



Chief Executive's Report

April 2017

To An Cathaoirleach & Each Member of Wexford County Council:

1.Economic Development and Planning & Special Projects:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Skills at Work Programme: The Economic Development section recently completed an educational inclusion programme with Coláiste Abbain, Adamstown called the Skills at Work Programme. This programme is an initiative facilitated by Business in the Community Ireland and the Schools Business Partnership. The programme enables participating students gain a greater understanding of practical elements of employment, such as applying for jobs and creating their own CVs. Mock interviews were held to assist students, giving them a real life experience in an interview setting. The students visited council offices and Holmestown Waste Management Facility and were introduced to the work and services that the council provide.

Wexford Business Awards 2017: *The Wexford Business awards were officially launched on the 6th March*, now in their 9th year; the Wexford Business Awards are county wide awards that recognise the entrepreneurialism, innovation, diversity and talent of businesses of all sizes and across all sectors. The awards honour Wexford's industry leaders through the acknowledgement of innovative business processes, product development, enterprise, sustainability and overall business success. Central to the ethos of the Wexford Business Awards is sound environmental and green business practices, as the awards take into consideration the green credentials of all entries, across all 16 categories. Applications will be accepted until 5pm on the 6th April and should be made online.

Wexford County Council is sponsoring the overall business of the year category in 2017. This Wexford Chamber event will take place on Friday, 26th May 2017 in Clayton Whites Hotel. For further detail see www.wexfordbusinessawards.ie

The Hatch Lab: The M11 Business Campus first building is nearing completion in Gorey, with handover to tenants for fit-out expected to take place shortly after Easter 2017. The Hatch Lab is expected to commence official operations in early June 2017. Tendering has been completed on fit-out items and Wexford County Council is finalising operational plan at present. The Hatch Lab is currently being marketed to potential tenants through www.thehatchlab.ie

TOURISM TEAM

National Tourism Conference: This week (29th and 30th March), the CCMA and LGMA are hosting a National Tourism Conference: Collaborate Locally to Compete Globally: *Local Authorities Supporting Tourism* in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. At the conference, Minister Patrick O Donovan will launch all 31 Authorities' Draft Statements of Strategy 2017-2022. Other speakers include Paul Kelly, CEO Fáilte Ireland; Prof. Jim Deegan, University of Limerick; Ray Coyle, CEO Tayto Park; Simon Kay, Center Parcs. A Conference Dinner will be held on 29th March. This event is being sponsored by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Staff on the tourism team have been liaising with the LGMA as needed to support the holding of this national conference.

2017 season Visit Wexford Brochure: Work is currently on-going on Visit Wexford's 2017 visitor guide. A call-out for content was sent out to the industry at start of the year with over 100 businesses responding. Their details will feature in the new brochure alongside information about the county and a calendar of the major festival and events stretching across the 2017 season.

This year, the brochure will take the form of a full-colour A5 size booklet. This replaces the tabloid newspaper format that the visitor guide took in 2016.

This year's guide is being created by Sports & Leisure Promotions (a company which specialises in producing publications) and overseen by Visit Wexford. For example, S&L Promotions publish the Senior Times magazine and when complete, 40,000 copies of the 2017 Visitor Guide will be distributed through their channels nationwide as part of their arrangement with Visit Wexford.

The Norman Way – St. Mary's Church launch: On 23rd March, the new interpretive experience at St Mary's Church was launched to a gathering of local councillors and other interested parties in New Ross. The new experience at St Mary's includes new interpretive panels, upgraded walkways and impressive new lighting installed at the site. Material that is on-brand with the Norman Way was also created to promote the site and to promote the Norman Way itself. This material and the improvement to St Mary's were very well received at the launch.

Over the coming months, the Norman Way will be promoted further to stakeholders in the local community around the currently completed NW sites (running from Lady's Island to Kilmore Quay) to ensure that local businesses etc are informed and ready to capitalise on tourists visiting the NW sites in the 2017 season. Feedback from local businesses found along the Norman Way thus far has been very positive.

Ireland's Ancient East – Customer Service Excellence workshop: Fáilte Ireland ran a Customer Service Excellence workshop in the Talbot Hotel on 22nd March. Attendees for this workshop were gathered via our Visit Wexford channels. The workshop built on the Dwell Programme workshops ran last year and was about building capacity within the tourism businesses in the county to provide exceptional customer service and ensure the promise of the Ireland's Ancient East brand is delivered on the ground in County Wexford.

Wexford Town welcome signage: The Visit Wexford/Wexford Chamber/Wexford County Council 'welcome signage' found at the main entry points to Wexford Town has been redesigned to include the Ireland's Ancient East logo and to allow for conferences from any hotel in the town to be welcomed (as opposed to exclusively those taking place at Clayton Whites hotel). These signs will be used to welcome any major conferences or events to the town.

As a collaboration between the Tourism Section and Angie Laffan and her team in Wexford Municipal District, we will update these signs regularly with a temporary poster containing the logo/name of the conference currently visiting the town. For example, this past weekend, the Irish Road Haulage Association featured on these signs. Feedback from the hotels suggests that the gesture is appreciated by delegates to conferences.

