



Chief Executive's Report

February 2017

To An Cathaoirleach & Each Member of Wexford County Council:

1.Economic Development and Planning:

Economic Development:

Rail Review 2016: Wexford County Council made a submission in response to the Public Consultation on the Rail Review Report 2016, a copy of which can be located on the Wexford County Council website under the Economic Development Section.

Business in the Community, Skills@Work Programme 2017: The Economic & Enterprise Unit of Wexford County Council will support the transition year group at Colaiste Abbain under the Skills@Work Programme 2017.

The programme will work with 16 students and cover the following:

- Introduction to Wexford County Council and Local Government
- 'A Day in the Life' Meeting employees of Wexford County Council
- Enterprise Development & Running your own Business
- CV Review
- Mock Interview
- Company site visit

FLAG Programme 2017-2021: The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. will officially launch the 2017-2021 FLAG Programme in Dublin in February 1st 2017. The launch follows the announcement in early November 2016 of €12 million funding that has been approved under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Operational Programme.

This funding will be distributed amongst the seven Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) selected as part of a competitive process under the community led local development element of the €240 million EMFF Operational Programme. The funding is 50% financed by the EU. The funding to be made available to the FLAGs over the period 2017 to 2021, is an eight-fold increase on the €1.5m that was available under the previous FLAG scheme. The initiative is similar to LEADER under the Rural Development Programme, but this EMFF initiative focuses development funding specifically on fisheries and aquaculture areas.

FLAG Name	Coastal areas of County	EMFF Allocation
South West FLAG	Kerry	€1.53 m
West FLAG	Galway, Clare	€1.80 m
Northwest FLAG	Mayo, Sligo	€1.50 m
North FLAG	Donegal	€1.95 m
South FLAG	Cork	€1.98 m
Northeast FLAG	Louth, Meath, Dublin	€1.56 m
Southeast FLAG	Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford	€1.68 m
	TOTAL	€12 m

The primary aim of the FLAG initiative is too “focus on promoting innovative approaches in fisheries and aquaculture areas to create growth and jobs in those areas, in particular by adding value to fishery and aquaculture products and diversifying the local economy towards new economic activities, in particular those offered by ‘blue growth’ and the broader maritime sectors”.

Allocation calculation: From the €12m budget available, an initial €1m was allocated to each FLAG. The €5m balance of funding available was distributed on the basis of 50% (€2.5m) according to their relative share of total inshore fisheries vessels and 50% (€2.5m) according to their relative share of total employment in fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing. Allocations were rounded to the nearest €10,000.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Seafood Development Agency, assists FLAGs to deliver this programme through administering supports via grant-aid, training and on the ground facilitation, with dedicated regional FLAG coordinators in each region. To date, the programme has delivered over €1.5 million via direct and indirect investment to our coastal communities funding over 186 projects. BIM has facilitated the establishment of 7 FLAG Groups for the new EMFF Programme 2017-2021, following a detailed expression of interest phase and is working directly with each FLAG to assist them to develop local Development Strategies in November 2016, with the roll out of projects in early 2017.

The Southeast FLAG Local Development Strategy will be circulated in the coming weeks. For further information on the FLAG programme please visit www.bim.ie or contact, Carolyne Godkin, Economic Development Section - the appointed local authority representative on the Southeast FLAG, representing Wicklow, Waterford and Wexford Local Authorities.

Tourism Team

Ireland’s Ancient East Tourism Training Programmes: Wexford County has requested further business support for tourism businesses under the Ireland’s Ancient East and has been successful in being approved for 2 Pilot training programmes for the Industry on a Storytelling Toolkit which will detail information on how best to present their stories under the Failte Ireland Proposition. These courses will be delivered in the North and the South of the county and will take place in the coming weeks. Please email hello@visitwexford.ie for further information.

Irish Winter Shore Angling Competition: This took place in recent weeks based in Kilmuckridge with over 100 competitors. It was a great success and follows the World Shore Angling Competition which took place in November 2016. The location of the two events here demonstrates angling as a key activity for the County which will be promoted in the future.

Holiday World: Visit Wexford had a stand at The Holiday World Show took place in the RDS recently, it was very well attended as the premier Trade Show for Ireland’s Tourism Industry.

