



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**January 2017**

## To An Cathaoirleach & Each Member of Wexford County Council:

### **1.Economic Development and Planning:**

#### **Economic Development Unit**

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**2016 Rail Review Report.** Wexford County Council Economic & Planning Sections are preparing a submission to the Public Consultation around the 2016 Rail Review report, by the National Transport Authority and Iarnród Éireann. The submission will focus exclusively on the Dublin-Rosslare Rail line and the importance of maintaining a service along the east coast into the future.

**Vacant Property Scheme** A full report has been submitted to Council on the operation of the scheme in 2016.

**M11 Business Campus, Gorey** Wexford County Council recently completed a lease agreement on a 5,500sqft pod in the first building of the new M11 Business Campus in Gorey. This space will house the Council's new ICT incubation project "The Hatch Lab". Located adjacent to the Amber Springs Hotel, completion of the building is expected in late spring 2017, with The Hatch Lab expected to open in early summer 2017.



#### **Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Team**

**Enterprise Development Plan 2017:** The LEO Team are currently working on the Enterprise Development Plan for 2017. This business plan includes all of the activities and actions for the coming year including grant aid activity, business training events, and business networking events, business mentoring targets and student enterprise goals. The final plan must be submitted to Enterprise Ireland by the end of January.

#### **Some important targets for 2017 will include:**

- Allocate €500,000 in grant aid to 30 start up and existing small businesses
- Co-ordinate 70 business training events with approx. 1,000 people
- Arrange 150 business mentor assignments
- Allocate 50 Trading Online Vouchers
- Allocate 25 Trade Show Vouchers
- Allocate 15 Export Marketing Vouchers
- Engage 1,400 students on Student Enterprise Programme from 20 secondary schools
- Run 10 Start Your Own Business Courses throughout the county

**Small Business Training Spring 2017:** The new programme of business training courses, workshops and clinics is currently available to book online on [www.localenterprise.ie/wexford](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wexford)

25,000 printed brochures have been circulated by various means to the LEO database, through our business partners, as well as leaflets dropped to many businesses around the county. The marketing campaign to promote the programme includes advertising in local papers, local radio and through our social media accounts.

## **Tourism Team**

**Wexford and District Tourism destination report:** Tenders are being sought for suitable consultants who can complete a report on the tourism potential including product and services across the Wexford District including Rosslare and Kilmore Quay. The closing date for receipt of tenders is January 14<sup>th</sup>. This is the third district report to be completed with New Ross and Gorey already complete. A Tourism Strategy for the county will be compiled on completion of all four district reports as outlined by the Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport in their Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018.

**Ireland's Ancient East:** Wexford continues to lead the way in the implementation of Ireland's Ancient East proposition by Fáilte Ireland with two new training programmes for tourism businesses, with County Wexford being the first location for both. The first is in association with the Local Enterprise Office and is a Masterclass for Tourism businesses in using social media (particularly Instagram and Pinterest) on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 to promoting their stories under Ireland's Ancient East.

This is a pilot for the Ireland's Ancient East region. Another first for Wexford will be the Fáilte Ireland pilot training programme to take place in February in rolling out their Storytelling and Interpretation toolkits tailored for tourism businesses to make the most of the opportunity of Ireland's Ancient East, particularly in encouraging more international visitors. If these courses are considered a success, they will be rolled out across the Ireland's Ancient East region which extends from Louth to Cork.

**Regional Co-operative Access Programme:** After a very successful partnership with Irish Ferries, Tourism Ireland, Rosslare Europort, Kilkenny & Waterford Local Authorities in 2016, which saw almost €300,000 marketing funds promoting Rosslare Europort leveraged by an initial seed investment by Wexford Local Authorities, this programme is available for applications with a closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017. Irish Ferries and now Stena Line are both deciding on their involvement in the programme for 2017. This programme was very successful for Irish Ferries who showed a 39% increase in their web traffic and almost 10% uplift in their bookings with a reach of over 9 million UK residents for the campaign.