Angling videos: At the recent IFSA Irish Shore Angling competition held in Gorey, promotional videos were shot and produced to advertise the county's exceptional suitability to angling competitions and fishing and angling in general. These videos will be rolled out across the Love Gorey, Visit Wexford and Wexford County Council YouTube channels and social media. It is hoped they will build on the success of the World Shore Angling Championships held in the county in 2016 and encourage such events to return to the county along with increasing individual tourist anglers to County Wexford.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) TEAM

- **Almost 3,700 new jobs created in businesses supported by the Local Enterprise Offices in 2016**
- **103 net new jobs created by LEO clients in County Wexford last year**



A net total of 3,679 new jobs were delivered in 2016 by the 6,846 small businesses from across the country that have been supported by the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), according to the results of the latest LEO annual jobs survey published by Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D.

In County Wexford, the survey also shows that small companies supported by Local Enterprise Office Wexford directly created 197 new jobs in gross terms and 103 new jobs in net terms across the county.

The LEO annual jobs survey monitors employment performance amongst micro enterprises employing 10 people or less that have received direct financial assistance through the LEOs. In 2016, 1,040 business projects around the country were directly supported by the LEOs to the value of €11.4 million. At a local level, 28 business projects in County Wexford received €389,034 through LEO Wexford. LEO Wexford currently has a client portfolio of 187 businesses which support 1,192 jobs.

Alongside direct grant support, LEOs also supported hundreds of entrepreneurs and small businesses with training, mentoring and referral during 2016, aimed at developing business ideas and building company capacity. More than 27,600 people availed of training programmes facilitated by the LEOs nationwide, while almost 7,500 people benefited from one-to-one business mentoring. Locally, 948 people took part in training programmes and 121 businesses availed of specialist mentoring support through Local Enterprise Office Wexford.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT COUNTY ENTERPRISE AWARDS

SCÚP GELATO to represent County Wexford at National Enterprise Awards: Two small businesses from Wexford Town were the big winners at this year's County Enterprise Awards, which were hosted on Friday 10th March by Wexford County Council's Local Enterprise Office Wexford as part of Local Enterprise Week.

The top prize of €2,500 was awarded to Willie Devereux of Scúp Gelato from Wexford Town with runner up Nicky Lambert of Yellow Belly craft beers, also from Wexford Town, receiving a prize of €1,000. Scúp Gelato will now go forward to compete for a share of the €40,000 prize fund in the final of the National Enterprise Awards, to be held in Dublin in May.

Student Enterprise Awards Winners – Tuesday 21st March: The Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) is the biggest enterprise competition for students in Ireland. It helps students to grasp real life skills associated with running a real enterprise including working as part of a team, managing production and finances, organizing a sales and marketing campaign and liaising directly with customers, judges and the media.

Each year over 22,000 students from all over Ireland get to find out what it's really like to be their own boss and run their own business by taking part in the Student Enterprise Programme.

This year over 1400 students from 20 secondary schools in County Wexford took part in the Student Enterprise Programme. At the County Final on Tuesday 21st March in Whites Hotel the following winners, runners up and special awards were announced:

Category	Team Name	Members	School
Junior Section			
Winner	Simply Safer Scents	Sean Bennett	Ramsgrange Community School (Teacher: Louise Walsh)
Runner Up	Two Cracked Yolks	Thomas Coleman, Conor Murphy	Coláiste Abbain (Teacher: Nessa Murphy)
Intermediate Section			
Winner	Phocus	Mira Protopopov – Power Cara Protopopov – Power	Ramsgrange Community School (Teacher: Louise Walsh)
Runner Up	Boker Boys Bobble Beanies	Conor Keane	Coláiste Éamonn Rís (Teacher: Ann Barry)
LCVP/LCA Section			
Winner	Timeless Creations	Brandon Doran	Bunclody Vocational College (Teacher: Sinead Kinsella)
Runner Up	Funky Frames	Alannah Anglim, Leanne Lacey, Simone Kemp, Chelsey Pitman, Meghan Grace Murphy, Jemma Dooley	Selskar College (Teacher: Fiona Kehoe)
Senior Section			
Winner	Knock On Wood	Thomas Devereux, Christopher Glover, Oisín Fortune	St. Peter's College (Teacher: Rory Jacob & Paddy Ryan)

Runner Up	Mermaid Tails	Faith Gardener, Laura Novikova, Rebekah Long	Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy (Teacher: Margo Whelan)
Environmental Section			
Winner	Eco Christmas Trees	Ben Kidd, Sean Kirwin	F.C.J. Bunclody (Teacher: Daithi Flynn)
Runner Up	The Pallet Project	Ava Dempsey, Rachel Greene, Mackenzie O Leary, Rebecca O Sullivan	Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy (Teacher: Margo Whelan)
Merit Awards			
Merit	Bubbles Cosmetics	Niamh Kavanagh, Glenn McEvoy, Harry Ellix, Shay Hayes	Colaiste An Atha, Kilmuckridge (Teacher: Claire Carroll)
Merit	Christmas Wooden Reindeer	Casey Byrne, Stephen Ryan	Bunclody Vocational College (Teacher: Sinead Kinsella)
Merit	Thumb Buddies	Katie Goldsmith, Amy Miller, Caitlin Reville, Kian Quirke	Colaiste Abbain (Teacher: Rita Breen)
Merit	Pixie Passages	Ava McDonald	Gorey Community School (Teacher: Cristin Stephens)

