 November 2015	109,725
No. of voters on Draft Edited Register printed on 1 November 2015	1,175

Health and Safety

In 2015, the Health and Safety Team continued to deliver a targeted corporate improvement programme, ensuring the continued health, safety and wellbeing of our employees, contractors and members of the public. We further developed our extensive health and safety training programme and established cross-functional teams to review and improve health and safety documentation across the organisation. There were no serious incidents or accidents and no enforcement action was taken against us by the Health and Safety Executive.

OHSAS 18001 Fire Services

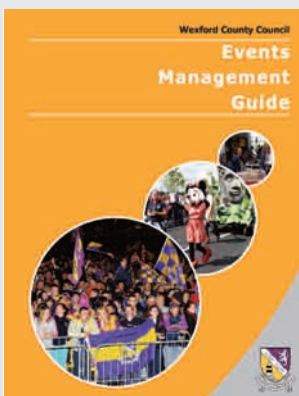
Wexford County Council Fire Services successfully achieved the OHSAS18001 standard for Health and Safety Management in 2015. The certification followed three external audits by an accredited body and work by firefighters across all five fire stations to ensure that health and safety standards were established and maintained, with objectives for excellence and continual improvement in place and monitored. The Health and Safety Team worked extensively to provide expertise and support for this initiative.



Online Corporate Health and Safety Induction Module

The use of new technologies continued in 2015, with the introduction of a new online corporate health and safety induction module. The Health and Safety Team worked with IT to produce this module using the internal resources of Wexford County Council to maximise cost-effectiveness. The interactive training module is an essential part of training for all new starters and covers health and safety requirements and information for all employees.

Events Management



A new Guide to Events Management was launched to the public in 2015. A series of training events was also held across the municipal districts to ensure that stakeholders received the correct information in relation to the management of risks associated with running public events.

A new position of Events Officer was established within the Health and Safety Team to support this initiative and in recognition of the importance of public events to tourism and economic development across Wexford. Along with the guidance document, we established a new page on the website to support stakeholders, including an online application process to hold events on Wexford County Council properties.

National Irish Safety Awards

Wexford County Council won a Distinction Award at the 2015 National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) Awards for its work in Managing Health and Safety on Coastal Work Activities.

The submission by the Health and Safety Section related to health and safety management in coastal work activities within the Environment Department including: piers and harbours; provision, maintenance and inspection of ring buoys; beach lifeguards service; Clean-up Crew dealing with illegal dumping; the summer beach litter patrol team; mechanical beach cleaning; and Curracloe Nature Trail Guides and educational programmes.

High levels of health and safety management were demonstrated across all of these activities.



Wexford County Council Safety Management System

In order to support critical initiatives supporting the development of a Safety Management System across the organisation, the Health and Safety Team was expanded to include two new employees in 2015. The aim of increased budget and resources is to facilitate achievement of OHSAS18001 for the whole County Council in 2017. As part of this and, in line with the Local Government Reform Act, the Parent Safety Statement and associated Ancillary Safety Statements were reviewed and re-issued, with new procedures and guidance established across the organisation throughout 2015.

Human Resources

During 2015 the Council continued to embed the new local government structures set out in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and designed to replace the dissolved borough and town councils. In February 2015 four Municipal District Managers were appointed to manage the Council's day-to-day operations in these new administrative areas, incorporating each of the county's major towns and their surrounding rural areas.

Building on its successful 2014 introduction in the Wexford Borough District, the Local Authority Labour Activation (Gateway) Scheme was rolled out in the three remaining Municipal Districts during the year. The Scheme, providing 22-month placements of 19.5 hours per week/39 hours per fortnight for participants, has been used, primarily, on public realm projects in the main urban centres. By year end 85% of the 80 placements available to the Council had been filled, with the remaining places due to be filled in the first quarter of 2016.

