



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**MAY 2017**

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

### **1.Economic Development and Planning & Special Projects:**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

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**Wexford County Council announce partnership with Bank of Ireland:** On April 25<sup>th</sup> 2017, Chairman of Wexford County Council Cllr Paddy Kavanagh announced that Wexford County Council is embarking on an exciting new 5-year partnership with Bank of Ireland to deliver a unique enterprise start-up facility.

The *Hatch Lab* is located on the M11 Business Campus in Gorey, County Wexford and offers incubation and co-working facilities for fledgling micro-enterprises within the innovation and technology sector. The state-of-the-art facilities available have been modelled on similar world-class innovation centres both in Ireland and abroad, with the result that clients and companies from across the south-east region who choose to locate in *the Hatch Lab* can enjoy services such as hot-desks, meeting space, joint administrative services and high-speed broadband within a unique co-working and start-up environment.

Commenting on the partnership launch Mr Tom Enright, Chief Executive of Wexford County Council said, *"We are delighted to have Bank of Ireland partner with us in delivering this new regional concept for start-up enterprises. Bank of Ireland has a proven expertise in mentoring and growing fledgling enterprise as evidenced through their highly successful "Workbench" programme and we believe that by pooling resources and expertise from across both organisations, we can deliver a suite of programmes and supports to start-up and growing enterprises unrivalled by anything currently on offer in Ireland and make The Hatch Lab an exciting and successful space to grow global enterprises.*

*The Hatch Lab is located in Gorey, one of Ireland's most vibrant boutique towns and less than 45 minutes from the M50, These purpose-built offices provide an attractive and desirable alternative to businesses who are looking for a strategic and cost-effective location for their enterprise while meeting the very real needs of employees in terms of cost of living and improved quality of life.*

The event was attended by Councillors, local Chambers of Business, SPC members and press.

**National Broadband Plan:** On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the Department announced the publication of an updated High Speed Broadband Map for the Country. The new map includes over 300,000 premises that will now get commercial High Speed Broadband by the end of 2018 - representing a major milestone in the National Broadband Plan. This means that at least 1.8m premises will have access to High Speed broadband by the end of 2018. This map also finalises the State Intervention Area for the procurement process so that preferred bidders can now prepare their tender submissions.

In county Wexford the total number of premises is 81,796, and the following designation is:

- Amber Premises Intervention Area: 21,785
- Blue Premises, Commercial Operators: 39,674
- Light Blue Premises – Planned Commercial Rural Deployment: 20,337

The Map has been updated to take account of industry investments that have not fully materialised in the BLUE area, along with concrete and credible commitments by industry for further new investments (LIGHT BLUE).

The interactive map is available on the Departments website, [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie).  
(direct link:

<http://www.dccae.gov.ie/ene/communications/topics/Broadband/national-broadband-plan/high-speed-broadband-map/Pages/Interactive-Map.aspx> )

Residents can check the status of their premises by entering their eircode in the Eircode Finder Box, Entering their address or zooming in on the map.

## TOURISM TEAM

- **Jestfest Comedy Festival** is due to take place on the May Bank Holiday weekend. This event is sponsored by the Economic Development section of Wexford County Council.
- **Visit Wexford will host a stand at the Balmoral Show in Belfast**, Antrim from the 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The stand will be hosted by the Tourism Industry including both Accommodation providers and Tourism attractions across the county representing Wexford at the Show.
- **The Norman Way cycling and leisure route will be officially launched on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> in Lady's Island at 10am.** Signage and marketing for the route was made possible by a grant from Failte Ireland's Ancient Spaces under the proposition 'Ireland's Ancient East' and matched by Wexford County Council.
- **Visit Wexford are rolling out a new Marketing campaign for 2017** including an increase in new technologies such as Digital & Social media and also Press marketing and publicity in order to adapt to changes in consumer tastes for communication methods and also to enable language translation for targeting and support for overseas visitors.
- **Visit Wexford are compiling a new tourism booklet brochure for 2017** which will be available for the summer season 2017. All providers were consulted on being part of the brochure and as well as given free listings, could purchase advertising space in the brochure.
- **Wexford hosted the inaugural National Tourism Conference Match 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>** entitled 'Collaborate Locally to Compete Globally'. The event was the first of its kind which brought speakers from global tourism providers such as Tripadvisor; and Centerparcs as well as Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland and national leaders such as Tayto Park, University of Limerick; and the

National Opera House. Delegates were welcomed with a banquet using Wexford produce sponsored by Wexford County Council along with a display of Pikemen from the Enniscorthy Re-enactment society and were offered free tours of Enniscorthy Castle.