Category	Team Name	Members	School
Special Awards			
Entrepreneurial Educator of The Year 2017		Margo Whelan	Colaiste Bride Enniscorthy
Social Contribution Award 2017	The LCVP Students of Enniscorthy VC	Sarah O Connor Cole, Brona Flynn, Theresa Peare, Ceira Sharpe, Laura Kelly Buckley, Lauren Jackson, Mark Delahunty, Colm O'Connell, Shantel Kennedy, Denis Taurosevocius	Enniscorthy Vocational College (Teacher: Aileen Walsh)
Social Contribution Award 2017	Crochet for Cancer	Aisling Gouldson, Ava Grant, Ali Gunning	Loreto Wexford (Teacher: Annette Byrne)
Social Contribution Award 2017	360 Event Planning	Emer O Doherty, Rosie McGuckian, Sarah Whelan, Eimear Wildes	Gorey Community School (Teacher: Cristin Stephens)

Growing Your Business through International Trade: A very successful seminar, attended by over 60 businesses, was held in the Talbot Hotel on the 9th March as part of Local Enterprise Week. This seminar was run by Bank of Ireland and in association with Enterprise Ireland, Wexford County Council, Local Enterprise Office Wexford and Wexford Chamber of Commerce.

There was an excellent line up of speakers for the Seminar with Martin Corkery, Regional Director, Enterprise Ireland; followed by Gareth Machale, Senior Trader, Bank of Ireland Global Markets; and Ann O'Brien, Managing Director, Kent Stainless (Wexford) Ltd.

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 prepared conceptual designs which are currently under review.

Wexford Quay: Architects Scott Tallon Walker are continuing work on the preparation of an Economic and Spatial Implementation Plan. Public Consultation has been held on 22nd March in Talbot Hotel. A Draft Spatial and Economic Plan Report will be received in April.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: A draft strategy plan has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by Wexford County Council. Meetings with Department Heads will be held 27th March.

Enniscorthy Business Park, Killagoley: Tenders for consultants have been assessed. The appointment process is underway with a contract to be awarded in the next week. The appointed consultants will prepare a masterplan for the development of this 14.5 ha site.

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. A document is in preparation for obtaining expressions of interest from developers willing to partner Wexford County Council.

Gorey Market House: A project has been initiated to determine and procure the best use for the Market House. This will involve the invitation of Expressions of Interest from suitable candidates to make proposals in line with the Council's objectives for the building, and in consideration of its status as a protected structure.

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 27/3/2017 90

Planning application numbers continue to reach figures approaching 40 new applications per week.

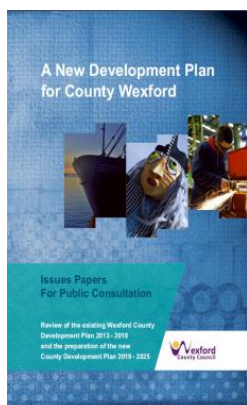
Significant Planning Application granted:

20161222 10/03/2017 Eardownes Great, Our Lady's Island

(Permission for the construction of extensions and alterations to the existing community centre, consisting of the provision of an extended coffee shop and community facilities area at ground floor level and the provision of a community facilities area at first floor level and including all ancillary and associated accommodation and internal alterations and site works.)

Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023: The Chief Executive prepared a report on the submissions and observations received on the proposed material alterations to the Draft LAP and submitted it to the Members on the 16th March 2017. The report was presented and discussed at a special

meeting of Gorey Municipal District which was held on Tuesday, 21st March 2017. The report, together with the changes recommended by Gorey Municipal District, will be considered at the Full Council meeting to be held on the 10th April 2017 when it is anticipated that the LAP will be made. The LAP will come into effect 4 weeks from the day that it is made.



Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019: Written submissions or observations in relation to the review of the existing Plan and the preparation of the new Plan can be made by **4pm on Tuesday, 11th April 2017.**

To date, the Forward Planning team has given a presentation on the Review of CDP to all the Municipal Districts with the exception of the Borough of Wexford District (due the adjournment of their monthly meeting). Public consultation events (one in each Municipal District) are also currently underway.

Once the public consultation period is finished, the Chief Executive will prepare a report on the submissions and observations received and it will also state the Chief Executive's recommendations on the policies to be included in the Draft Plan. The report will be submitted to the Members for their consideration by the end of May, 2017.

Proposed Variation No.2 to the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 (as extended): The proposed Variation, which is currently being prepared by Forward Planning, relates to a c 16ha/40 acre parcel of land located to the south of plan area, east of the N11 National Road and the River Slaney and directly north of St. Senan's Hospital. The purpose of the proposed Variation is to change the land use zoning of the land to allow for a business park which will facilitate office, light industry, manufacturing and incubator type units. Background work is ongoing. Environmental Consultants have also been engaged to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Variation.



Ireland 2040-Our Plan'-The National Planning Framework: The National Planning Framework (NPF) will be a national spatial plan for the Country, taking into account a range of social, economic and environmental factors, with the term 'spatial' meaning 'space' or 'place'. It will replace the existing National Spatial Strategy. The NPF will be a high-level document that will provide the framework for future development and investment in Ireland. It will be the overall Plan from which other more detailed plans will take their lead including city and county development plans and regional strategies. The NPF will also have statutory backing.

An 'Issues and Choices Paper' was launched on the 2nd February 2017. It is a consultation document that has been prepared in advance of the drafting of the new National Planning Framework, and its purpose is to provide members of the public and all interested parties with an overview of some of the main national planning issues that affect Ireland today and to prompt national debate and discussion in relation to the spatial development of Ireland. It also provides the opportunity to submit comments and suggestions on the issues raised and other topics considered relevant to the NPF. It is requested that submissions relate to

matters that are of national significance, are strategic in nature, and have a 'spatial' or 'place-based' focus.