**Holiday World, Dublin :** Visit Wexford will have a presence at the Holiday World show in Dublin this month. The Dublin show will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> January in the RDS, Dublin.



**Visit Wexford Pass:** the Visit Wexford Pass scheme will continue in 2017 after a successful pilot phase. This is a

voucher which will offer the bearers discounts on entry fees and/or activities at tourist and retail sites. The scheme is open to every tourism related business in the county and 75 businesses are already signed up to be part of it. Those already in the scheme include the Irish National Heritage Park; Well's House; Enniscorthy Castle; Hook Lighthouse; and the Wexford Lavender Farm. The pass will continue to be made available locally, online and at trade shows throughout the year.

**Visit Wexford Brochure 2016.** A new tourism brochure is being compiled at the moment with the closing date for the receipt of information January 13th 2017. Every tourism business in the county is being given the opportunity to be involved. If anyone is still to forward their information, they are encouraged to contact [hello@visitwexford.ie](mailto:hello@visitwexford.ie) as soon as possible. The Visit Wexford Pass (above) will also be available in the new brochure.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

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**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** Brady Shipman Martin have been appointed to prepare a detailed design and prepare contract documents for the development of the Park.

**Wexford Quay:** Architects Scott Tallon Walker have commenced work on the preparation of an Economic and Spatial Implementation Plan. Consultation is ongoing with various interested parties, including councillors, Chamber of Commerce and business groups. Traffic surveys have also been carried out. Members of the public have also made comments via an internet link. Further public consultation will take place in the New Year.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** ARUP were appointed as consultant and have commenced work. A draft strategy plan has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by Wexford County Council. Following this review and acceptance of the strategy by Wexford County Council it is intended to meet various parties to discuss particular projects arising from the strategy.

**Enniscorthy Business Park, Killagoley:** A tender has been published for the appointment of consultants to prepare a masterplan, design guidelines and tender documents for Works to be carried out by WCC. A topographical survey will be carried out in January. The purchase of the land for the Park from HSE has been completed.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** An application for funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht was submitted in October. There has been no date provided for a decision on the level of funding to be awarded by the Department. Procurement of an Architect to prepare final designs and tender documents will be advertised in January 2017.

## PLANNING

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### PLANNING – December 2016

- No of Valid Planning Applications up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1306

#### **Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures**

- Notices issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990 66
- Notices Issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964 78  
(Dangerous Structures/Places)

### **Building Control**

**National Taking in Charge Initiative (NTICI):** Wexford County Council recently received **€747,891.64** under the National Taking in Charge Initiative (NTICI) broken down as follows:-

- Measure 1 €245,135.22
- Measure 2 €502,756.42

**Taking in Charge:** Thirty estates have been taken in charge in 2016.

**Expenditure:** Building Control has spent €1,592,175.74 on unfinished estates in 2016.

**Bonds:** Bond fund received in December:-

<b>Estate Name</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Creagh Demense, Gorey	€90,000.00
The Heath, Ramsgate Village	€250,000.00
Bridgemeanow, Enniscorthy	€10,000.00
The Grange, Kilmore	€11,716.59
Woodview, Castlebridge	€98,495.00*
Slaneywoods, Wexford	€41,433.21*
<b>Total</b>	<b>€501,644.80</b>

*\*\* DHPCLG bridging finance has been received for Woodview and Slaneywoods in order for Wexford County Council to undertake works in accordance with the terms and condition of the Planning Security bond held between IBRC (in Special Liquidation) and Wexford County Council.*

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

### **HOUSING**

**Housing Assistance Payment:** The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) was operational in Wexford County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. HAP is a new form of social housing support which will be provided to households who qualify for social housing support including long-term Rent Supplement recipients. Applicants approved for Social housing will be eligible for HAP and will no longer need to apply for Rent Supplement.

Rent Supplement will still be available from the Department of Social Protection for people who do not qualify for social housing support.