In May 2015, as part of a new local government initiative – The Local Authority Graduate Programme, the Council appointed five Third level graduates, recruited through a national Public Appointments Service competition, in the following skills areas:

- Economic Enterprise and Business Development
- Project and Programme Management
- Innovation Strategy and Change Management
- Human Resource Management
- Communication and Marketing

In collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration, this two-year programme includes a developmental element involving off-site placement in a professional body in each of the graduates chosen fields.

During 2015 the HR Department ran a total of 32 recruitment competitions, 25 open and 7 confined competitions. In excess of 770 individual applications were processed and considered for the various positions available, of which over 580 applicants were called for interview. A total of 65 staff appointments were made during the year, to both permanent and temporary positions, and covering a wide range of work disciplines, including a resource for the Three Sisters 2020 project.

In addition, during late June and early July, the department ran an aptitude test process for potential vacancies in the grades of Clerical Officer and Library Assistant. Over a period of five days well over 800 members of the public sat the test in the Enniscorthy Enterprise and Technology Centre. The test results will now be used as the basis for inviting applications for future vacancies in these grades over the next two years.

In mid-2014 the Council submitted a Workforce Plan in respect of its indoor workforce to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. This plan was based on parameters set out by a national Workforce Planning Group comprised of representatives from the Department of the Environment, local authorities and the Local Government Management Agency.

During 2015 the HR Department was central to the preparation of a Workforce Plan for the Council's outdoor workforce. This plan was finalised and submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in November 2015. The plan envisages a modest increase in the overall numbers of the outdoor workforce. However, given the Council's financial position this increase will be phased over the next four to five years.

Staff Training

During 2015, the Council's Training Unit continued to deliver and evaluate focused training and development programmes for staff. In addition, staff were supported to pursue further education programmes with financial assistance for course fees and paid leave for study and exam purposes.

The Unit provided a wide range of courses with, as always, a particular emphasis on health and safety training designed, not only to meet our legal requirements but to strengthen and enhance key elements of the organisation's Safety Management System and also support the safety, health and welfare of staff.

A total of 1,497 working days, involving some 513 staff members, were dedicated to training during the year, through courses that included:

- Chainsaw – City and Guilds (5 day)
- Data Protection
- Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)
- Excel Training
- Fetac Pesticide Application / Knapsack Training
- Manual Handling
- Occupational First Aid
- Safe Pass

In order to ensure value-for-money, training was, where possible, delivered locally by bringing external trainers to our headquarters or to local venues. The Roscrea Regional Training Centre was also utilised as much as possible to deliver service-specific training. Full use was also made of additional funding sources for road-worker and environmental services training.

Freedom of Information Office

Wexford County Council's Freedom of Information Office (FOI) manages all Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Access to Information on the Environment requests as well as Customer Complaints, Ombudsman's queries and Protected Disclosures.

In 2015 the FOI Office developed the following policies which were adopted by Executive Order:

- Protected Disclosures Policy
- Customer Complaints Procedure
- Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act
- Records Management Policy

In 2015 the FOI Office commenced the development of policies relating to CCTV and data protection and provided Data Protection training to senior staff within the Council. It also initiated the National Local Government data protection Officers network which held a number of meetings in 2015.

Request Type:	Requests Received		Requests Finalised at End of 2015	Requests Outstanding at End of 2014
	2015	2014		
Access to Information on Environment	9	n/a	8	1
Customer Complaints	20	n/a	20	0
Data Protection	35	n/a	34	1
Freedom of Information	92	40	86	6
Ombudsman	13	14	13	0
Protected Disclosures	0	n/a	0	0
Total	169	54	161	8

Protected Disclosures

No protected disclosures were received in 2015.

The Street

On entering Wexford County Council's headquarters at Carricklawn, one is instantly impressed by the scale and size of the foyer that runs the length of the building. By having the different Council departments straddled along its perimeter, the design architects planned the building such that this space would take on the guise and function of a street – providing a link between these various departments.