The closing date for submissions has been extended until **12 Noon on Friday 31st March 2017**. A submission has been prepared by Wexford County Council. The submission has been amended to reflect the Members' views. The Council has also been involved in the preparation of joint submission to be made on behalf of the South East Waterford City Region.

Building Control

Commencement Notices: *A total of 26 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	11	Gorey	8
Enniscorthy	5	New Ross	2

Works in Progress: Ongoing works are in progress in the following estate:-

Coill Aoibhinn:	Remedial works are being undertaken to bring the estate up to standard for Taking in Charge.
Old Forest :	Pricing documents are prepared for Old Forest estate in Bunclody.

Works Completed: Works have been completed on the following estates by Building Control:-

- Slaney Woods
- Branogue Park, Riverchapel - Completion works have to be finalised between Wexford County Council and the developer.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

Notices under the Derelict Sites Act 1990

Notices under Section 8(2) Intention to Place Site on Derelict Site Register	2
Notices under Section 8(7) Place Site on Derelict Site Register	5
Section 8(4) No. Removed from Register	1
Section 29 Ownership	0
Number of files closed	3

Notices Issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964:

(Dangerous Structures/Places)

Notices under Section 3(1) Notices requiring works to be carried out (By Owner)	0
No. of files closed	2
• Donaghmore Beach	
• 31 Bride Street , Wexford	

Taking in charge: The following estates have been sent to Irish Water and will be advertised in the next two weeks:-

- Larkfield, Rosslare
- The Paddocks, Mayfield
- Sweet Briar, Rosslare
- Shelbourne Place, Campile
- Cul n Graine, Kilrane
- Oakpark, Ballymurn
- The Grove, Monagear
- Meadowgate, Gorey

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017: The Built Heritage Investment Scheme was developed by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to assist with the repair and conservation of protected structures. Wexford County Council has been allocated a total of €50,000 under the 2017 Scheme. A total of 17 applications were received and these are currently being assessed. The minimum funding for successful projects will be €2,500 up to a maximum of €10,000.

Planning Enforcement: The number of planning enforcement cases up to 24/3/17 are as follows:-

➤ Cases Opened	21
➤ Live Cases	482
➤ Cases Closed	24

Access Section:

Beach Wheelchair Initiative 2017: An event is planned for the 7th of April in recognition and to acknowledge the essential support provided by Wexford County Council's partner groups for all our Beach Wheelchair locations. This will take place in the Council Chamber at 12.30pm.

The Access Officer, following on from the success of Wexford County Council's Beach Wheelchair Initiative has been requested by An Taisce to present at their annual conference taking place in Dublin on the 30th of March.

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

HOUSING

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP): Housing Section met with the Dept of Social Protection in March 2007 and it was agreed that the transfer of long-term rent supplement recipients into HAP from DSP to WCC would commence immediately on a gradual basis of 20 clients per month.

Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS): Two members of staff from Housing Section attended a workshop in The Custom House, Dublin last week and were advised that a circular on the

RLS scheme will issue within the next two weeks which will provide guidance on the operation of the RLS.

The repair and leasing Scheme will provide funding of up to €40,000 per unit to private property owners to enable vacant housing properties to be brought up to standard to be leased to the council for social housing. Housing Section will then proceed to promote this scheme throughout the county and have received expressions of interest already. An Expression of Interest Form is ready to be uploaded and will be available on the Council website shortly.

Buy and Renew Scheme: The Buy and Renew scheme announced recently by Minister Simon Coveney will support LA's and AHB's to purchase and renew housing units in need of remediation, and make them available for social housing use. The focus under the scheme will be on older stock, in particular as part of the response that LA's make in tackling dereliction and improving streetscapes in urban areas/towns.

Wexford County Council will commence a process to identify suitable properties for the scheme in county Wexford.

Housing Supply: A number of housing capital projects have been approved and are progressing to construction stage:-

Funding approved: Following recent approval from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) the following two projects have started construction:-

- **5 Mountain View in Rathnure** – builders onsite, blockwork complete
- **41 St Martin's Park, Ballycullane** – builders onsite, pouring foundations

Construction Projects:

- Construction at Francis Street, Wexford nearing completion (early April handover)
- 2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate, Stage 4 approved, awaiting bond from contractor, commencing onsite in April 2017
- 9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey, tenders for construction due in on 5th April, 2017
- 8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy, Stage 3 approval due in March 2017
- 2 houses in Cois Mara, tenders out on 30th March, 2017

Design Teams:

Design Teams have been contracted for:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| • 36 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford | stage 2, April 2017 |
| • 10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford | stage 2, April 2017 |
| • 10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey | stage 3, May 2017 |
| • 10 Houses in Danescastle | stage 2, April 2017 |

Refugee Resettlement Programme: Seventeen of the 20 refugee families allocated to County Wexford have arrived for the 12 week induction programme at the designated Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. The remaining

3 families are expected to arrive within the coming weeks and all are expected to arrive in Wexford in May / June 2017.

Doras Luimní are the successful tenderer to provide the 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. The support worker will commence employment on 18th April 2017.

Wexford County Council is currently in the process of contracting a designated Intercultural Awareness/Translator whose employment will commence when the families arrive in County Wexford. The list of houses for the families has been finalised and circulated to the other agencies to arrange for the provision of GPs, school places, English language training and crèche places.

An information and intercultural awareness training session will be held both for Wexford County Council members and frontline interagency staff on 10th April 2017. An Interagency Working Group Workshop will take place in Tullamore on 24th April 2017.