Wexford County Council has agreed and signed a Service Level Agreement with Limerick City & County Council to perform the Housing Assistance Payments to landlords for Wexford County Council which will ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in administration of the HAP Scheme.

Working in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection the HAP Scheme will be introduced on a phased basis. All new social housing applicants are the first phase, which will be followed by the transition of existing rent supplement applicants in need of social housing support. There are currently 2048 (as at the end of August 2016) people in receipt of Rent Supplement in Wexford.

There has been a very positive response to the introduction of the HAP Scheme and we have received 15 applications to date with a high volume of queries also.

**Significant Investment for Enniscorthy:** The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government has recently announced €6.2 million investment for Enniscorthy town under Wexford County Council's Housing Collaborative Programme with Approved Housing Bodies. This will see a new housing scheme of 40 homes delivered at Greenville Lane, The Moyne, Enniscorthy with Oaklee Housing Trust and local builders.

### **COMMUNITY**

#### **Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) 2016/17**

The REDZ application by Wexford County Council in partnership with Carlow County Council has been approved by the Rural Development Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Lead Partner is Wexford County Council and the funding amount approved €100,000 (80%)

It is proposed to commence work immediately on the development and roll out of this important action plan for Bunclody.

### **Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN) December Update**

December saw the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Wexford County Council and continued the progress of strengthening the structures of Wexford PPN.

### **Community Action Plans**

Work has commenced on the development of Community Action Plans for Enniscorthy and New Ross. This process will involve public consultation and stakeholder and agency engagement. It is expected that an action plan will be in place by third quarter of 2017.

### **Local Policing Fora (LPF) Courtown Riverchapel**

The Community Section will be working with the Community In Courtown Riverchapel to establish a Local Policing Fora.

The function of the LPF is to provide a mechanism through which the community, the Gardai and the Local Authority and (public representatives, other statutory agencies and other stakeholders as required) come together in a formal structured way.

### **Playground update**

Tenders for the Enniscorthy Promenade Playground refurbishment have been received, with the successful tenderer due to be on site in early 2017.

### **Community Hub Bridgetown**

Work has commenced on the development of a Community Hub in Bridgetown. This framework will have the goal of bringing all the community organisations and agencies that work in Bridgetown together under Community Hub framework. It is proposed to develop access to existing community facilities and to develop additional community space.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **PIERS & HARBOURS**

Works under Dept of Agriculture, Food and Marine 2016 programme was completed on schedule.

### **COASTAL PROTECTION**

The coastal protection works carried out by Wexford Council at Donaghmore was completed in November 2016. At Donaghmore in addition local residents with support from WCC carried out works to assist in the protection of properties and the private road leading to the beach.

### **WIND FARM NOISE MONITORING**

Phase 1 of the noise monitoring programme of wind farms throughout the county is nearing completion. Phase 1 includes the wind farms in the Kilrush area and the draft report is expected in February 2017

## **Libraries, Arts and Archives,**

### **Library Development Plan**

A large scale consultation took place during December in order to inform the new Library Development Plan. To date almost 2,000 surveys have been returned in paper and online including submissions from schools, business, interest groups and library staff. Engagement with non library users in shopping centres in all four districts provided very useful insight into what people want from their library into the future.

### **My Open Library**

Wexford County Council received capital funding in December 2016 to provide the technical solution for the **My Open Library** project in Gorey Library. Gorey is one of 22 libraries around the country that plan to roll out the extended opening hours initiative in 2017.

## **ARTS**

### **Musician in Residence Opera**

The Arts Dept, in partnership with the National Music Network and Wexford Opera House will run a new '**Musician in Residence**' in the National Opera House from March to September 2017. After a national Open Call in November 2016 - Redmond O'Toole- was selected as the Musician in Residence. The residency will involve six concerts in classical and Irish traditional music with a significant education outreach element with local music groups.