This space, now dubbed the "Street", continues to be a perfect venue for hosting exhibitions and events. A number of very successful events took place in 2015 including:

Wexford Sub Aqua Club Photo Exhibition

Exhibition held during the Maritime Festival.

Arts Ability

Art exhibition launched 7 September

Wexford Business Expo

10 September

Love Fashion Love Wexford

Fashion Show 3 October

Nick Miller Painting Exhibition

Launched 23 October



Wexford Green Conference with Duncan Stewart and the EPA

Wexford Chamber event on 11 November

New WCC Logo



The need for a new unique Wexford County Council corporate brand was discussed by management and members resulting with the modern vector logo you will see used throughout this document. The "W+Sun" portrays the county's rolling hills and coastal waves with a yellow sun incorporated to symbolise the sunny south east.

Our in-house designer took the initial draft and created a full range of print and web ready variants for use both within and outside the organisation and a usage guideline was launched to assist staff in application of the logo across various media in order to keep the brand intact.

The design of Annual Report 2015 has been designed as an artwork promoting the new brand by featuring the different version in operation such as the standalone brand and bilingual version.

Information and Communications Technology

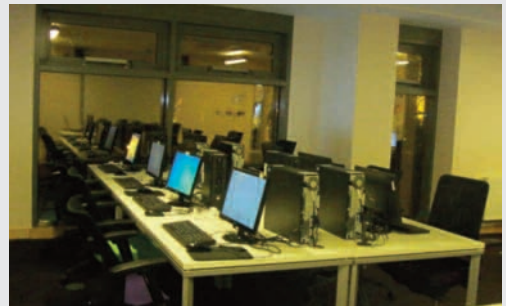
The ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Department reports to the Head of Finance and ICT and is responsible for managing the organisation's ICT infrastructure and software systems. This includes local (LAN) and wide area (WAN) networks consisting of wired and wireless links to enable voice and data communication within the organisation and externally to other organisations. In addition to this, the ICT Department manages and provides technical support for the Council's computer servers, PCs and mobile devices. These run a wide variety of software systems to enable data collection, storage, processing and analysis to facilitate decision making and reporting. The technical support services provided by ICT staff include an ICT Helpdesk for call logging and follow-up, systems analysis and design, the installation and integration of software systems sourced externally with existing systems and the development of bespoke software as required.

Technical Services and Operations

The significant projects that were undertaken by the ICT Department's Technical Services and Operations Unit during 2015 include:

PC Replacement Programme in Library Branches

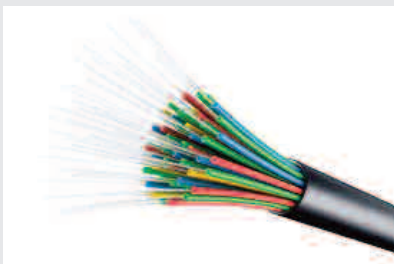
New desktop PCs were installed in the Wexford, Gorey, Enniscorthy and Bunclody library branches to replace either Citrix terminals or old PCs which were in need of replacement. The new PCs provide patrons of the Library with computer facilities for document creation and printing, computer training and Internet access.



Upgrade of Communications Systems in Municipal District Offices

A new telephone system was installed in the Enniscorthy Municipal District Office and in the New Ross Municipal District Office to replace old systems which had become obsolete. The new telephone system is based on VOIP (Voice over IP) technology and integrates with the communications system in the County Hall and in other Council offices in the County.

Upgrade of Communications Link to Gorey MDO



The communications link between the Gorey Municipal District Office and the County Hall was upgraded to a 20-Mbps fibre link.

This link carries both voice and data traffic between the two locations and will result in improved data transfer rates and savings in the cost of voice calls.