Brochure 2017: The Visit Wexford Brochure for 2017 is being compiled at present and will be available from April 2017.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Team

Regional IBYE Final: The regional final (Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny) of Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur took place in Wexford County Council on Tuesday 31st January. The three regional winners in the Best Idea, Best Start Up and Best Established Business will go on to represent the region in the National Final of IBYE on March 5th In Dublin. We wish them all the best in the final.

Local Enterprise Week - 6th to 10th March: LEO Wexford, along with the 31 LEOs throughout the county, will run a series of business and enterprise events on the week of the 6th to 10th of March entitled Local Enterprise Week. LEO Wexford will shortly finalise the events for this week which will include training events, business talk and the County Final of the National Enterprise Awards.

BUCANIER –An INTEREGG funded project: LEO Wexford, on behalf of Wexford County Council, is currently applying for funding to the European Regional Development Fund 2014 – 2020 Ireland Wales Programme.

BUCANIER, an acronym for Building Clusters and Networks in Innovation Enterprise and Research, will be a six partner project. The Welsh partners will be Pembrokeshire County Council, Carmarthenshire County Council, the Institute of Life Science at Swansea University; the Irish Partners will be the Institute of Technology Carlow, Wexford County Council, and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Sea Fisheries Board).

The BUCANIER project will run for 3 years and having positively passed through the Gateway phase, we are optimistic that the project will be funded shortly.

BUCANIER will build on the positive legacy of the INSPIRE Project, which was a successful collaborative project that Pembrokeshire County Council and the Institute of Technology Carlow in Ireland ran in the previous Ireland Wales programme.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: The Park has obtained Part 8 Planning in April, 2016 based on a preliminary design by Wexford County Council. Consultants Brady Shipman Martin have been appointed to prepare a detailed design and prepare contract documents for the Works Tender. Design work is currently underway, with topographical surveys commencing.

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. A Preliminary Report will be prepared for consideration by Wexford County Council.

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 : Tenders for consultants are due for return to Wexford County Council on 9th February. A topographical survey is currently underway.

New Ross Business Park: A document is being prepared to obtain Expressions of Interest from development partners for the construction of an advanced factory unit. The document is intended to obtain expressions of interest from developers willing to partner Wexford County Council.

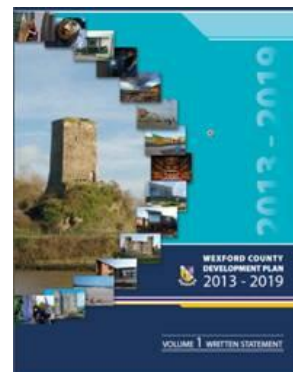
Enniscorthy Tourism Project: A tender document is in preparation for the procurement of consultants to provide assistance in the preparation of a Tourism Project for Enniscorthy. The consultants will assist in the preparation of an application to Failte Ireland for funding, as well as identifying capital works that will create a new tourism experience for the town.

Wexford Arts Centre: An application for funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht was submitted in October 2016. There has been no date provided for a decision on the level of funding to be awarded by the Department. Architects will be appointed once funding for the scheme is confirmed.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

No. of valid applications received up to 30/1/2017
68



Draft Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023: The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions and observations received on the Draft Local Area Plan 2017-2023 was submitted to the Members on the 7th December 2016 and considered by Gorey Municipal District at a special meeting held on the 12th December 2016 and subsequently by the County Council on the 16th January 2017. A number of Material Alterations are proposed and these alterations will now be placed on public display from Wednesday, 1st February 2017 to Thursday, 2nd March 2017 during which time written submissions may be made. The Chief Executive will then prepare a report on the submissions and observations received and submit it to the Members for consideration by Gorey MD in March and by the County Council in April.

Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019:

The current County Development Plan, which covers the period 2013-2019, was made on the 12th February 2013.

The Planning Authority must commence the review and preparation of the next County Development Plan no later than four years after the making of that Plan. The preparation of the plan follows a statutory 99 week timeframe which will see the adoption of the new County Development Plan in 2019.

On the 7th February a notice will be published in local newspapers and on the internet and sent to prescribed authorities and stakeholders announcing the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new plan. The notice will advise that submissions may be made between Friday, 10th February 2017 and Tuesday, 11th April 2017. A set of Issues Papers will also be placed on public display. The Issues Papers highlight strategic planning issues, outline the plan preparation process and explain the purpose and content of the County Development Plan. During this time the Forward Planning team will attend each of the MD meetings to discuss the plan preparation process and hear the issues which the Members would like to see addressed in the Plan. The Forward Planning team will also hold a public consultation event in each of the four districts. It is anticipated that a report summarising the issues arising from the consultation period will be submitted to the Members at the end of May 2017.