### **Art links**

Artlinks provides professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford Arts Offices. A call out for bursaries was made in December 2016 – the closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Arts Ability exhibition** Dominic Thorpe was appointed curator for the Arts Ability Exhibition to take place in the 'Street' gallery, County Hall March – May 2017. The curator is currently visiting all centres (KTAC & WRIDS in Enniscorthy and CUMAS – New Ross), meeting participants and selecting work.

## **SPORTS ACTIVE**

**Sport Ireland:** Funding for the Community Coaching Programme and Community Sports Hub will be used to complete the programmes and fund the Community Physical activity facilitator in Riverchapel. The physical Activity Co-ordinator position has been put in place as a Contract for Services Mrs Joy Latimer Rice will take up her role in January 2017 and will be managed by Riverchapel Community Complex Ltd

**Operation Transformation:** The RTE programme will be on its 10<sup>th</sup> Series In Early January. The LSP network holds their National Walk 7<sup>th</sup> January. Mairead Redmond from Gusserane has been Chosen as one of the Leaders. As apart of this we will be running the national walk in New Ross Town Park at 9.15am. Also She will be a part of the Park Run event on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Both events will be televised by RTE.



**Dunbrody Warriors. ( Disabled Group):** The team from New Ross which is supported by Nick Murphy CCRO and the LSP played at half time at the Aviva Stadium on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December and met a number of the Leinster Rugby Team after the game.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

### **Civil Defence – Operations / Training Report December 2016**

#### **Civic Duties**

There was a total of 2 Civic Duties for December 2016, a total of 96 duties so far for 2016.

3<sup>rd</sup> December Polar Plunge, Rosslare Strand, Special Olympics

18<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Seniors Cross Country, Rosslare, Ballytrent

## **3. Transportation, Water Services & Health & Safety:**

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

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

##### **Progress Update December 2016**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland awarded the PPP Contract to a BAM Iridium Consortium (the PPP Co.) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The PPP Co's contractor for the works is a BAM Civil Ltd and Dragados Ireland Ltd joint venture.

Earthworks excavation operations are ongoing in cut 1 to the west of the Barrow Bridge in Co. Kilkenny and cuts 3 & 4 to the east of the Barrow in Stokestown and Camlin. Topsoil stripping has also commenced in a number of other areas of the site. Trial blasts have been completed in hard rock in cut 3 in advance of controlled blasting operations in the new year. An advance public information campaign has been implemented for these operations including personal letters to residents, newspaper notices, text alert reminders and public notices. An "SMS Text Alert" group is being implemented with local residents and a text message will be sent to all relevant residents and property and land owners the evening before each blast indicating the time of the blast for the following day. It is anticipated that there will be 2 blasting events per week for the coming months. Blasting will be conducted in accordance with statutory requirements and relevant codes of practice. Strict environmental monitoring and safety regimes will be also implemented for each blast to safeguard the public and private property.

The construction of the temporary impermeable working platform for the construction of the river pier foundations (pier 4) for the Barrow Bridge is complete, and piling works for the pier have commenced. Piling works to piers 5, 6 & 7 of the Barrow Bridge on the Wexford side are complete and preparation works for the foundations of piers 1, 2 & 3 on the Kilkenny side of the river are progressing. The river is a live navigation channel as well as a Special Area of Conservation under EU and Irish environmental legislation.

Consultations are ongoing with the Port of New Ross, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Irish Fisheries among others to ensure that these vital interests are protected. Works have progressed on the single span underbridge that will carry the bypass over the R733 Regional Road. Six watercourse culverts have been completed and construction has commenced on five more.

Monitoring regimes continue to be implemented on site for the control of dust, noise and vibration from the works, and the monitoring of buildings and wells in the vicinity of the works is ongoing. Additional monitoring measures are being implemented in the vicinity of blasting operations in the coming months.

The PPP Co's detailed design is ongoing as are consultations with various stakeholders such as Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils, The Port of New Ross, Irish Rail, National Parks and Wildlife, Fisheries Ireland, Office of Public Works, ESB, Garda Síochána, Emergency Services and others.

