



Chief Executive's Report

January 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

Economic Development (Team)

A delegation from the Iran-Ireland Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Wexford on Thursday 13th December 2018. The group consisted of;

Members of Parliament

Mostafa Kavakebian, leader of the delegation
Alireza Rahimi
Zahra Saei
Elias Hazrati

Officials

Vahid Amini

Embassy Staff

H.E. Dr. Masoud Eslami, Iranian Ambassador to Ireland
Mr. Mohammad Ali Eskandari, Political Counsellor
Mr. Mohsen Taleghani, translator

The group visited the Irish Agricultural Museum at Johnstown Castle and were greeted there by Mayor Tony Dempsey, Tony Larkin, Deputy Chief Executive, Peter Miller, Chairman of the Irish Agricultural Museum and Matt Wheeler, Manager of the Irish Agricultural Museum.



The Group then travelled to County Hall and were met by Chairman Keith Doyle, Deputy James Browne and Tony Larkin. They were given a brief presentation which outlined the various services provided by Wexford County Council, the importance of Industry, Agriculture and Tourism in the county.



Mostafa Kavakebian and James Brown, heads of Iranian and Irish parliamentary friendship group and H.E. Dr. Masoud Eslami, Iranian Ambassador to Ireland.

Local Enterprise Office (Team)

Annual Employment Survey

Following completion of the employment survey a review of the client portfolio is currently underway with the Centre of Excellence and the results will be available in late January 2019. In tandem with the survey, all grant aided businesses have been contacted encouraging them to complete the Brexit Score Card. For those who have completed this exercise, we are offering an additional mentor session to help them in their preparation for Brexit.

End of Year Returns

In 2018 LEO Wexford delivered training to 983 participants across a range of business programmes including 4 certified programme, 7 Start Your Own Business Course, 2 Food Programmes, 13 business clinics and 53 other short training programme ranging from TAX and VAT for Start-ups to Social Media training. One hundred and three business in Wexford availed of 215 individual mentor sessions. The office also processed 20 applications for Microfinance with 12 approvals totalling €253,000.

A total of €452,703 was approved in grant aid across 22 separate businesses with the potential to create 29 new jobs broken down as follows;

Feasibility Grants	€8,624
Priming Grants	€122,990
Business Expansion Grants	€321,089

A further eleven businesses received support under the Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grant to allow them to explore export markets and engage in activities such as attending trade fairs, meet potential buyers and sourcing suppliers. Total grant support €21,202.

Thirty-two businesses received support towards developing their ecommerce presence through the Trading Online Voucher scheme in 2018. Total grant support €65,527.

Brand Communications

The new brand national communications live campaign ('Making It Happen') is currently being rolled out across the 31 Local Enterprise Offices www.localenterprise.ie/makingithappen. The campaign will be delivered across national newspapers, radio and social media (Twitter - #MakingItHappen, Facebook/LinkedIn and YouTube. The campaign will highlight case studies in three stages of business development; Pre-Start, Start and Growth and we will continue to work with the Sarah Bohan in Centre of Excellence to produce new case studies promoting enterprise in the county.

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur

Applications for IBYE opened on the 1st January with a closing date of the 15th March 2019. LEO Wexford has a target of 40 applications and national communication collateral will assist in getting the message to the target audience. The competition is open to 18-35 year olds across 3 categories;

1. Best Idea (has an idea for a business but has not started trading at time of application.
2. Best Start-Up Business (has started trading but in business 18 months or less)
3. Best Established Business (has been trading for more than 18 months).

Applicants will be invited to participate in an IBYE Enterprise Day and the shortlisted final 15 will participate in an intensive business boot camp with one to one mentoring prior to the final interview.

The competition itself is broken down into 3 stages; County level with an investment fund of €50,000; 3 winners, 3 Runner ups and one of the winners is nominated as "County Wexford's Best Young Entrepreneur). The 3 category winners then go on to a regional competition. The Regional competition has no investment fund but selects 3 winners from the Region (1 per category) to go forward to the National competition. The national competition has an investment fund of 100,000 broken down as follows;

	Winner	Runner Up
Best Idea	15,000	5,000
Best Start Up	20,000	10,000
Best Established	20,000	10,000
Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur	20,000	

Tourism (Team)

Wexford County Tourism Strategy

Wexford County Council is currently finalising “Wexford County Tourism Strategy 2019 – 2023”

The core aims for the strategy are as follows:

- Increase visitor numbers and revenue in a sustainable manner
- Provide recommendations to guide and stimulate investment and development in order to increase visitor numbers, drive economic growth and create sustainable employment
- Identify key product and experience priorities that will enable growth
- Pinpoint specific markets and segments that Wexford will target to drive growth.