South East Regional Homeless Strategy: The local authorities in the south east region and the HSE have commissioned a Feasibility Study and Assessment Model for Homelessness Services in the region. The final report will be presented to the Wexford County Council Housing SPC on April 5th next.

Social Housing Supply Programme 2017-2019: Housing Section has finalised the Wexford County Council social housing supply programme 2017-2019 and will present the programme to the Wexford County Council Housing SPC on April 5th next. This 3 year programme projects the number of social houses to be provided throughout County Wexford by the various social housing supply mechanisms.

ENVIRONMENT

Coastal Matters: A funding announcement on programme of works for 2017 for piers and harbours from the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is expected in April.

No reports of incidences of major coastal damage in winter 2016/17 or any significant damage to harbour infrastructure. New passenger pontoon in Kilmore Quay is completed.

WATER/AIR/NOISE

Water: Septic Tank inspections are ongoing and on target for 150 number for 2017. Catchment investigations ongoing

Noise: Consultants report on Wind Farms in Kilrush area due in April.

Waste Management: The Rapid Response crew for the 1st month of 2017 carried out 200 inspections/clean ups, an increase of 21% for the same period 2016.

COMMUNITY REPORT

Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Communities Facilities Scheme

Background: The Programme for Partnership Government gave a commitment to develop a new Community Development Scheme which would be the responsibility of the Minister of State for Communities. The scheme has evolved into the Communities Facilities Scheme and is targeted at disadvantaged urban and rural areas, but not exclusively so. An allocation of €2 million has been made available for the Scheme in Budget 2017. (64,500 per County). The funding will relate to capital projects only and is intended to help grass roots community projects get underway or take the next step towards completion.

Public Participation Network: Nominations were received for five of the eight vacant PPN Representative seats on Wexford County Council committees, with details to be provided to Wexford County Council following formal acceptance by nominees. Efforts are to be made to fill the remaining seats on an interim basis to ensure a full complement of PPN Reps on Wexford County Council Committees.

Work to develop the Wexford PPN brand continues with the next area of focus to be development of the wexfordppn.ie website.

The Traveller Inter Agency Group: The Traveller Inter Agency Group (TIG) was held on the 10th March 2017. The members outlined their current projects with the Traveller community. It was decided to agree Terms of Reference at the next meeting and prepare a Traveller Inter Agency Strategy in the coming months following consultation of the relevant groups.

Bunclody REDZ: The Bunclody REDZ project is progressing well and a very well attended meeting was held in Bunclody Library on 8th March with representatives from numerous invited community groups and state agencies as well as Council officials. A structure to deliver REDZ has been put in place comprising of a Steering Group, Town Team and a number of Community Action Teams (CATs) who are tasked with delivering specific actions over the next 6 months. The CATs include Enterprise Support CAT, Tourism and Food CAT, Festival CAT, Community Works CAT and Town Enhancement CAT.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Learn To swim Scheme: A number of meetings have taken place in planning with Swim Ireland to run out in the four public pools a comprehensive training and education programme to establish a learn to swim programme which is standardised across facilities. It is Swim Ireland's vision to be recognised as the leading provider of accredited swim teaching, coaching and other aquatic qualifications and programmes across the island of Ireland.

In driving excellence in the industry it is essential that partnerships are developed with key stakeholders in the industry and Wexford County Council is considered one such stakeholder by Swim Ireland.

Overview of Proposal

- Implement Swim Ireland Learn to Swim programme across four facilities
- Qualify teachers working for Wexford County Council with Swim Ireland qualifications
- Deliver School Swimming Lessons as part of Swim Ireland Participation programme

To also partner with the Library Service, under their literacy scheme with the passport resource for each child.

LIBRARIES

Creative Ireland Programme: Creative Ireland is the Government's Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016 – a five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. A public meeting to outline the Creative Ireland Programme and to seek public input into its implementation in County Wexford will be held on Thursday 6th April at 6.30pm in County Hall. A 2017 Creative Ireland County plan will be submitted by the end of April with a comprehensive four year plan to be published in October.

Crinniú na Cásca a cultural celebration on Easter Monday is an initiative of the Creative Ireland programme. In 2017 two Crinniú events will be held in County Wexford: the Easter Monday commemorative event in Enniscorthy which includes a historical re-enactment and a creative event for children and a Family Friendly Cabaret in Wexford Arts Centre with an eclectic mix of local music and spoken word.

Libraries and archives: Contracts have been signed with Patrick Cahill (Graiguenamanagh) Ltd for the supply of a state of the art new mobile library vehicle. The vehicle is expected to be delivered and fitted-out for Autumn 2017 and will serve rural communities and schools in the South of the County.

An exhibition ***The Chosen Few – recipients of the Honorary Freedom of the borough of Wexford*** was launched on 13th March in County Hall. The exhibition, prepared by Archivist Grainne Doran provides an insight into the 31 recipients of the Honorary Freedom of Wexford Borough since 1876.

March 2018 marks the centenary of the death of Wexford born politician John Edward Redmond. Plans are underway by the Government to mark this important event. Librarian Jarlath Glynn has joined a national committee to help organise events including a programme in County Wexford. An exhibition will also be held in June 2017 on Major Willie Redmond the mark the centenary of his death at the Battle of Messines.