## **LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) TEAM**

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**The National Final of the Student Enterprise Programme** will take on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Croke Park Dublin. Students from all over the country will gather in Croke Park to decide who the best student entrepreneurs in the country are. The following projects and students will represent LEO Wexford:

### *Junior Section*

- Simply Safer Scents- Sean Bennett (Ramsgrange Community School)

### *Intermediate Section*

- Phocus - Mira Protopopov – Power and Cara Protopopov – Power (Ramsgrange Community School)

### *Senior Section*

- Knock On Wood - Thomas Devereux, Christopher Glover, Oisín Fortune (St. Peter's College)

We wish them all the best of luck!

## **Wexford Green Business Conference 2017**

Date: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Time: 09.30am – 3.00pm  
Venue: Wexford County Council

Sponsored by the EPA and Wexford County Council, and held in association with Econcertive, Wexford LEO, Kilkenny LEO, Wexford Chamber and Kilkenny Chamber, this conference is designed to bring first-hand knowledge on a variety of green topics to businesses.

**National Enterprise Awards 25<sup>th</sup> May:** The 2017 NEA Final will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin 2.

31 Finalists from around the LEO Network will seek to be crowned the National Enterprise Award winner for 2017. Willie Devereux of SCUP Gelato will represent LEO Wexford at the final and we wish him the very best of luck.

## **Wexford Business Awards 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Winners and runners-up in each of the 16 award categories and the overall Wexford Business of the Year Award 2017 will be announced at the official Wexford Business Awards Gala Ceremony, by well-known TV and radio personality, Hector Ó

hEochagáin, on Friday, 26th May 2017 in Clayton Whites Hotel, Abbey Street, Wexford

LEO Wexford sponsored the Start-Up Business Category and the following companies are shortlisted for the award:

- Summit Scaffolding Ltd.
- Kubez Hair and Beauty
- Elevation Construction Network
- Designbytes
- Talbot Suites at Stonebridge
- Gilly & Rob Ltd.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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**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. Preparation of detailed design and contract documents will continue in May/June.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Talbot Hotel. A Draft Spatial and Economic Plan Report will be received this month.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** The Strategy Plan is being finalised with a view to presentation to members in May/June.

**Enniscorthy Business Park, Killagoley:** Consultants have been appointed and have commenced work on the Masterplan for the site.

**New Ross Business Park:** A document is being prepared to obtain Expressions of Interest from development partners for the construction of an advanced technology building. A document is in preparation for obtaining expressions of interest from developers willing to partner Wexford County Council and this process will begin in May.

**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.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Funding of €1m has been approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. Wexford County Council have committed to providing matching funding. A design team will be appointed to review existing plans and to develop a detailed design. Funding must be expended by March 2020.

## PLANNING

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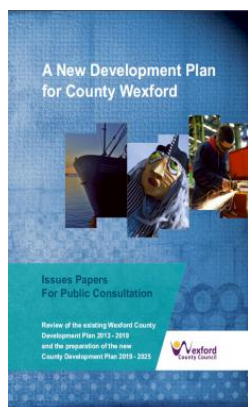
### ***Planning Applications:***

*No. of valid applications received up to 21/04/2017*

55

**Making of 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 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The report was presented and discussed at a Special Meeting of Gorey Municipal District which was held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The CE Report, together with the changes recommended by Gorey Municipal District, was considered at Full Council meeting which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Council decided to make the Local Area Plan.

The LAP will come into effect 4 weeks from the day that it is made.