The draft strategy was presented to the Economic and Enterprise SPC on Wednesday 28th November with a view to a full presentation to the full Council in February 2019.

Ireland's Ancient East:

Wexford continues to lead the way in the implementation of Ireland's Ancient East proposition by Fáilte Ireland. Just three years since its launch Ireland's Ancient East is now a well established brand and is making significant impact on tourism across the county. Support from Failte Ireland continues and some of the Visitor Experience plans for 2019 include the Launch of a new Viking Fire Festival in Wexford.

Counties Wexford, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford and Westmeath have been identified as areas with potential and a strong cluster of attractions that can draw international visitors to them as part of Fáilte Ireland's Castles and Conquests & Vikings Visitor Experience Plans.

As part of the strategy, in December 2018 over 60 tourism businesses took part in a bespoke workshop in Kilkenny to develop stories and experiences centred around the castles in their area to help create a more connected visitor experience across Ireland's Ancient East.

The Norman Way:

The Norman Way Wexford, has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA in the Best Heritage Project category:

The winner will be announced on Saturday 9th February 2019.

Visit Wexford Brochure

Work has commenced on the 2018 tourism brochure with a call out to the industry to be involved. This brochure will have a similar appearance to the new website to grow the Visit Wexford brand and support Irelands Ancient East.

The Travel Channel – Legendary Locations

The Travel Channel US “Legendary Locations” recorded a segment for one of their episodes of the series on 17th -19th December 2018. The segment will focus on the Hook Head Peninsula as the 'location' before moving on to tell the story of Loftus Hall. This will essentially be a promo piece for the Hook Head Peninsula.

The series will most likely air on The Travel Channel US sometime in June/July 2019. It will then broadcast around the world on The Travel Channel International to a potential audience of millions.

BUCANIER (*Building Clusters and Networks in Innovation Enterprise and Research*)



December Activity:

Project Actions - November

- BUCANIER Mentors Meeting with Irish Partners held on 4th December 2018 in Carlow
- BUCANIER All-partner meeting held on 5th December 2018 at BIM offices, Dun Laoghaire
- BUCANIER Participant Showcase held on 6th December 2018 at BIM offices, Dun Laoghaire
- 3 Cork companies and 1 Wexford companies signed up to the programme in December
- All new companies assigned a mentor to complete initial action plan

Planned Project Actions for January:

- 9th January meeting 5 Cork companies to discuss possible sign up to BUCANIER
- 2nd BUCANIER networking event to be held for all Irish BUCANIER participants and some Welsh participants in Carlow on the 30th January.
- Attend The National Manufacturing and Supply Chain Conference & Expo on the 17th of January in Dublin
- Meet with project partners in The Hatch Lab on the 18th Jan to finalise plan for BUCANIER events and workshops in 2019.
- Finalise itinerary for BUCANIER food and drink participants visit to Buyer to Supplier event in Pembrokeshire on the 5th/6th of February.

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 31/12/2018 1505

No. of pre planning requests up to 31/12/2018 716

Forward Planning:

Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Southern Region

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is the mechanism by which the National Planning Framework will be implemented at regional and county level. It is a strategic plan which will provide the framework for spatial planning and economic development throughout the region, including County Wexford. This framework will also be used to inform future investment and funding in spatial and economic development across the region.

At their meeting of the 9th November, the Southern Region Assembly approved the Draft Regional and Economic Spatial Strategy (RSES) for public consultation. The Draft Strategy, which will be on display at Wexford County Council Offices and online, is expected to be placed on public display from mid-December for a minimum period of 10 weeks. During this time written submissions and observations can be made to the Southern Regional Assembly on the Draft Strategy. Following the making of the Strategy by the Southern Regional Assembly and no later than 13 weeks after this date, Wexford County Council must resume the preparation of the new County Development Plan which must be in compliance with the RSES.