The 'Pink Rock' Road (LS7512) in Co. Kilkenny remains closed to facilitate access to the bridge site and also for the construction of a bridge pier. A temporary diversion route and traffic management plan is in place for this closure. Traffic management is in place at all designated site access points and site crossing points at a number of locations along the scheme. Wheel wash facilities are operational at all site access points in order to minimise the transport of mud onto public roads and road sweepers are also operating at site access points. It is anticipated that 60km/h road works speed limits and traffic management measures will be implemented on the N25 at Glenmore in January and at Ballymacar in March. These are to facilitate the construction of roundabouts at both locations, and full 2-way traffic flows will be maintained. Road Works Speed Limit Orders have been executed at both locations. It is anticipated that traffic management measures will also be implemented on the R733 in the coming months to facilitate the lifting of bridge beams across the road.

The third quarterly project newsletter was published before Christmas and will be circulated widely at local conveniences (service stations, shops etc.) as well as at local public buildings and in County Hall. The dedicated project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. The 24 telephone hotline is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners, the PPP CO, Contractor, TII and other interested parties for the duration of the project.

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

	<b><i>Total No of Landowners</i></b>	<b><i>Settled to date</i></b>
<b><i>M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy</i></b>	<b><i>201</i></b>	<b><i>196</i></b>

### **Contract – Christmas Closure:**

The site was closed for the Christmas Period from the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 to the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Site operations are expected to recommence from the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **Program**

The contractor has 48% of their certified design issued for construction and is on target in their overall program for construction.

### **Construction to Date**

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	<b>Progress Reported in October</b>	<b>Progress Reported in November</b>	<b>Progress Reported in December</b>
<b>Site Clearance</b>	95%	96%	96%
<b>Fencing</b>	84%	85%	85%
<b>Drainage &amp; Service Ducts</b>	5%	7%	7%
<b>Earthworks</b>	10%	17%	23%
<b>Structures – Culverts</b>	16%	24%	29%
<b>Structures – Access Structures</b>	2%	5%	12%
<b>Accommodation Works</b>	6%	6%	6%

- Site Clearance – Phase 2 completed, Site awaiting final pass
- Fencing is substantially completed
- Earthworks:-
  - Mainline M11, Total volume Cut to Fill 475,490m<sup>3</sup>
  - N30, Total volume Cut to Fill 220,564m<sup>3</sup>
  - N80, Works to commence in Q1 2017, weather dependant

### **Blasting**

Blasting commence on the 22nd of November in the Frankford Junction area and is expected to continue on a weekly bases for 2017.

Blasting commence in the Knockrathkyle (Darby's Gap) area on the 8th December and is expected to continue on weekly bases for 2017.

Material extracted from the blasting will be crushed and graded on site to produce acceptable graded material for construction

### **Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:**

#### Use of Non Permitted Site Access

The contractor has applied for and was granted permission to use the site access at L2021 Crane Road, L5093 Ballymore Road and L2040 Knockrathkyle Road for the importation of precast box units and fill material for culvert units. Arrangements have been made with the area office to conduct joint inspections of roads used to access the site.

#### Speed Limit Reviews

Six speed limit reviews have been granted. The locations are Frankford Junction, Clavass Junction, Milehouse Roundabout, Templescoby Roundabout, Scurlockbush Roundabout, Tomnafunshoge Roundabout.

### Road Closure Applications

WCC have approved an application for the closure of the L2020 for a 3 month period to allow for pre-construction works for the River Slaney Structure -

The following applications have been submitted to Wexford County Council for processing:-

L2021 Crane Road, withdrawn until further notice  
L2040 Knockrathkyle road.  
L5093 Rocksprings Road  
L2012 Killalligan Road

### **Public Relations**

The fourth quarterly project newsletter has been issued. The dedicated project website [www.m11gtoe.ie](http://www.m11gtoe.ie) provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management, road works, road closures, blasting and also provides contact details for the project.