### **Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Preparation of New Plan for the County:**

To date, the Forward Planning team has prepared and circulated Issues Papers, given a presentation on the Review of the CDP to all the Municipal Districts with the exception of the Borough of Wexford District (due the adjournment of their monthly meeting) and held a public consultation event was also held in each Municipal District.

During the consultation period, which ended on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 40 submissions were received.

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. It is anticipated that 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 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. This project is a key element of the Councils economic strategy.

The Variation was presented to Enniscorthy Municipal District on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2107. An SEA Screening Report has been prepared and has been sent to Environmental Authorities for consultation. An Appropriate Assessment (Stage1/Stage2) is also being prepared.

## Building Control

**Commencement Notices:** A total of 48 valid commencement notices have been submitted from the 1/4/2017 to 21/04/2017 on the BCMS.

**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 have been sent to contractors.  
Bunclody

**Taking in Charge:** The following estates have been approved for taking in charge by Irish Water and have now proceeded to the public consultation stage. They were advertised in the local paper on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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

The latest day for the receipt of written objections/representations is 4.00 p.m. on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

## Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 0

Notices Issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964  
(Dangerous Structures/Places) 2

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

➤ Cases Opened	43
➤ Live Cases	477
➤ Cases Closed	51

**District Court Case Closed:** An Order was made by a Judge in the District Court on 19/4/2017 prohibiting the repair or letting of the Old Carriage Factory at



Springvalley, Enniscorthy, following legal proceedings taken by Wexford County Council against the owner of the building to recover costs amounting to €4,474.00 which were incurred by the Council as a result of work carried out to make this Dangerous Structure safe in December 2014. The owner must also pay the Council's legal costs of €800.00 in this case.

## **Access Section:**

**Beach Wheelchair Initiative 2017:** On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April Wexford County Council held a luncheon event to acknowledge the essential support provided by partner groups for the Council's Beach Wheelchair Initiative. This event also marked the start of the 2017 Beach Wheelchair Service for three locations; Morriscastle, Curracloe and Carne with bookings already taken for the Easter holiday period.

**Gorey Garda Station:** The accessibility works, which are now almost complete, are a prime example of interagency and interdepartmental collaboration. This partnership between the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Wexford County Council through the Access Section, Roads Department and the Gorey Municipal District will result in Gorey Garda Station, a classified protected structure of Architectural importance, and the surrounding footpaths and parking facilities becoming not just accessible but also designed to enhance the attractiveness of the immediate area.

**Slade Harbour Update:** Preliminary works, the securing and restoration of the heritage structure the harbour/slat house stone wall; will commence the week of 24<sup>th</sup> April. The primary accessibility works are expected to commence on completion of the preliminary works which are expected to take up to a period of six weeks.

**Access for All Garden Parks and Community Spaces:** Following on from the resounding success, of the Access for All Gardens Parks and Community Spaces Competition Awards, piloted in 2015, the Access Section will in conjunction with the Environment Department launch another Competition Award this year. The success of the four award winning entries from 2015 can be viewed, first hand, in the video production commissioned by the Access Section which will be shown at the launch and available afterwards on the Councils website.

**Disability Access Certificates (DAC):** The current number of Disability Access Certificate applications validated for up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> of April totals 11.





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

### HOUSING

**Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):** Following a recent meeting with the Dept of Social Protection the transfer of long-term rent supplement recipients into HAP has now commenced.

**Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS):** Following the recent advertisement of the Repair and Leasing Scheme Wexford County Council have received a number of expressions of interest. This 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. The Expression of Interest Form is available on the Council's website.

**Buy and Renew Scheme:** The Buy and Renew scheme 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. WCC are awaiting the issue of the dept circular before commencing the 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.

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

- **Francis Street, Wexford** – nearing completion, expect handover in April, 2017
- **5 Mountain View in Rathnure** – Construction proceeding on programme
- **41 St Martin's Park, Ballycullane** – superstructure progressing to programme
- **2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate** - Stage 4 approved, contracts signed, commencing on site on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017
- **9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey** – awaiting tender recommendation. Stage 4 to follow.
- **8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy** - Stage 3 approved in April 2017. Construction tenders due back on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Stage 4 to follow tender recommendation.
- **2 houses in Cois Mara** – Stage 3 approved, construction tenders due on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Stage 4 to follow tender recommendation.