Building Control:

Commencement Notices

A total of 473 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 31st December 2018 on the BCMS.

Wexford	159	Gorey	143
Enniscorthy	101	New Ross	70

Taking in Charge

We have a number of estates that are currently at different stages of the Taking in Charge process.

Eleven estates were referred to the relevant Municipal District meetings for the final stage of the Taking in Charge process in December 2018. These estates are:-

- Curragh Wood, Kilanerin, Gorey
- Sunset Avenue, Riverchapel, Gorey
- Harbour Court, Courtown
- Hunters Green, Gorey
- Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine, Courtown
- Oakhill, Ramstown Lower, Gorey
- Clonattin Village, Phase 2, Gorey
- Riverside, Blackwater Enniscorthy
- Castle Meadows, Murntown
- Stonehaven, Belvedere Road
- Cromwellsfort Grove, Mulgannon

Rosehill Heights estate, Rosslare is at the public consultation stage at present. The latest date for the receipt of written objections / representations was 4.00 pm on 17th December 2018.

The total number of estates taken in charge this year to date is 32.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	57
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	6
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	3

Planning Enforcement:

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 31/12/18 is as follows;

- Cases Opened 6
- Live Cases 306
- Cases Closed 16

District Court Cases

Gorey:

- Enforcement case 0070/2015 – case adjourned pending the outcome of an appeal against decision to grant planning permission for retention of changes made to an apartment building at Middletown, Ardamine.

Wexford:

- Enforcement case 0050/2017 relating to an unauthorised trailer parking area at Ballykelly, Drinagh, was struck out following compliance with the Enforcement Notice.

Access Section

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC applications, validated for the year 2018 totalled **95**. This showed an increase of **28** applications on the previous year this is the highest number of applications validated in any one year since the introduction of the Disability Access Certificate requirement.

Events

The Access Sections submission to the IPB, LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2019, for the Poolpod project launched June 2018, at Wexford swimming pool, has been shortlisted in two categories:



Best Disability Access & Inclusion Initiative

Best Community Sports Team/Club.

The Awards Ceremony is to take place on the 9th of February in the Hogan Suite Croke Park, Dublin.

Update First Quarter: Programme of Access Works Accessible Public Conveniences

2019 will see the continuation of the accessible Public Convenience (PC) Programme with the pilot design for new accessible PC to be installed at Duncannon in the first quarter of 2019. The Environment Department are the lead on this project with a percentage of funding from the Access Section to pilot this initiative.

National Disability Inclusion Strategy

On-going consultation and review of the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan incorporating the New National Disability Inclusion Strategy will continue into the first two months of 2019. This process will require the continued commitment of senior level staff from all department to inform on their respective departments actions/and progress in this regard.

Heritage:

Applications are now being accepted for 2019 for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019, and the Historic Structures Fund 2019, which replaces the Structures at Risk Scheme.

2. Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works commenced on site in October 2018 but have been impacted by severe wet weather. Works have paused pending return of suitable working conditions. The park is expected to open to the public in September 2019. WCC has secured €500,000 in grant aid for the project from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Trinity Wharf: The draft master plan was presented to the public for comment in September as part of an informal public information event and the master plan is now being completed. The environmental impact assessment was completed in December 2018 with an application to An Bord Pleanála due to be submitted in January 2019. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured for the scheme under the URDF to date.

Crescent Quay: Tenders for a package of Improvement Works in the Crescent Quay Area were received on the 23rd November 2018 and the contract has been awarded to Niall Barry & Co. Ltd. Works will commence on site on the 14th January, 2019.

Ballast Office: Essential repair works are required for the Ballast Office to prevent it from falling into disrepair. A tender was issued for the appointment of consultants pre-Christmas with works expected to commence in late 2019.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: A Part VIII planning application was lodged on the 4th of September 2018 for the proposed streetscape works on Templeshannon and The Shannon. Submissions have now been received and a report is being prepared for consideration by the Council at the January 2019 meeting. The appointment of consultants will proceed for the preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the URDF scheme in September 2018.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Following a public tender process, the contract for Phase 1 development works was awarded to Niall Barry and Co. Ltd. Works commenced on site on 13th August 2018. Roadwork and site services are significantly advanced. Works are expected to complete in Q1 2019.