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

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

TII initially allocated a sum of €5,394,000 for pavement and minor improvement works in 2016 which was allocated as follows:

#### **1. National Road Design Works**

€200,000 was allocated for Rosslare Harbour for design works for the new access link road from Rosslare Harbour to the N25. Arup consultants are continuing design works.

#### **2. N25 Ross By-Pass Residual Network (€1,307,000)**

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

This contract is being completed in 2 phases.

Phase 1 from Irishtown to R700 junction was substantially completed on 26<sup>th</sup>, August 2016. Phase 2 from Irishtown to New Ross swimming pool will be completed in 2017 following works to the sewer network by Irish Water.

##### **- L8046 at Creaken.**

This has been completed.

#### **3. N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Residual Network (€3,220,000)**

##### **- R702 Enniscorthy Killealy Road**

Contract 1 from Milehouse to Monart East was carried out by Wexford County Council and was completed in September.

Contract 2 will be from Milehouse Crossroads to Duffry Gate.

A contractor has been appointed.

The construction period is expected to be 8 to 10 weeks. This contract should commence in the first quarter of 2017.

### **- N11 Scarawalsh to Ferns South**

A third scheme has been added to the N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Residual Network. This contract involves the overlay of 5km of the N11. A contractor has been appointed The construction period will be 8 weeks. This contract will commence in the first quarter of 2017.

### **2017 National Pavement Schemes**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following scheme.

#### **N11 Ferns Village**

It is expected this scheme will be tendered in the first quarter of 2017 . The contract will be constructed in the second quarter of 2017.

#### **Additional Pavement Improvement Works**

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

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

Design works have commenced on these schemes. Tenders will be invited for the first of these schemes in the first quarter of 2017. TII will release funding as these schemes are tendered during the year.

#### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2016/2017 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. There have been 21 no. call outs up to 4<sup>th</sup>, January 2017.

### **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

#### **Improvement Works**

Footpaths completed in Ballycogley Village (Wexford District)

Footpath and macadam works ongoing on the R741 - Wexford to Castlebridge road (Wexford District).

Footpath renewal works ongoing at The Avenue. (Gorey District).

#### **General Maintenance**

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

General bridge repairs ongoing in all Districts.

## **WATER SERVICES**

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

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

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

Planning permissions were granted by WCC for the upgrading of St. John's and Promenade Pumping Stations. The WWTP is to be extended to cater for a PE of 26,000, an increase of 10,000 PE from the existing 16,000 PE. The tenders for the DBO contract were received in October, 2016 and tender evaluation is in progress. Contract due to be signed in early 2017.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Preparation of foreshore application documents is in progress. The land acquisition process has also commenced for the selected WWTP site and Pumping Station site. Revised terms of reference, for the Consulting Engineer, are currently being prepared and the pricing document is nearly complete.

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

The DBO contract with AECOM/SIAC Construction to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant was substantially completed in March 2016. Official Opening was on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

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

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

Asset Strategy has completed its review of the Gorey RWSS and has recommended an 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir at Ballyminaun. A DWSP and catchment yield review to be done together with a CCTV Survey and hydrogeological assessment of the existing boreholes. Consultants have been engaged by IW to review and revise the contract documents. Planning applications have been submitted by IW to WCC to upgrade the borehole sites.

### **IW Asset Management: Wexford Sewerage Scheme (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

Distillery Rd. Pumping Station Upgrade is now operational. The Final Account has now been agreed with the Contractor following a Conciliation Hearing on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016.

### **IW Asset Management: Bundled Sewerage Schemes**

#### **Village Bundle 1 (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

Arthurstown, Ballycanew, Ballyhack, Campile, Clonroche, Duncannon, Wellingtonbridge have been included in the CIP and approved to continue through the planning stage. A decision from Irish Water is awaited on how this scheme will progress from here on. A Business case has been submitted to Irish Water for upgrades of the plants in Ferns, Camolin, Ballycanew. The Village Bundle Scheme is under review by Irish Water.