Building Control

Commencement Notices: *A total of 32 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to the end of January, 2017 on the BCMS. A breakdown of the submitted commencement notices per Municipal District is below:-*

Wexford	12	Gorey
8		
Enniscorthy	9	New Ross
3		

Ongoing Building Control Works: Works are in progress in the following estates:-

- Slaney Woods, Wexford
- Woodview, Castlebridge

Works Completed: Works have been completed in Meadowbrook Estate, Oulart. The Pumping Station has been connected to Irish Water.

Notices under the Derelict Sites Act 1990

Notices under Section 8(2) Intention to Place Site on Derelict Site Register	5
Notices under Section 8(7) Place Site on Derelict Site Register	
1	
Section 8(4) No. Removed from Register	4
No. closed following service of notices	2
Section 29 Ownership	1

Notices Issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964 (Dangerous Structures/Places)

Notices under Section 3(1)

- Notices requiring works to be carried out (By Owner) 1 Pearse St., Gorey
- No. of files closed 1 Cromwellsfort, Wexford

Planning Enforcement:

- Cases Opened 2
- Live Cases 474
- Cases Closed 14

Access Section

Gorey Garda Station: As part of an interagency approach work is to start this week to improve access to the Gorey Garda Station (OPW site), the Contractor is Peter D Finn Ltd. The Access Section in conjunction with Gorey Municipal District are supporting the OPW project. Elements relevant to Wexford County Council will include some upgrade works to the surrounding footpath and the installation of a disabled parking bay at the location.

Oulart Village: The Access Section in conjunction with the Enniscorthy Municipal District can confirm that Phase I and II of the joint plan of works is now completed. This included footpath linkage and the installation of a footpath around the Garda Station along with dropped kerbs installed on the existing footpaths on route to the National School and the installation of a footpath from the Londis Shop to the GAA pitch.

The first Quarter of 2017 will see a programme of works initiated for Slade Harbour, which will be carried out in conjunction with Access, Heritage and the New Ross Municipal District.

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

Housing Supply: All LA capital construction projects have to go through the following stage approval process with DHPCLG as follows:

- Preliminary Stage Site Identification
- Stage 1 Confirm approval for design expenditure
- Stage 2 Assess project prior to statutory appraisal submission
- Stage 3 Approve detailed design solution and pre tender cost estimate
- Stage 4 Review tender return in advance of contracts award
- Post Stage Contract award and commencement

With the exception of 22 Francis Street (nearing completion) all current Wexford County Council housing capital projects are at varying stages from Stage 1-3. A substantial number of planned projects are at preliminary stage.

Following recent discussions and meetings with DHPCLG it is expected that substantial progress will be made in progressing Wexford County Council projects through the various stage in Q1 of 2017. A comprehensive updated report will be presented to the next Housing SPC and circulated at the following meeting of the Council. This report will detail each project, current stage status, projected tender date, and projected commencement date.

Refugee Resettlement Programme: As part of the Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme through the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration under the auspices of the Department of Justice and Equality, Wexford County Council will facilitate an initial allocation of 81 persons in 17/18 housing solutions in County Wexford.

These refugees will initially complete a 12 week induction programme at the designated Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre in Dungarvan, County Waterford. The refugees are currently expected to arrive in County Wexford in late May, 2017.

Wexford County Council are currently in the process of recruiting a contracted designated refugee support worker who will be employed on an initial one year contract to support the refugees when they arrive and assist them to integrate into the Irish community. There will be other supports as required provided also.

A designated Refugee Resettlement Interagency Working Group has been established in County Wexford, led by Wexford County Council and comprising representatives of the Department of Justice and Equality, Health Service Executive, Department of Social Protection, Waterford Wexford Education training Board, Tusla, Wexford Local Development and Wexford Local Link to oversee and manage the refugee resettlement programme in County Wexford.

Strict national protocols have been enacted by law in how to deal and interact with the refugees to ensure the safety and protection of the refugees and also of other family members who may not be in Ireland. An information and intercultural awareness session will be held both for Wexford County Council Members and interagency staff in advance of the arrival of the refugees.