Extend Malware Protection to Mobile Devices

Due to the increase in malicious software targeting mobile devices such as smartphones and tablet devices, new “malware protection” software was extended to the Council’s mobile devices to minimise the threat posed to these devices. This is in addition to a mobile device management system which is used to manage the apps that can be installed on the devices and which provides a remote access facility if required to resolve a problem on the device.

Citrix Terminals in Motor Tax Office

The PCs used in the Council’s Motor Tax department were in need of replacement. Because they were used to access the NVDF (National Vehicle and Driver File), the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport requested that they be replaced by terminals capable of connecting to the NVDF via a secure Citrix connection. The Council’s ICT staff installed a set of Wyse terminals in the Motor Tax department to connect to the NVDF and to provide a local print facility.

Upgrade FMS DR Facility

The Council’s FMS (Financial Management System) is a very important software system in the day-to-day operation of the organisation. To ensure the availability of this system at all times, the dr (disaster recovery) facilities for the FMS software and associated database were improved to minimise the risk of a system “outage” due to computer hardware failure or other possible disruptions.

Upgrade Online Payments System

The computer hardware and software system which hosts the Council’s online payment facility were replaced as part of a scheduled upgrade plan. The new hardware and software is easier to maintain and secure.

GIS, Web, Application Development and Support

The significant projects that were undertaken by the ICT Department’s GIS, Web, Application Development & Support Unit during 2015 include:

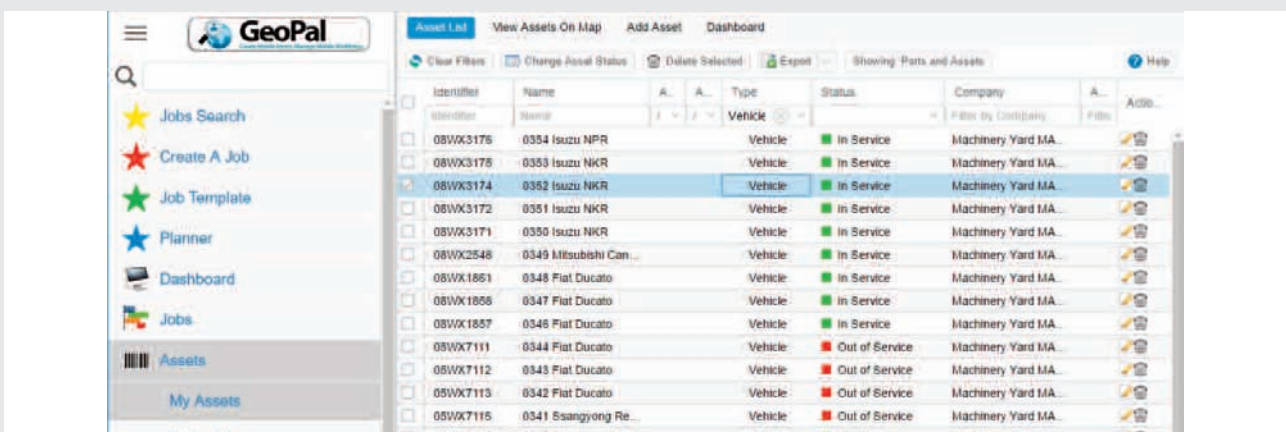
Upgrade of Loans System

This was the second phase of the Integra Loans Project. The Loans System was enhanced to cater for the loan restructuring options offered under the national MARP (Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process) programme. Changes were made to the accounting processes to cater for the calculation of loan accounts in MARP agreements.

GeoPal Mobile App for Asset Management

The GeoPal application development framework was used to develop a mobile app to manage the Council's vehicle fleet data. Existing fleet data stored in spreadsheets, databases and other documents was put through a data cleansing and consolidation process before being imported into GeoPal as a vehicle inventory.