ARTS

Music Generation- National Music Education Programme for young people.: The closing date for receipt of applications for this programme is 31st May 2017. Wexford and Waterford County Councils are applying under the lead partner WWETB (Wexford Waterford Education Training Board).

Currently an audit of music provision is taking place in Wexford and Waterford to inform the application. Focus group consultations will happen in April. Questionnaires have been sent to all schools. The Steering committee comprises representatives from WWETB, Arts Officers, musicians, composers, school principals and youth services from both counties.

Arts Ability Exhibition 'Crocodile Sky' opened on 28th March in County Hall and includes poetry readings and a new book launched by the centres. **Sinead O'Reilly** head of Local Arts and Arts Participation in Arts Council performed the launch.

An exhibition of artwork by students participating in the **Living Arts Programme** opened in Wexford Arts Centre on Saturday 1st April. The programme ran from Sept 2016- April 2017 in four schools with four artists assigned to the schools and working with 4 artist's interns and 4 mentors.

Artist in the Community Scheme 19 artists have been selected for the panel across all art forms. The artists attended a WPPN networking evening at the end of February. Closing date for receipt of applications from community groups is 6th April 2017.

VETERINARY SECTION

Food Safety/FSAI Contract: There will be an FSAI liaison meeting on the 29th March in the Co. Hall. The budget allocation from FSAI was notified and the yearly allocation is €191,928.00. The required ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections were carried out in the abattoirs. A Compliance Notice was served on a meat plant during the month. The operator complied with the notice.

Avian Influenza: wild bird cases in Ireland: The Department has confirmed that the requirement to confine poultry and other birds under the Avian Influenza Precautionary Confinement of Birds Regulations 2016 will continue until 30 April.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Training: Weekly training classes have commenced for 2017 in Wexford, New Ross and Gorey. We will hold a joint services exercise with Wexford Fire Service on Wednesday 29th March. The exercise will simulate a road traffic collision.

Civic Duties: There was a total of 3 Civic Duties for March 2017, a total of 9 duties so far for 2017.

Holyfort Tidy Towns - 3 K Fun Run - 19th March 2017.

We also provided ambulance cover for the St Patricks Day parades in Wexford and Gorey. Wexford and New Ross Units marched in the parade in Wexford and New Ross.

Any other business:

Regional Competition 2017: Wexford Civil Defence hosted the Regional Competition on 25th March in the Curracloe area. We have five elements to the competition, Foot Drill, Team Challenge, Search and Communications and two casualty / first aid sites. Four teams took part, Carlow, Cork South, Dublin, and Waterford. Waterford won the Foot Drill competition and Carlow were the winners of the skills section.

New Mini Bus: Wexford Civil Defence received a grant to replace one of our old minibuses. We have purchased a 141 reg white Transit.

Drone Deployment - Blacksod Rescue 116: Wexford Civil Defences Drone operator, Mr. Liam Buckley travelled to Blacksod on Friday 24th March to help with the ongoing search for Rescue 116.

3. Transportation, Water Services:

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

1. N25 NEW ROSS BYPASS

Progress Update March 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. The works are progressing well and the road remains on programme to open in early 2019.

Earthworks operations are now progressing throughout the western half of the scheme between Glenmore and Ballymacar, and blasting operations are ongoing in cut 3 at Stokestown and cut 4 at Camlin. It is anticipated that there will be 2 blasting events per week in both cuts for the coming months. Site clearance works are also progressing along the eastern half of the scheme from Ballymacar to Corcoran's Cross. Earthwork activities will intensify over this section in the coming months. Approximately 600,000 tonnes of earthworks material have been excavated to date.

Piling operations are complete for pier 4 of the Barrow Bridge (river pier) and foundation works for all piers and abutments are currently being progressed. A tower crane has been erected at Pink Rock to facilitate the construction of pier 3. It is anticipated that bridge piers will progress in the coming months. Following the lifting of bridge beams for the R733 Campile Road Underbridge, the completion of the bridge deck is progressing. Works are also progressing on the Stokestown Road Underbridge and Ballymacar Road Underbridge, and preparatory works have commenced on Camlin Road Overbridge and Crekan Road Underbridge. Works are also progressing on six farm underpasses and a number of watercourse culverts.

Temporary traffic management operations and associated statutory 60 km/h speed limits will be implemented to facilitate the construction of roundabouts on the N25 at Ballymacar and Glenmore. It is anticipated that these will commence in April and May respectively and continue for a number of months. Information signs will be erected a week before the operations commence and traffic management layouts and signage will guide road users safely through and around the works site. The works at Ballymacar will also require a temporary diversion of the N25 around the site of the roundabout and a 4 week temporary closure of the L-8056 local road has also been notified to facilitate these works.

Traffic management will also be implemented for temporary diversions of the following local roads in the coming months. These are to temporarily divert traffic around the sites of new bridges to facilitate their construction.

- L8046-1 Crekan Upper road - anticipated end March for two months
- L4026-2 Stokestown road - anticipated end April for two months
- L4021 Arnestown road - anticipated mid May for four months
- L4008-2 Ryleen road - anticipated mid May for three months

Traffic management for the permanent realignment of the Stokestown Road (L4026) at Landscape is scheduled to start at end of April for a short duration. It will be necessary to employ stop/go traffic operations for some periods of time during these traffic management operations, but these will be kept to a minimum and for as short a duration as possible.



The fourth quarterly project newsletter was published at the end of March and circulated widely at local conveniences and public buildings. 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. 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. Barrow Bridge - Tower crane and pier 3 base in foreground with Pier 4 in background.