PRTB Inspections: Wexford County Council is responsible for the enforcement of the regulations prescribing minimum standards for private rented housing in County Wexford under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 & 2009.

Housing Section is currently finalising its Strategic Programme in this area for 2017 which contains a 10 point plan of action, and a planned ongoing programme of private rented housing inspections will commence shortly.

ENVIRONMENT

COASTAL ACTIVITIES

Coastal Works: The emergency rock revetment works at Donaghmore are 100% complete. The graveyard and the public road are now protected.

Piers & Harbours: A list of proposed works for inclusion in the Dept of Agriculture, Food and Marine 2017 funding programme are being prepared. It is anticipated that funding allocation will be announced in March.

Septic Tank Inspections: 129 septic tank inspections were carried out in 2016 with a failure rate of 62 %. It is proposed to carry out 150 inspections in 2017.

RECYCLING, WASTE and LITTER ACTIVITIES

Civic Amenity Sites: The throughput at our 4 Civic Amenity Sites in total was up in 2016 by 15% to a total of 554 evidence of the ongoing success of the promotion of recycling. Due to the significant increase in operating costs at Civic Amenity Sites it is proposed to introduce a flat charge of €2 for entry to our 4 sites in 2017.

Rapid Response Crew (RRC): The total number of illegal dumping sites cleaned up by the RRC is up by 48% to 1790 for 2016.

Litter: Activity in terms of litter enforcement was up in 2016, the number of fines increased by 13% (total 274) and litter reports were up by 22% to 2,354

COMMUNITY REPORT

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP): The LCDC approved the SICAP 2016 end of year review and the 2017 Annual plan. The budget for the Annual Plan is €1.7 million; this funding will be targeted at the most disadvantaged individuals and communities in the County.

Leader:

The Local Action Group (LAG) approved 28 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to go forward to the application stage of the Programme under the Community Centers Call. The budget for this call is €650,000.

The LAG approved 31 EOIs to go forward to the application stage of the Programme under the Artisan Food Call. The budget for this call is €500,000.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN) December Update: 2017 commenced with delivery of the draft work plan for County Wexford. This plan aims to ensure Wexford PPN are progressing towards delivering on the targets set out in the LECP, while also progressing further understanding and development of Wexford PPN.

Community Action Plans: Work has commenced on developing Community Action Plans for Enniscorthy and New Ross towns. This process will involve public consultation and stakeholder and agency engagement. It is expected that an action plan will be in place by June 2017 with actions to flow in the following months.

Wexford Age Friendly Programme: The Wexford Age Friendly Strategy will be launched officially on the 10th in February 2017 in the County Hall. The Draft Age Friendly Action Plan is currently being prepared and one to one meetings are in progress with each Alliance member.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP): It is proposed to hold two partner workshops during 2017 to monitor progress on the objectives of the Plan. It is also proposed to enter into Joint Protocols with key partner agencies to deliver plan objectives and actions.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Operation Transformation: The RTE programme will be on its 10th Series in January. The LSP network holds their National Walk 7th January. Sports Active Wexford was delighted to have organised the walk at New Ross Park where 337 walkers took part to support Mairead Redmond one of the National Leaders for the RTE Operation Transformation programme. Four walks took place in County Wexford, one in Gorey, two in New Ross and the Leaders walk in New Ross. In total over 437 walkers took part in the county.

We were delighted to have the support of Cllr Frank Staples, Cllr Michael Whelan, Cllr John Fleming and Cllr Willie Fitzharris. We would also like to acknowledge the support from New Ross Municipal District Office, New Ross Rugby Club, Civil Defence, Cumas and local sponsors Lidl New Ross, Molloy's Supervalu and Wallaces Wellingtonbridge for their support in running the event.

Parkrun: This was followed by the parkrun event, which we have supported in JFK Arboretum, Johnstown Castle and Gorey Town Park. Mairead and Karl Henry attended the New Ross Parkrun where they were joined by 275 runners and walkers of all ages. We would like to thank Cllr Michael Whelan and Cllr Willie Fitzharris for attending. The parkrun is a weekly event held on Saturday mornings starting at 9.30am. The operation transformation programme culminates with a 5 km run/walk on 18th February in all parkrun venues.