Service, motor tax and DOE schedules were created for every vehicle in the fleet. Recurring jobs were configured so that when a job is due, a notification and job template would be sent to the appropriate staff member on their smartphone. This prompts the staff member to complete the job on the smartphone, taking images of relevant job cards, invoices, tax disc, etc. The new workflow associated with the GeoPal app replaced a set of separate job and data management systems with one easy-to-use system. The scheduling of vehicle servicing, motor tax renewal and DOE testing was greatly improved with services being notified and completed on time. The new system provides greater reporting capability with easily accessible job histories for each vehicle in the fleet.



Litter Pollution Survey

Each year, the Council's Environment Section must complete a litter survey which involves about 300 inspections across the county. Prior to the development of a GeoPal mobile app, these inspections were completed using paper forms and a camera to take photographs at the various locations. The details written on the forms had to be keyed into a database by staff in the Environment Section. The photographs taken had to be downloaded from the camera and stored in a shared folder associated with the survey database. The linking of survey forms with the corresponding photographs was problematic.

Using GeoPal, a mobile application was developed which incorporated a more efficient workflow. The inspection job was created on GeoPal and sent out to the smartphone of the relevant wardens who then completed the survey on the device screen. Photographs were taken using the smartphone and all of the data collected is transferred by GeoPal to a database which can be accessed by staff in the Environment Section. The new workflow removed the need to use paper forms, a separate camera and the keying of data into a separate database system. It has resulted in significant savings in the time and effort required to complete the survey.

Eircodes Project

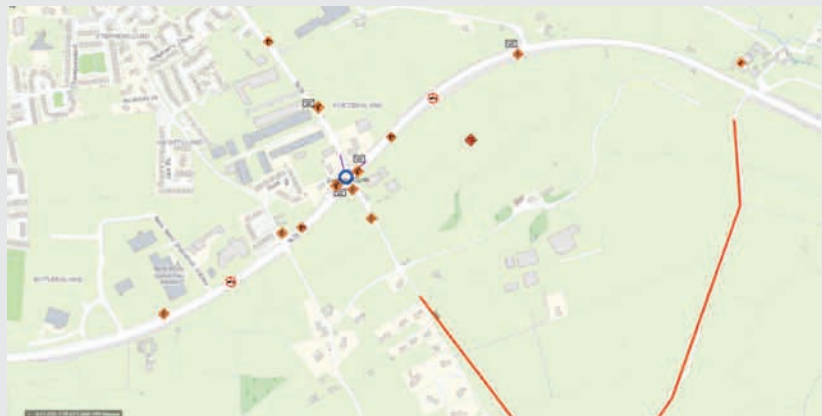
Eircodes were introduced across the country in 2015 and the Council undertook a number of upgrades to existing systems in order to ensure that an Eircode value could be stored on a customer record. Software systems such as the Register of Electors, Rates, Housing and Rents were upgraded so that staff could enter Eircode values as they were received from citizens, tenants or business owners. The Eircodes database was also made available to staff to facilitate search by address or by Eircode.



EIRCODE

Traffic Management Plans Mapviewer

The GIS Section created a mapviewer facility to allow the Council's road engineers to create traffic plans that can be saved as PDF documents to provide a record of their traffic management plan for the Council's Health and Safety system. The official road signage icons from the Traffic Signs Manual produced by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport are used in the mapviewer.



The maps are easy to create as a template has been set up for the engineers and the maps they produce have a professional look with logos, titles and dynamic legends. These maps are easy to interpret for the road crew, which is a key requirement of the engineers.

Pay Parking Management System

The centralisation of pay parking in County Wexford was completed in December 2015 with the merging of four separate systems into one system managed in the County Hall. Pay parking in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross towns are now managed from a single system. The number of vendors involved in the system has reduced from four to one allowing for improved support, significantly reduced costs and a more efficient process.

The handheld devices used by the Parking Wardens were replaced by a GeoPal app on a smartphone. This facilitated the issuing of printed fine notices and, for the first time, the capture of photographs using the smartphone, to support subsequent enforcement. The smartphone + GeoPal combination also allows the Wardens to carry out other duties such as litter, playground and area inspections.