2. Barrow Bridge - Pier 4 (river pier) with piling complete.

3. Barrow Bridge - Pier 3 base at Pink Rock awaiting concrete pour.



4. Earthworks operations in Cut 3 at Stokestown in foreground, earthworks



operations at Cut 4 in Camlin in background.
5. R733 Stokestown Road Underbridge



6.Farm

accommodation underpass under construction

2. M11 GOREY TO ENNISCORTHY PPP SCHEME UPDATE

Program

The contractor has 65% of their certified design issued for construction and is on target in their overall program for construction. The Permit to Use date remains the same of July 2019.

Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in November	Progress Reported in December	Progress Reported in Jan 2017	Progress Reported in February	Progress Reported in March
Site Clearance	96%	96%	98%	98%	98%
Fencing	85%	85%	85%	86%	86%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	7%	7%	9%	10%
Earthworks	17%	23%	25%	26%	28%
Structures – main Bridges				3%	6%
Structures – Culverts	24%	29%	38%	45%	49%
Structures – Access Structures	5%	12%	17%	25%	33%
Accommodation Works	6%	6%	8%	8%	8%

- Works are continuing on the main structures
- Piling operations for the River Slaney and River Urrin have commenced
- Earthworks completed in the last reported period:-
 - Mainline M11, Total volume Cut to Fill 6,545m³
 - N30, Total volume Cut to Fill 55,869m³
 - N80, topsoil strip has commenced, access road completed to river Slaney

Blasting

Rock Blasting is continuing on a weekly basis at Frankfurt interchange, Knockrathkyle (Darby's Gap) area and between Bessmount and Templescoby. Affected landowners have been notified by the contractor 14 days in advance of blasting commencing and 3 days by either text or a phone call in advance of the blast taking place. Results to date for Vibration and Noise Monitoring have returned below the maximum permitted levels for the contract.

L1027 Ballygullen Road

Works have commenced by the PPP Company on the L1027 Ballygullen Road to repair damage to the edge of pavement and to repair potholes between the N11 and the site access at Ballygullen.

Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

Road Closure Applications

WCC are progressing the following road closure applications

Road	Application Status	Closure Date	Duration	Status
L2020, Ballynabarny	Granted	Nov 2016	3 months	Reopened 23/1/17
L5093, Rocksprings Road	Granted	Jan 2017	6 months	Open June 2017
L2021, Crane Road	Submitted	March 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L2012, Killalligan Road	Granted	Feb 2017	6 months	Open Sept 2017
L6122, Templescoby	Submitted	April 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L6125, Monart East	Granted	Feb 2017	6 months	Open Aug 2017
L6055, Drumgold Road	Submitted	March 2017	6 months	Postponed
L2040, Knockrathkyle	Granted	Feb 2017	6 months	Open Sept 2017
L6052, Scurlocksbush	Granted	March 2017	6 months	Open Aug 2017
L1027, Ballygullen Road	Submitted	April 2017	2 months	Statutory Process

Public Relations

Drone Survey

The Drone survey is completed and will be uploaded on to the Council website once permissions have been granted.

Newsletter

The Newsletter for Q1 of 2017 has been uploaded on the website. The N11 website WWW.m11gtoe.ie is updated on a monthly bases providing information on blasting and 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.

M11 Mainline Ch 0 - 21500



Shaping batters Frankfurt Area



Topsoiling of batters on Access Road AR03 at Frankfort



Drilling for rock blasting at Frankfort



Structure at L1027 Ballygullen road at site access



Wheelwash installed and at Ballygullen Site Access

M11 Mainline Ch 21500-28000



Plate Bearing Testing Monroe Link Rd



Capping Monroe Link Rd



Stockpiling Topsoil Ch 22+000

N30



Placing Class 1 N30 Fill4 – Urrin River View North

N80



Topsoil Strip at Approaches to Slaney River



View from Slaney River Looking West



Haul Road Preparation N80 Looking West

Structures



Extension underpass, Frankfort



N30 River Urrin Piling Operation



N30-S5- Reinforced Earth at L2030 Bessmount Road

2016 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

TII initially allocated a sum of €5,394,000 for road re-surfacing and minor improvement works in 2016. Some of the schemes are due to be completed in 2017.

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 Killealy Road

This scheme will be carried out as 2 contracts.

Contract 1 from Milehouse to Monart East will be carried out April.

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 May.

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 late April/early May.

2017 National Road Pavement Schemes

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following scheme.

N11 Ferns Village

Archaeology investigations will be carried out in May. It is expected this scheme will be tendered in the July.

Additional Road 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. TII will release funding as these schemes are tendered during the year.

Ballynabola to Cushenstown Pavement Scheme

Tenders were invited in March. This scheme should commence in June.

Ballygillane Little Pavement Scheme

Survey works have been completed. Tenders were invited on 27th. March with a tender return date of 13th. April. This scheme should commence in May.

N25 Ballygoman to Knockeen Pavement Scheme

Survey works will be completed in April. This scheme will be tendered in early June.

Winter Maintenance

The 2016/2017 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 17th. October. There have been 43 no. call outs up to 26th. January 2017.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Strengthening

Macadam surfacing at Annagh Lane and Ballyteegan (both in Gorey District).

Strengthening programme commenced on Monday March 6 in the Gorey District.

Woks completed to date: Ballyregan Lane, Island Cross to Shrulue and Ferns to Kiltown (all in Gorey District). Ballymurn to Ballinkeel (Enniscorthy District).