HSE Health Promotion: The Sports Partnership has secured 8500 in funding for projects in the coming year this will involve support for Swim a mile and walking programmes.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Creative Ireland Programme: The *Creative Ireland* programme was launched by Minister Heather Humphries in January. Pillar 2 – *Enabling Creativity in every community*- involves Local Authorities playing a leading role in promoting Culture. Under the programme, each local authority will appoint a Culture Team and develop a Culture and Creativity Plan. Regional meetings between the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and local authorities take place in February 2017.

ARTS

Music Generation: National Music Education Programme for young people –a new call out for funding for 2017-2020 opened on 9th Jan 2017. The closing date is 31st May 2017. Information workshop was attended by Arts Officer and WWETB in Dublin 24th January. Wexford County Council will be applying with WWETB as lead partner.

LIBRARIES: A series of employment and business related events in the County Library, Wexford was delivered in January. Over one hundred people attended sessions on job applications and starting your own business. Further training on using library e-resources for researching market conditions are planned for early February.

The Reader in Residence Programme with Caroline Busher had a busy month focusing on developing literacy in teenagers. A number of reading groups for young adults have been established. Library staff have been visiting each school in their catchment area to promote the range of services offered to young people and to develop partnerships with schools in the development of enhanced literacy skills.

Over 10,000 e-books and e-magazines have been downloaded in Wexford since the service was launched in June 2016. Workshops in libraries publicising this valuable service were held in January. Short video tutorials were shared widely to increase awareness among the public.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Weekly Training: Weekly training classes have commenced for 2017 in Wexford, New Ross and Gorey. We have 4 new recruits who have started training in Wexford and Gorey units

Civic Duties: There was a total of 3 Civic Duties for January 2017, a total of 3 duties so far for 2017.

- Operation Transformation Event, New Ross Town Park, Saturday 7th January
- Parkrun Operation Transformation, JFK Arboretum, Saturday 14th January
- Masters Cross Country, Kilmore, Sunday 29th January
- Irish Community Air Ambulance Launch, Wexford Monday 23rd January

VETERINARY SECTION

Food Safety/FSAI Contract: The required ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections were carried out in the abattoirs. The required inspections of meat plants and abattoirs were carried out.

Animal Health Surveillance – Holmestown: Results of the second round of sampling which was carried out in December have been forwarded to herd-owners.

3. Transportation, Water Services & Health & Safety:

County Wexford's National Road Schemes

New Ross By-Pass

Progress Update January 2017

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

Earthworks operations are ongoing in Cuts 2, 3 & 4 and Fills 2 - 5 along the western end of the scheme. Blasting operations are ongoing in cut 3 at Stokestown. An "SMS Text Alert" group has been set up with local residents and a text message is sent to all relevant residents as well as 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.

Piling operations are ongoing for pier 4 of the Barrow Bridge ('river pier') following completion of the temporary impermeable working area. Foundation works for piers 1 & 2 of the Barrow Bridge on the Co. Kilkenny side have commenced, and foundation works for pier 3 at Pink Rock are progressing. The construction of the road bridge over the R733 Campile Road has commenced and the eastern abutment is complete. Works have also commenced for the foundations of the Stokestown Road underbridge. 2 watercourse culverts are complete and works are progressing on the construction of 4 watercourse culverts and 3 underpasses throughout the site. Vibration, noise and dust monitoring is ongoing throughout the site. Results are being reviewed on a regular basis and all results submitted to date are within the allowable limits. Baseline monitoring has been established for private wells in the vicinity of the site and the next series of testing will be undertaken in February. With the deterioration in the weather and increased activity on site, additional wheel wash facilities have been installed at site exit points in order to minimise the transport of mud onto public roads, and a further intensification of the road cleaning regime has been implemented on the public roads in the vicinity of the site exit points.

Traffic management is in place at site access points and site crossing points throughout the scheme. Local Authorities and other relevant authorities have been consulted on these measures. More significant traffic management operations will be implemented in the coming weeks to facilitate works on or adjacent to the N25 & R733. This will include the construction of a temporary localised diversion of the N25 at Ballymacar to facilitate the construction of a roundabout on the existing road.