**Design Teams:** Design Teams have been contracted for:

- 36 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford – stage 2 submission in May 2017
- 10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford – stage 2 to be submitted in May 2017
- 10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey – awaiting stage 2 approval
- 10 Houses in Danescastle – preparing stage 2 submission for May 2017

**Refugee Resettlement Programme:** Ms Hannah Culkin, Doras Luimní has started work on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and she will be 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.

Wexford County Council is currently assessing tenders for the recruitment of a designated Intercultural Awareness/Translator whose employment is due to commence in June 2017.

**Social Housing Supply Programme 2017-2019:** A 3-year Social Housing Supply Programme 2017-2019 has been developed by the Housing Dept and it was presented to the Housing, Community & Environment SPC on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. This programme projects the number of social houses to be provided throughout County Wexford by the various social housing supply mechanisms. It was also presented to the four Municipal District meetings in April. There will be regular review and progress reports on the implementation of the programme.

**Housing Needs Assessment:** The Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government has directed that each Local Authority prepare a summary of the social housing assessments carried out in each administrative area. This will identify the net housing need in County Wexford, i.e. the number of qualified households on the housing list whose housing needs have not been met as at 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

This will involve a re-examination/re-interview of households that have already been approved for social housing support, in order to ascertain if households are still seeking, and remain, for eligible for social housing supports. Existing Social Housing Support applicants will be contacted by the Housing Section, by post at the address they provided and requested to complete and return a short application form together with other additional information on the household's current circumstances including its housing situation, composition and income.

## **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**

**Draft Playground Strategy:** The Draft Playground Strategy has been prepared to facilitate the strategic sustainable development of playgrounds in County Wexford.

This strategy maps the current playground provision in the county and includes in this process both Local Authority and non Local Authority playgrounds. This mapping exercise has illustrated provision, overlaps and gaps in the play opportunities available in County Wexford. The strategy sets out a framework for the future development of play provision in the county by enabling local communities to develop and manage play facilities at a community level.

Play is essential to the social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional development of the child. Play is recognised as a way in which children learn about their world. The developmental nature of play makes it even more vital for children with disabilities.

The strategic focus of any future playground development will be in areas of the county that lack playground provision, hard to reach communities, and those areas experiencing social exclusion and marginalisation. This strategy has been prepared by Wexford County Council to provide a five year plan that identifies the provision requirements and delivery mechanism for playground development across the county in a cost effective and strategic manner. The Draft Strategy sets out 4 strategic policies.

**Strategic Policy 1:** This strategy sets out the framework for three categories of playground based on location, use and size of playground.

**Strategic Policy 2:** Playground Locations.

**Strategic Policy 3:** Future Playground Provision.

**Strategic Policy 4:** General Design and Play Value Objectives.

## **Wexford County Council Draft Community Funding Scheme 2017-2020**

**Introduction:** The Community Funding Scheme aims to promote, enhance and develop community development and social inclusion activity throughout the county. This funding scheme through the provision of small scale financial grants will support

the invaluable work of local community and voluntary groups, organisations and residents committees in County Wexford.

**Funding: Community Infrastructure supports:** This Scheme will be funded from Development Contributions. The funding provision in Year 1 will be €100,000. This budget will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Eligible Projects under this measure	Levels of Support under this measure
Local community facilities, construction and refurbishment.	Maximum grant payable is €25,000. Grant will not exceed 80% of the total cost of the project. Evidence of matching funding must be provided.

## SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

**Learn To swim Scheme:** A number of meetings have taken place in planning with Swim Ireland to run out in the five 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 five facilities
- Qualify teachers working for the Centres with Swim Ireland qualifications
- Deliver School Swimming Lessons to Deis schools 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, ARTS & ARCHIVES

The **Creative Ireland Programme** was recently launched by Minister Heather Humphries. An Open Meeting on Creative Ireland took place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April** in County Hall. Over 200 people attended, the highest turnout to date in Ireland. A County Wexford Creative Ireland 2017 activation plan has been submitted to the Creative Ireland national office and will be launched at the end of May.