Gorey Market House: A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was passed at the May Council Meeting 2018.

The invitation to tender for development proposals from parties interested in partnering with the Council on the project closed on 18/05/2018 and one tender submission was received which is being evaluated and assessed. Currently €2.0m of WCC resources is available to fund the project and the outstanding capital funding will have to be secured through WCC's RRDF application.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018.

Wexford Arts Centre: Funding 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 tender was issued for the appointment of consultant's pre-Christmas. The Part VIII process is expected to commence in Q2 2019, with works planned to commence on site in Q4 2019.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: The Council has sought Urban Regeneration Development Funding to acquire and redevelop the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. A tender was issued for the appointment of consultant's pre-Christmas. The Part VIII process is due to commence in Q2 2019, with construction completion planned for Q4 2020.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Wexford County Council has appointed Consulting Engineers to provide services for the design and tender of infrastructural work at Carrigfoyle for the initial stage of a project to develop an activity centre on the site. Construction is planned to commence in Q2 2019. It is envisaged that works will be completed by Q1 2020.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Wexford County Council has procured services to prepare a feasibility study to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. Alan Sherwood & Associates have been appointed to prepare the feasibility study and prepare an application to Failte Ireland for funding. A baseline study is currently underway and a presentation will be made to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at their January 2019.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.

Draft route selection reports and environmental screening documents are now complete. A presentation to the Members on the feasibility study took place on 30th October on the route options examined for the Greenway and the findings of the feasibility study, including the preferred option identified.

An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/20218.

New Ross to Waterford Greenway:

Part VIII planning for the project is complete and a Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, and Waterford City and County Council, to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority on behalf of the other Councils.

Tenders were received for detailed design, tendering and construction management services and a contract for consultancy services is expected to be signed in January 2019.

An application for funding for the project was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018.

Curraclloe to Wexford Greenway:

Permission for the development was refused by the Board in a decision issued on 17/10/2018 citing, in particular, concerns in relation to the potential impact of the development on the Raven Point Nature Reserve Special Area of Conservation and Wexford Harbour and Slobs Special Protection Area.

The Council has reviewed in detail the decision of An Bord Pleanala and is currently examining other route options for delivering this important element of greenway Infrastructure.

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

Housing Supply Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Oilgate	2	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Special Needs Housing
Cherry Orchard	8	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Includes 4 special needs houses
Cois Mara, Rosslare	2	Wexford	Construction complete	Complete and occupied
Baile Eoghain	9	Gorey	Construction complete	5 houses occupied, 4 houses completed in December 2018
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Delays due to ESB but now resolved
Creagh	10	Gorey	Under construction	Due to complete in March 2019
Danescastle	10	New Ross	Under construction	Due to complete in July 2019
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in Sept 2019
Slippery Green	10	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in April 2019 (delay due to Irish Water)
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Stage 4	TAP house
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues with owners not yet resolved
Taghmon	18	New Ross	Stage 3	Out to tender in December 2018
The Ballagh	6	Enniscorthy	Stage 3	Out to tender in December 2018
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Preparing Stage 3	Part VIII approved December 2018
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 1 approved	
Ballyhine, Barntown	6	Wexford	Stage 1 and surveys underway	
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Consultants appointed
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1 Q1 2019	
Rosetown, Rosslare	39	Wexford	Stage 1	Stage 2 Q1 2019
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 1	
The Faythe	12	Wexford	Design team appointed	Women's refuge, initial design submitted to stakeholders for review
Creagh	12	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Consultants appointed
TOTAL	295			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Castlemoyle	40	New Ross	Land Aggregation Scheme Phase 1
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 December 2018
30-31 Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and re-build
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 December 2018
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Special Needs Housing
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 December 2018
Castlebridge	1	Wexford	TAP house
TOTAL	67		

Longer Term Projects

<u>Project Address</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Municipal District Area</u>	<u>Comment</u>
<u>Park</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Wexford</u>	
<u>Clonard</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Wexford</u>	<u>Tender to clear site received</u>
<u>Adamstown</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>New Ross</u>	<u>No services capacity presently</u>
<u>Tagoat</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Wexford</u>	
<u>Rosemary Heights, Ferns</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Gorey</u>	
<u>Daphne View</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Enniscorthy</u>	
<u>Thomastown Road, Rosbercon</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>New Ross</u>	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>106</u>		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	22	Gorey	12 units occupied, 10 to be occupied 2019
Ard Uisce	35	Wexford	12 units occupied, 23 to be occupied 2019
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
TOTAL	60		

Wexford County Council has received a number of other turnkey proposals which are currently being assessed.