A 60km/h road works speed limit and traffic management plan will be implemented for the duration of this diversion. It is anticipated that this diversion will remain in place until the latter half of 2018, and full 2-way traffic flows will be maintained during this time. Traffic management operations will also be implemented in the coming weeks on the N25 near Glenmore to facilitate the construction of a roundabout at that location. Again, full 2-way traffic flows will be maintained during the operation of this traffic management.

Traffic management measures will also be implemented on the R733 in the coming weeks to facilitate the lifting of bridge beams across and over the road for the bridge construction. Consultations are ongoing with relevant authorities on all these proposals, including the local authorities. 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.

The third quarterly project newsletter was published before Christmas and 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 provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. The website will be developed and updated as the works progress. A 24 telephone hotline is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.



1. Earthworks operation on Co. Kilkenny side with River Barrow in background.



2. Barrow Bridge - Piling operations at temporary impermeable working area for Pier 4 (river pier)



3. Barrow Bridge - Temporary access works and excavation works for Pier 3 foundations at Pink Rock.

4. Barrow Bridge - Works at Pink Rock in foreground looking over to Pier 4 and works at Stokestown in background.



5. Barrow Bridge - Works to Piers 6, 5 & 4 in foreground with works to Pink Rock in background.

6.



Earthworks operations at Cut 3 in Stokestown

7. Barrow Bridge & Stokestown - pier foundations and sediment control ponds in foreground. Site haul road to the right side of the site.



8. Earthworks operations at cut 3 in Stokestown with site haul road to the left and Stokestown Folly to the right.

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update

Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in October	Progress Reported in November	Progress Reported in December	Progress Reported Jan 2017
Site Clearance	95%	96%	96%	98%
Fencing	84%	85%	85%	85%
Drainage & Service Ducts	5%	7%	7%	7%
Earthworks	10%	17%	23%	25%
Structures – Culverts	16%	24%	29%	38%
Structures – Access Structures	2%	5%	12%	17%
Accommodation Works	6%	6%	6%	8%

- Site Clearance – Phase 2 completed, Site awaiting final pass
- LMA Fencing is substantially completed
- Earthworks:-
 - Mainline M11, Total volume Cut to Fill 475,490m3
 - N30, Total volume Cut to Fill 220,564m3
 - N80, Works commenced

Blasting

Blasting commenced on the 22nd of November at the Frankfurt Junction area and is expected to continue on a weekly basis for 2017.

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

The contractor is notifying people within the vicinity of the blasting and of the ongoing times and dates of the blasting

Results for Vibration and Noise Monitoring for both sites have returned below the maximum permitted levels for the contract.

Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

Use of Non Permitted Site Access

The contractor has applied for permission to use the site access at L22011 Tinnacross Road from the Harrow for the importation of precast box units and fill material for culvert units. A structural analysis of Dorans Bridge and Tinnacross Bridge is being requested to support this application.

Road Closure Applications

WCC have approved an application for the closure of the L2020 for a 3 month period to allow for preconstruction works for the River Slaney Structure – This road is due to be reopened 23rd January 2017.

Road	Application Status	Closure Date	Duration	Status
L2020, Ballynabarny	Granted	Nov 2016	3 months	Reopened 25/1/17
L5093, Rocksprings Road	Granted	Jan 2017	6 months	Open June 2017
L2021, Crane Road	withdrawn	Tbc (next two weeks)	6 months	
L2012, Killalligan Road	Submitted	Feb 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L6122, Templescoby	Submitted	April 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L6125, Monard East	Submitted	Feb 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L6025, Scorlockbush	Submitted	March 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L6055, Drumgold Road	Submitted	March 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L6122, Templescoby	Submitted	April 2017	6 months	Statutory Process

Public Relations

Drone Survey

An external contractor has been appointed to conduct a Drone Survey of the site. Once the appropriate insurances are in place the survey will be completed, it will be forwarded to Wexford County Council for inclusion on their web site and made available to the general public.

The Newsletter for Q1 of 2017 is being produced and will be ready for issuing in February. The N11 website WWW.m11gtoe.ie is updated on a monthly basis providing information on blasting, road closures and traffic management.

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.

N25 Ross By-Pass Residual Network

N30 from Irishtown to R700 junction.

This contract is being completed in 2 phases.

Phase 1 from Irishtown to R700 junction was substantially completed on 26th. 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.

N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Residual Network

R702 Enniscorthy Kiltalea Road

This scheme will be carried out as 2 contracts.