A more complete 4 year Creative Ireland Plan will be launched in October. As part of the **Creative Ireland** programme the first Cruinniú na Cásca Culture day was held in County Wexford on Easter Monday. A large crowd attended family events in the Athenaeum Enniscorthy and a family cabaret was held in Wexford Art Centre.

**Wexford County Council Public Library Service Online Digital Archive** was launched in Wexford Library on Tuesday 25th April by Cllr. Frank Staples, Cathaoirleach of Wexford Municipal District. Also that evening Wexford Public Library Service formally accepted the bequest of the **Art Book Collection from the late Mairead Furlong** and a presentation was made to her husband Nicky Furlong.

**New Wexford Arts Plan**, the consultation for the next Wexford 5 year Arts plan will involve focus group meetings with artists, arts organisations and other stakeholders around the county from 29 May to 2 June 2017; online surveys will be circulated and briefings given for Municipal District meetings. This plan will build on consultations and findings from the Creative Wexford Report and County Development Plans, Dept of Arts and Arts Council Strategic Plans. First draft will be available by the end of June 2017.

**Music Generation**, is the National Music Education Programme for young people. The call for funding scheme 2017-2020 closes on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. An audit of music provision is taking place in Wexford and Waterford for the application. Focus group consultations were held on 24<sup>th</sup> April (Wexford County Hall) & 26 April (Creagh Community College Gorey). One to one meetings are currently taking place with key stakeholders throughout Wexford & Waterford. Surveys were sent to all schools.

The steering committee consists of WWEETB, Arts Officers Wexford & Waterford, Musicians, composers Wexford and Waterford, School Principals and Youth Services.

**Spring into Storytime.** A national literacy initiative has been running in all public libraries in April to encourage parents and carers read more with their children. The staff in each library in County Wexford hosted several storytime events this month, using their expertise to encourage parents to replicate their storytelling and help them build their child's literacy at home.

**The Readers' Voice.** Literature Laureate Anne Enright interviewed Roddy Doyle in Wexford Library on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April as part of the Six Writers, Six Libraries initiative. This discussion from contemporary literature was attended by book club members, broadcast on RTE Radio Sean O'Rourke Show and streamed live on Facebook.

## **VETERINARY SECTION**

**Food Safety/FSAI Contract:** A liaison meeting took place at County Hall with FSAI was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March in the County Hall. No major issues arose.

**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**

**Competitions:** Wexford Civil Defence took part in a Regional Competition in Meath on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The competition was held on the Tara Mines facility in Navan. Teams from Dublin, Monaghan, Cavan, Louth and Wexford took part. The Wexford Team won the foot drill element and were placed second overall in the combined services element. The presentation dinner was held in Navan and was attending by Minister Paul Kehoe TD.

**Civic Duties:** There was a total of 9 Civic Duties for April 2017, a total of 18 duties so far for 2017.

Three volunteers will attend a graduation ceremony in the Civil Defence College on 26<sup>th</sup> April after completion of their EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) course.

## **3. Transportation, Water Services:**

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

#### **New Ross By-Pass:**

##### **Progress Update April 2017**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland awarded the PPP Contract to a BAM Iridium consortium (the PPP Co.) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The PPP Co's contractor for the works is a BAM Civil Ltd and Dragados Ireland Ltd joint venture. The works are progressing well and the road remains on programme to open in 2019.

Earthworks operations are continuing throughout the western half of the scheme between Glenmore and Ballymacar, including rock blasting at Stokestown and Camlin. It is anticipated that there will be 2 blasting events per week in both cuts for the coming weeks. Site clearance works are substantially complete along the eastern half of the scheme from Ballymacar to Corcoran's Cross and earthworks activities will intensify over this section in the coming months. Approximately 30% of earthworks are estimated to be completed to date.