FINANCE, MOTOR TAX, FRANCHISE, FOI, HUMAN RESOURCES AND I.T. STATS



€27.45m in Rates Collected

73.99% Percentage collection rate. Up 3.44% on 2014



40% ratepayers availed of the Rates Incentive Scheme

Ratepayers availed of the 6% discount available up to a maximum of €300



€758,500 in new Mortgages

26 mortgage applications of which 8 were advanced



115,559 online discs and 69,697 at the counter

Online discs issued up from 105,492 in 2014 and counter discs issued down from 76,744 in 2014



110,046 Voters in Constituency of Wexford

Figure from Register of Electors 2015



65 Staff appointed to both Permanent and Temporary positions

In excess of 770 individual applications were processed and considered for the various positions available, of which over 580 applicants were called for interview



169 FOI Requests received, 161 finalised

Freedom of Information requests 2015



5046 I.T. Help Desk calls resolved

I.T. Help Desk call queries dealt with for staff in 2015

Balance Sheet 2015

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015	2014
		€	€
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		841,159,645	789,882,029
Infrastructural		1,768,100,388	1,813,712,652
Community		51,567,620	11,714,089
Non-Operational		14,914,091	15,313,615
		2,675,741,743	2,630,622,385
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	86,949,314	85,130,056
Long Term Debtors	3	71,966,968	75,253,054
Current Assets			
Stock	4	575,378	438,173
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	5	29,871,524	43,671,070
Bank Investments		4,522,175	4,849,942
Cash in Bank		1,008,397	2,159,446
Cash in Transit		2,750	3,135
		35,980,224	51,121,766
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Accruals	6	28,561,957	43,282,498
Finance Leases		162,283	343,634
		28,724,240	43,626,132
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		7,255,984	7,495,634
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	130,683,536	137,619,276
Finance Leases		–	142,166
Refundable Deposits	8	4,358,481	4,806,388
Other		6,901,375	6,065,208
		141,943,392	148,633,038
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		2,699,970,617	2,649,868,091
Represented By			
Capitalisation Account	9	2,675,741,743	2,630,622,385
Income WIP	2	86,852,259	86,018,342
Specific Revenue Reserve		3,056,073	3,056,073
General Revenue Reserve		(9,160,548)	(9,873,539)
Other Balances	10	(56,518,911)	(59,955,172)
Total Reserves		2,699,970,616	2,649,868,089

Income & Expenditure Statement 2015

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement) for Year Ended 31 December 2015

		Gross Expenditure 2015	Income 2015	Net Expenditure 2015	Net Expenditure 2014
Expenditure by Division	Note	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building		18,085,467	21,822,344	(3,736,877)	(3,602,621)
Road Transport and Safety		27,118,431	17,745,174	9,373,257	9,975,096
Water Services		10,723,689	10,187,437	536,252	(3,518)
Development Management		7,823,426	2,023,852	5,799,574	5,722,396
Environmental Services		12,577,970	1,201,482	11,376,488	9,531,725
Recreation and Amenity		6,955,504	582,217	6,373,287	6,153,364
Agri., Educ., Health and Welfare		2,355,642	1,596,800	758,842	1,303,314
Miscellaneous Services		11,330,494	4,697,376	6,633,118	6,933,146
Total Expenditure/Income	15-16	96,970,623	59,856,682		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund				37,113,941	36,012,902
Local Government Fund				11,888,576	11,888,576
Pension Related Deduction				1,503,343	1,658,940
Commercial Rates				30,816,100	30,574,072
Surplus (Deficit) for Year before Transfers				7,094,078	8,108,686
Transfers from/(to) Revenue	14			(6,381,088)	(7,714,824)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				712,990	393,862
General Revenue Reserve at 1 January				(9,873,539)	(10,267,402)
General Reserve at 31 December				(9,190,549)	(9,873,540)



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council

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