Irish Water has engaged Consultants to carry out an 'Untreated Agglomeration Study' in a national project which includes Duncannon, Kilmore Quay, Ballyhack and Arthurstown. An 'Options Report' has been prepared for the 4 Wexford villages.

A workshop was held in July 2016 to review the Options Report for 3 of the villages. The Consultant will now produce a Final Design Report for the 3 Villages (Duncannon, Ballyhack and Arthurstown) and for Kilmore Quay.

### **IW Asset Management: Murrintown Sewerage Scheme**

The rising main from Piercetown to Murrintown is complete. Irish Water has recently approved the provision of a new pump station at Murrintown under minor programmes. This project is now ready to go to tender.

### **IW Asset Management: Water Conservation – Pipeline Rehabilitation Phase 2**

IW has approved construction budget of €2m for 9km of watermains rehab at Gorey, Screen and Bridgetown.

Construction of these watermains are scheduled to start in March, 2017 and will be undertaken by Wexford County Council's direct labour crew.

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

Phase 1 gas mains started in October, 2016. Site investigations for watermain design started on Newtown Road in December, 2016.

Phase 2 will involve construction of the remaining 14km of gas and 12km of watermain and will start in late 2017.

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

This scheme involves laying approximately 600 metres of foul sewer and 600 metres of surface water sewer from the N30 Irishtown junction to Nunnery Lane in New Ross Town, routed through lands owned by Mount Carmel Convent. Irish Water approved funding for the foul sewer in November, 2016

T.J. O'Connor, Consulting Engineers are progressing the detailed design and preparation of tender documents. Draft tender documents were submitted in December for review by WCC; advertise for tender in mid January, 2017.

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

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

At tender stage with IW.

### **IW Asset Management: Wellingtonbridge WWTW**

Plant refit complete.

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

Works 80% complete on 20 of 34 sites. Works commenced on most sites.

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

Works ongoing – Currently in Wexford area.

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

IW to arrange kick off meeting with contractor, Avonmore

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

Construction due to start in January 2017.

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

Coolgreaney wayleave agreement to be resolved.

### **IW Asset Management: Vinegar Hill Air Blowers replacement**

Contractor about to be appointed.

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

Went out to Tender in early December.

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

Contract awarded to Aecom. Project kick off meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Wexford Coco have identified priority sites for initial Phase 1 reports. Aecom to forward project programme based on this prioritisation. Progress meeting No. 1 to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.



### **Suppressed Capital Maintenance scheme**

IW have advised that a new Suppressed Capital Maintenance Fund will be made available. No details available in regard to budget and timeframe. Works are ongoing on the existing approved budget.

## **C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

### **Group Water Schemes > 50 Persons**

#### **Blackstairs (GWS 111)**

Palace East Contract 8 – Contract ongoing.

#### **Kilanerin (GWS 15)**

Supply and installation of 136 AMR's and 5 No. Data Loggers ongoing.

#### **Framework Agreement for Private Group Water Schemes and Private Group Water & Sewerage Schemes.**

Tender Assessment ongoing.

## **4. Finance:**

### **Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2015 - Audit**

The annual audit of the 2015 accounts by the Local Government Auditor, Mr Gerard McMorrow is now complete and the Statutory Audit Report is included as an item for consideration of members at the CPG and Council meeting.

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

The coming weeks will see the finalisation of end of year transactions for 2016 following which work will commence on compiling the 2016 Accounts.

### **Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW)**

Following the adoption of the 2017 Operational Budget by the council the District Managers will now commence work on formulating, in conjunction with budget holders, the Schedule of Municipal District Works for each municipal district. This work is due to be completed within the first quarter of 2017 and it is proposed to incorporate the Road Works allocations for each district once the formal Road Allocations for 2017 have been received.

### **Audit Committee**

The last Audit Committee Meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January will include a meeting with the Local Government Auditor, Mr Gerard McMorrow, to discuss the contents of Auditors reports on the 2015 Final Accounts.

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m for the period up to 31st December, 2017.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**