Foundations for all piers and abutments on the Barrow Bridge are either complete or well progressed, and works on bridge pier lifts up to bridge deck level will progress in the coming months for all eight piers. The bridge deck for the R733 Campile Road Underbridge has been poured and finishing works will continue without further interruption to the R733. Works are also progressing on the Stokestown Road Underbridge and Ballymacar Road Underbridge, and preparatory works have commenced on Camlin Road Overbridge, Creakan Road Underbridge and

Arnestown Road Overbridge. Works are also progressing on a large number of farm underpasses, and watercourse culverts are substantially complete. Access arrangements for farms severed by the works are being implemented in consultation with the respective farmers pending the completion and availability of underpasses and/or permanent access roads.

Significant 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 late May or June and continue for a number of months. Information signs will be erected before the operations commence, media bulletins will be broadcast 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 Creakan Upper road - anticipated end April 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 two months

Statutory notices for temporary road closures have been published. Separate traffic management for the permanent realignment of the Stokestown Road (L4026) further along the road at Landscape is scheduled to start in early May 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 durations as possible.

All site access points on the N25, N30 and R733 are now operational, and wheel wash facilities and a road cleaning regime are operational at all exits. Road conditions are being monitored in these areas, and also on local roads where site traffic crosses roads at manned stop/go control points.

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](http://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 - Steel fixing and formwork for western abutment buried column supports







2.Barrow Bridge - Completed western abutment buried column supports.







4.R733 Underbridge - Bridge deck concrete pour.

5. Barrow Bridge - Completed Pier 3 foundation at Pink Rock







6. Barrow Bridge - Completed Pier 2 foundation at Pink Rock

7. Farm accommodation underpass nearing completion



## 8. Twin farm accommodation underpass under construction

### M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update Program

The contractor has 70% of their certified design issued for construction and is on target in their overall program for construction. The Permit to Use date (opening of road) remains the same of July 2019.

### Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in December	Progress Reported in Jan 2017	Progress Reported in February	Progress Reported in March	Progress Reported in April
Site Clearance	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Fencing	85%	85%	86%	86%	86%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	7%	9%	10%	11%
Earthworks	23%	25%	26%	28%	30%
Structures – main Bridges			3%	6%	15%
Structures – Culverts	29%	38%	45%	49%	55%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	17%	25%	33%	42%
Accommodation Works	6%	8%	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 32,143m<sup>3</sup>
  - N30, Total volume Cut to Fill 70,620m<sup>3</sup>
  - 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.

## **Ongoing repairs and monitoring of local roads**

### L1027 Ballygullen Road

There are ongoing works on the L1027 Ballygullen Road repairing the edge of road surface and rehabilitating surface localised areas of failure.

### L2020 Crane Road

This road is being inspected on a weekly basis by the contractor and Wexford County Council. Any defects arising from this inspection is being addressed by the contractor.

### L2021 Ballynabarny Road

This road is being inspected on a weekly basis by the contractor and Wexford County Council. Any defects arising from this inspection is being addressed by the contractor.

### L2011 Tinnacross Road

This road is being inspected on a weekly basis by the contractor and Wexford County Council. Any defects arising from this inspection is being addressed by the contractor.

## **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	Extension Required
L2021, Crane Road	Submitted	March 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L2012, Killalligan Road	Granted	Feb 2017	6 months	August 2017
L6122, Templescoby	Withdrawn	April 2017	6 months	Withdrawn
L6125, Monard East	Granted	Feb 2017	6 months	August 2017
L6055, Drumgold Road	Withdrawn	Postponed	6 months	
L2040, Knockrathkyle	Granted	Feb 2017	6 months	August 2017
L6052, Scurlocksbush	Submitted	March 2017	6 months	Statutory Process
L1027, Ballygullen Road	Withdrawn	April 2017	2 months	



## **Public Relations**

### **Drone Survey**

The Drone Survey will be uploaded on to the council website this month. The next drone survey will commence in Q4 of 2017.