Contract 1 from Milehouse to Monart East will be carried out February/March.

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 will commence in the summer.

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 and 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 Road Pavement/Surface Improvement Works

The following 7 road 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 17th October. There have been 28 no. call outs up to 26th January 2017

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

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 complete. Contract notification for successful and unsuccessful candidates is in progress. Contract due to be signed in March/April, 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 and new

appointment for the Consulting Engineer, is currently being finalised. Preliminary design is in progress.

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 29th 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 7,500m³ reservoir at Ballyminaun. A DWSP and catchment yield review is to be done. A CCTV Survey and hydrogeological assessment of the existing boreholes is mostly completed. Consultants have been engaged by IW to review the design and revise the contract documents. Planning applications have been submitted by IW to WCC to upgrade the borehole sites and build a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun.

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

Distillery Rd. Pumping Station Upgrade is now operational.

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. Irish Water are waiting for the Consultant to produce the 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 have approved the provision of a new pump station at Murrntown under minor programmes.

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. Site investigation works took place at the end of 2016.

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. Site investigations for the watermain design around Wexford town are underway.

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. Finalised tender documents for review are due at the end of January. Tenders are due to be advertised by mid February.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

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

Tenders being assessed at present.

IW Asset Management: Wellingtonbridge WWTW

Plant now commissioned.

Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme

Works 90% complete on 34 sites.

Sewer network pump station maintenance contract

Works ongoing – Gorey, Enniscorthy and Wexford complete. Currently in New Ross 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)

CSL appointed and are on site.

IW Asset Management: pH Emergency (Automated dosing control)

Coolgreaney wayleave agreement to be resolved.

IW Asset Management: Vinegar Hill Air Blowers replacement

Contractor appointed RCC Engineering Ltd.

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

Closing Date for receipt of tenders was 3rd February.

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

To date Aecom have carried out six (6) site assessments in County Wexford (Phase 1 site assessment reports to follow on these). Remaining thirty three (33) Phase 1 site assessments to commence on the 6th February 2017. Progress meeting No. 3 to be held on 16th February 2017.

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.

Water Conservation:

Tender Assessment ongoing.

1.1 Leak Repair Summary:

To date a total of 10,299 recorded leaks have been located and repaired since February 2003.

8,803 leaks on the public side
1,496 leaks on the private side

1.2 Watermains Rehabilitation Summary:

- Recently Completed Direct Labour Crew Projects:
 1. Connecting Clohamon to Bunclody complete (Marker Plates to be installed).
 2. Pipe rehabilitation at Mayview Park, Oulart.
 3. Site investigations for the Phase 2 Rehab Work Package 1 (Millands, Ballymurn to Screen, and Kilmore to Bridgetown) complete.
 4. Direct Labour Crew currently carrying out works in Cahore.
- Watermains replacement at Ballymitty, Wellingtonbridge and Newtown Ferns. Tender awarded to Shareridge. Phase 1 – Site Investigation works Complete. Phase 2 to commence in 2017.
- Watermains Rehabilitation has been approved on 860m of distribution mains from Smithscross to Ballinamona, Gorey. Works to be carried out at a later date (Contractor).
- Further sections of mains are still being reviewed by Irish Water and we await their decision.
- ANB for the replacement of Back Yard Services (BYS) recently been approved for New Ross and Enniscorthy. The New Ross works will most likely progress as part of a gas network project that is currently being scoped out. The Enniscorthy works will most likely be delivered as part of the Water Network Management Framework that is due to be rolled out later next year.
- ANB for replacing BYS at two blocks of four houses in St. Aidan's Villas, Enniscorthy has recently been approved. Works have commenced, two houses connected to mains. Two more to be connected week beginning 30/01/17.
- ANB for replacing BYS including installation of a new main to facilitate supplies to four houses in JKL estate approved.

1.3 District Meter Area & Observation Meter Rehabilitation Summary

- DMA Meter Replacement – 20 new DMA flow meters delivered to Mayglass. Water Conservation office met with Area Engineers to discuss requirements. Meters being installed by WSI's in each area. Ongoing.
- Installation of a new flow meter at Michael Street, New Ross, to be installed as part of DMA Meter Replacement.