Preparation works for strengthening ongoing in New Ross and Wexford Districts.

Road realignment works ongoing at Ballykelly (New Ross District).

Improvement Works

Footpath and road surfacing works ongoing at The Avenue (Gorey District).

General Maintenance

Drainage, patching and road surface repair works 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)

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 complete. 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. Foreshore application was lodged. 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 complete. 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. Negotiations for wayleaves ongoing with landowners.

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 engaged Consultants to carry out an 'Untreated Agglomeration Study' for Duncannon, Kilmore Quay, Ballyhack and Arthurstown. An 'Options Report' and a final design report is complete.

Irish Water have gone to tender to procure a Consultant for the next stage which is design and tender to provide a treatment plant for the 4 villages.

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 watermain rehab at Gorey, Screen and Bridgetown. Site investigation works took place at the end of 2016. Site investigations identified high levels of PAH in some areas and further testing is required to limit the amount of specialist disposal of spoil.

Construction of these watermain are scheduled to start end of March, 2017 and will be undertaken by Wexford County Council's direct labour crew. The section at Screen will be the first to commence.

IW Asset Management: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

Site Investigation works are 16% complete and estimated for completion by the end of May. The hydraulic model for Wexford town is to be updated to allow for the design works to progress; work on this has commenced. There will be a number of road closures around Wexford town week commencing the 27th February in relation to this project.

New Ross Sewerage Scheme – Irishtown to Nunnery Lane Sewers

Finalised tender documents have been received from T.J. O'Connor and this contract has gone to tender. The estimate for the construction works is €627k. Wayleave agreements have been drafted and are currently with the convent's solicitor for signing.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme

Works 95% complete. Snagging ongoing.

Sewer network pump station maintenance contract

Works ongoing in New Ross area.

WWTP pre-planned Maintenance Contract

Approved by IW. At Tender stage.

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

IW to arrange meeting with Contractor Avonmore.

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

Civil works complete on both sites.

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. Works to commence early May.

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

Tenders with IW at present.

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

Contract to be re-tendered.

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. 4 reports received to date – Newtown, Ballygarron 2, Ballynellard and Glynn). Remaining thirty three (33) Phase 1 site assessments to commence on the 4th April 2017. Progress meeting No. 3 held on 16 th February 2017. Value Engineering Workshop held in Kilkenny on 13th and 14th March. Aecom to provide feedback on comments/queries made at the Value Engineering Workshop and to update site assessment reports accordingly.

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

Allocations – Measure 2

Awaiting request from the Department for our submission for funding for 2017.

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

Tender assessment ongoing.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme

Takeover application forwarded to group

WATER CONSERVATION

1.0 Leak Detection:

Water Conservation Leak Detection Team located a total of 25 leaks in February 2017.

1.1 Leak Repairs:

A total of 26 no. leaks repaired in February 2017.

1.2 Leak Detection Team Additional Works:

- Installing flow meters and pressure loggers in all district areas ongoing.
- Calibrating Flow meter loggers.
- Planned Leak Detection in Enniscorthy and New Ross DMA's. Find and Fix funding approved by IW for both areas.
- Reviewing flow data.
- Leak Reports.
- Taking in Charge Leak and Hydrant Surveys (Ongoing).

1.3 Leak Repair Summary:

To date a total of 10,350 recorded leaks have been located and repaired since February 2003.

8,854 leaks on the public side
1,496 leaks on the private side

1.4 Watermains Rehabilitation Summary:

- Completed Direct Labour Crew Projects:
 1. Connecting Clohamon to Bunclody complete (Marker Plates to be installed).
 2. Pipe rehabilitation at Mayview Park, Oulart.
 3. Clearistown (Glór Na Gaoithe) 95% complete. To be connected.
 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. The first block is now complete. Works to commence on second block of houses shortly.
- ANB for replacing BYS including installation of a new main to facilitate supplies to four houses in JKL estate (New Ross) approved.
- ANB for replacing BYS including installation of a new main to facilitate supplies to two houses in St. Johns Villas (Enniscorthy) awaiting approval.

1.5 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.

1.6 Pressure Management:

- Trial on Day & Night PRV Controllers are been installed at 16No. PRV sites Countywide. Day & night controllers installed at two sites Ard Carman and Pollshone South. 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 and HWM visited Wexford and provided training to staff.
- 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.
- PRV was installed 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. Currently with the Area Engineer.
- 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. The equipment for this work has been assembled and work will progress in the weeks ahead.
- 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. Telemetry units installed at Taylorstown intake and WTP. Telemetry unit with Solar/Wind power generator has been installed at Taylorstown tower. Commissioning of these units will commence then in preparation for the upgrade to the WTP. All RTU installations have been completed at Taylorstown Intake Plant & Tower. Some programming changes required and will be completed within the next week.
- 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:

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

Estates and Corrections to System are continuously being surveyed and digitised on the Arc GIS system.

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 now finalised on the 2016 Accounts. The statutory date for submission of the accounts to the DHPCLG was 31st March 2017. A full report together with a copy of the accounts will be submitted to members for consideration at the next meeting.

The Local Government Auditor is continuing some preliminary work on the LGAS audit of the 2016 Accounts.

Audit Committee

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

Borrowing – Housing Loans

The allocation for borrowing to fund the Housing Loans Programme for 2017 has been received and is confirmed at €3,500,000. A separate report seeking the approval of members to this level of borrowing is included as a specific item on the agenda.

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.**