### **Newsletter**

The Newsletter for Q2 of 2017 has been uploaded on the website and circulated to local shops and community in Enniscorthy, Ferns and Camolin. The N11 website [WWW.m11gtoe.ie](http://WWW.m11gtoe.ie) is updated on a monthly basis 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**



**Wheelwash in operation at Ballygullen**





**Processing rock in Cut 1**



**Topsoiled batters at Access Road AR02**





**Verge strengthening works on L1027 Ballygullen Road**



**Installing ducting for Ballywater Windfarm diversion works**





**Using lime stabilisation for strengthening a haul road through Cut 3**

## **M11 Mainline Ch 21500-28000**



**Archaeologists at AR10 Ch22500**





**Placing Class1/2 at Fill 11 Ch27100**



**CI804 & Basecourse L2040 Knockrathkyle & L6047 Monroe Link Rd**





**Topping Filter Drains and Topsoiling verges L2040 & L6047**



**Rock Processing & Hauling from Cut 10**



## N30



**Crushing material in cut 4**



**Topsoiling batters on Fill 2**





**Earthworks at Dunsinane Link**



**N30 Fill 3**





**Cut 3 – Removing the plug at Monart Road East**

**N80**



**Removing topsoil windrows**





**Construction and maintenance of the haul route**

## **Structures**



**M11-S3 – Ballygullen Railway Structure**





**M11-C18 Ballydawmore Stream Diversion**



**M11-ASG2 Thomas Kelly Access Structure**



**M11-S6 - Rocksprings**

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

TII initially allocated a sum of €5,394,000 for pavement 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 26<sup>th</sup>. August 2016.

Phase 2 from Irishtown to New Ross swimming pool will be completed in 2017 following works to the sewer network by Irish Water.

### **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 was completed in 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 mid May.

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

This contract involves the overlay of 5km of the N11 between Scarawalsh Bridge and Ferns. A contractor has been appointed. The construction period will be 8 weeks. This contract commenced on 24<sup>th</sup>. April.

## **2017 National Pavement Schemes**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following scheme.

### **N11 Ferns Village**

Archaeology investigations will be carried out in June. It is expected this scheme will be tendered in the August/September.

## **Additional Pavement Improvement Works**

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

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

Design works have commenced on these schemes. 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 27<sup>th</sup>. March with a tender return date of 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>, October. There have been 43 no. call outs up to 24<sup>th</sup>. April 2017.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

### ***Strengthening***

Strengthening programme commenced on Monday March 6 in the Gorey District. Works completed within the last month: Ballymurn to Ballinkeel, Courtclogh, Graiguebeg, Curragraigue to Boaramona, Ballymoty to Clondaw, and Tomatee (all in Enniscorthy District). Monksgrange to Carthy's Cross (New Ross District). Preparation works for strengthening ongoing in New Ross and Wexford Districts. Road realignment works ongoing at Ballykelly (New Ross District).

### ***Surface Dressing***

Preparation work for surface dressing ongoing in all districts.

### ***Improvement Works***

Footpath and road surfacing works completed at The Avenue (Gorey District). Emergency repairs to St. Mochauns Bridge, Baldwinstown - grouting, guniting and pinning to masonry arch bridge. (Wexford 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 contract signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. The design has commenced in advance of work starting on site.

##### **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 complete. The design of the scheme is in progress and preparation of tender documents.

##### **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 completed in 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)**

The Gorey RWSS will be upgraded and a new 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided 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 Murrintown 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 has commenced.

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

Site Investigation works are 60% 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 27<sup>th</sup> February in relation to this project.

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

Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed. Wayleave agreements have been drafted and are currently with the convent's solicitor for signing.

## **4. Finance:**

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

A copy of the Annual Financial Statement 2016 has been circulated to members together with the Head of Finance's report providing an overview of financial performance in 2016. The item is listed as a separate item on the agenda for discussion and consideration

The results will now be reviewed by the Local Government Auditor as part of LGAS audit of the 2016 Accounts.

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April included consideration of NOAC's review of 2015 Performance Indicators. The next Audit Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

### **3 Year Capital Programme 2017 – 2019**

The capital programme is currently being finalised and will be submitted for consideration of the Council at the June meeting.

### **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.**