1.4 Pressure Management:

- Trial on Day & Night PRV Controllers are been installed at 16No. PRV sites Countywide. Wexford Co Co to install day & night controllers at two sites Ard Carman and Pollshone South following trial. Further trials to be carried out on larger DMA's.
- Review of Countywide pressure management ongoing.
- ANB for the proposed installation of new PRV's at Maudlins New Ross has been approved by Irish Water. Materials delivered to site. Will be installed as part of the DMA Metering Programme.
- PRV to be installed in Lady's Island. Water Conservation review location.
- Review of all booster stations (217) countywide is ongoing. 60% complete. View to bring booster station details back onto SCADA. Will start with larger areas 100 houses or greater and work down through list.

- Pegasus PRV controller was installed in Gorey North DMA (EMR). EMR to provide training on use of equipment (arranged for early February).
- Regulo PRV controller installed in Killinick - was fully commissioned July (Day and Night and Critical Area Pressures). Based on monthly before installation and after installation flows, PRV control appears beneficial in terms of water production savings. Water Conservation to review other areas around the county to deploy Regulo / Pegasus units.
- Installation of PRV at Donaghmore, Gorey approved.

2.0 SCADA-Telemetry:

- PRVs; as they are installed they are commissioned and Cello GPRS loggers are deployed to gather the information on pressure for the Countywide SCADA system. Ongoing.
- Flow Meters Replacement; this process is continual; as the flow meters are installed they are connected to the Countywide SCADA system. First Phase almost complete. Second Phase to follow. Ongoing.
- Gorey Telemetry Installation & Upgrade; In the Gorey area the existing telemetry has been upgraded in the Ballyminaune catchment area and associated sites. Upgrades are complete at Creagh WTP with associated sites under survey for upgrade. Final phase of this is due for completion shortly; this will incorporate control of the boreholes supplying Ballyminaune Reservoir. Installations completed but no changes to control protocol due to yield testing on the bore holes and changes to personnel in the area. This will be addressed in the New Year. SCADA technician to liaise with the area personnel on this matter as there are operational issues involved.
- Wexford Telemetry Upgrade; Upgrade of the Telemetry system at Newtown WTP and associated sites has been approved. PO due to be issued shortly, installation will follow from then. Telemetry equipment currently being purchased for these sites, installation to follow.
- Taylorstown & Killmallock WTPs; Telemetry upgrades will follow with the major plant upgrades due to commence in the near future. Taylorstown telemetry upgrade will cover the intake 1Km upstream of the plant and Taylorstown Tower. Scheduled for January. Telemetry units installed at Taylorstown intake and WTP. Telemetry unit with Solar/Wind power generator will be installed at Taylorstown tower W/O 30/01/2017. Commissioning of these units will commence then in preparation for the upgrade to the WTP.
- Vinegar Hill WTP; Telemetry upgrade will be required following plant process optimization. The control of the raw water intake system to the plant will be included within this upgrade. ANB submitted to IW on this.
- Booster stations; Survey of these is ongoing and when complete proposals will be forwarded to IW for approval. Ongoing.

3.0 Complete Information System:

Pipe Network Mapped on CIS	Drinking water network	Sewerage Network
To Date	2,050,978m	645,080m

IW Arc GIS system is now active and data is being displayed on iMAPS.

4.0 Taking Estates in Charge – Leak & Hydrant Surveys & Reports

Ongoing – Priority Taking in Charge list submitted to Water Conservation by Building Control. Water Conservation team currently working through this list.

4. Finance:

Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2016

Work is continuing of the finalisation of end of year transactions for 2016 following which work will commence on compiling the 2016 Accounts. The Q4 financial report will provide a provisional position in relation to the 2016 financial performance and will be submitted to the Council at the March meeting.

The statutory date for the submission of the Annual Accounts is 31st March.

The Local Government Auditor has indicated that the LGAS audit of the 2016 Accounts will commence earlier this year.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee Meeting held on 18th January included a meeting with the Local Government Auditor, Mr Gerard McMorrow, to discuss the contents of Auditors reports on the 2015 Final Accounts. The Audit Committee will now prepare and submit a report to the council on their view of the 2015 Accounts and associated Audit report. The Audit Committee will also be submitting its annual report on activity during 2016 together with a schedule setting out their 2017 Work Programme. All three submissions will be included on the Agenda for the March County Council Meeting.

The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19th April.

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.**