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	11	Gorey	11 units to be delivered 2019
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2019
Ard Uisce	14	Wexford	14 units to be delivered 2019
Knockmullen	18	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2019
Mulgannon	6	Wexford	Delivery date awaited
TOTAL	51		

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Hunters Hill	36	Gorey	To be occupied 2019
Arthurstown	9	New Ross	To be occupied 2019
Ballyboggan, Castlebridge	10	Wexford	Occupied
Greenville	52	Enniscorthy	Construction not yet commenced
Meadowfields	28	Enniscorthy	14 units completed, 14 to be occupied 2019
Fort Road, Gorey	15	Gorey	To be occupied 2019
27 Hunters Green	1	Gorey	Occupied
Clonard, Wexford	10	Wexford	Approval awaited from Department

Oaklee			
Fearach an Cnoic	46	Enniscorthy	To be occupied 2019
Station Court	2	Gorey	Occupied

Respond			
Rivergate (2 Bed Units)	20	New Ross	Occupied

Cluid			
The Grange, Ferns	10	Gorey	To be occupied 2019

Tuath			
Glean an Ghairdin	18	Gorey	To be occupied 2019
Ard Uisce	7	Wexford	Occupied
Ramstown	50	Gorey	In planning permission process
Rocksborough, Drinagh	70	Wexford	In planning permission process
TOTAL	384		

Housing Allocations

From the 1st January to 31st December, 2018 Wexford County Council allocated **419** properties to social housing tenants which is an increase of 3.5% on the number of allocations in 2017 details as follows:-

AREA	RE-LETS	TRANSFERS	NEW LETS	AHBs	MTR	TOTAL
Gorey	30	5	33	12	2	82
New Ross	44	5	38	21	1	109
Enniscorthy	23	5	25	3	0	56
Wexford	61	14	77	18	2	172
TOTAL	158	29	173	54	5	419

In 2018 there were **89** offers of social housing refused (*26 were deemed reasonable and 63 unreasonable*) which is a refusal rate of 21.2%. A total of 96 offers were refused in 2017 a refusal rate of 23.7%.

Tenant Purchase

Wexford County Council has received 46 applications under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme (TIPS) from 1st January to 31st December, 2018 details as follows:-

Gorey	New Ross	Enniscorthy	Wexford
11	13	14	8

There were 33 applications received in 2017 under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme.

Housing Maintenance

The following table shows the number of repairs carried out from 1st January to 31st December, 2018:-

Repairs	Enniscorthy	Gorey	New Ross	Wexford	Total
Repair Requests (1 st - 31 st December 2018)	174	89	157	226	646
Repair Requests Year to Date	2,407	1,301	2,504	3,074	9,286
Accommodation Units Repaired (1st – 31st December 2018)	146	76	131	185	538
Accommodation Units Repaired Year to Date	1,083	552	1049	1351	4,035

Note: *The housing maintenance requests do not include duplicate calls for the same job, the ihouse system only records individual repair jobs.*

Vacant Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2018 -2021

Significant progress was made in 2018 in meeting many of the objectives of the Strategy and particularly in identifying actual vacant homes which could be brought back into use for social housing within a reasonable timeframe. This is to reduce the number of vacant homes (12 months or more) throughout the county.

To date there has been 114 expressions of interest in the Repair and Leasing Scheme all of which have now being assessed and a site visit conducted. Following full assessment 43 units were deemed unsuitable and Wexford County Council is engaging with the owners of the remaining 71 units which are at various stages of being brought back into use. Eleven homes have being reactivated through the Repair and Lease Scheme in 2018 and a further 8 homes are engaging through the Buy and Renew Scheme which will come on stream in 2019.

A pilot project was carried out in the Q3 2018 and following the analysis of the information a report was completed in September 2018. It should be noted that there is a variation between Eircode and CSO data:-

- Eircodes Vacant 155 units
- CSO 76 units

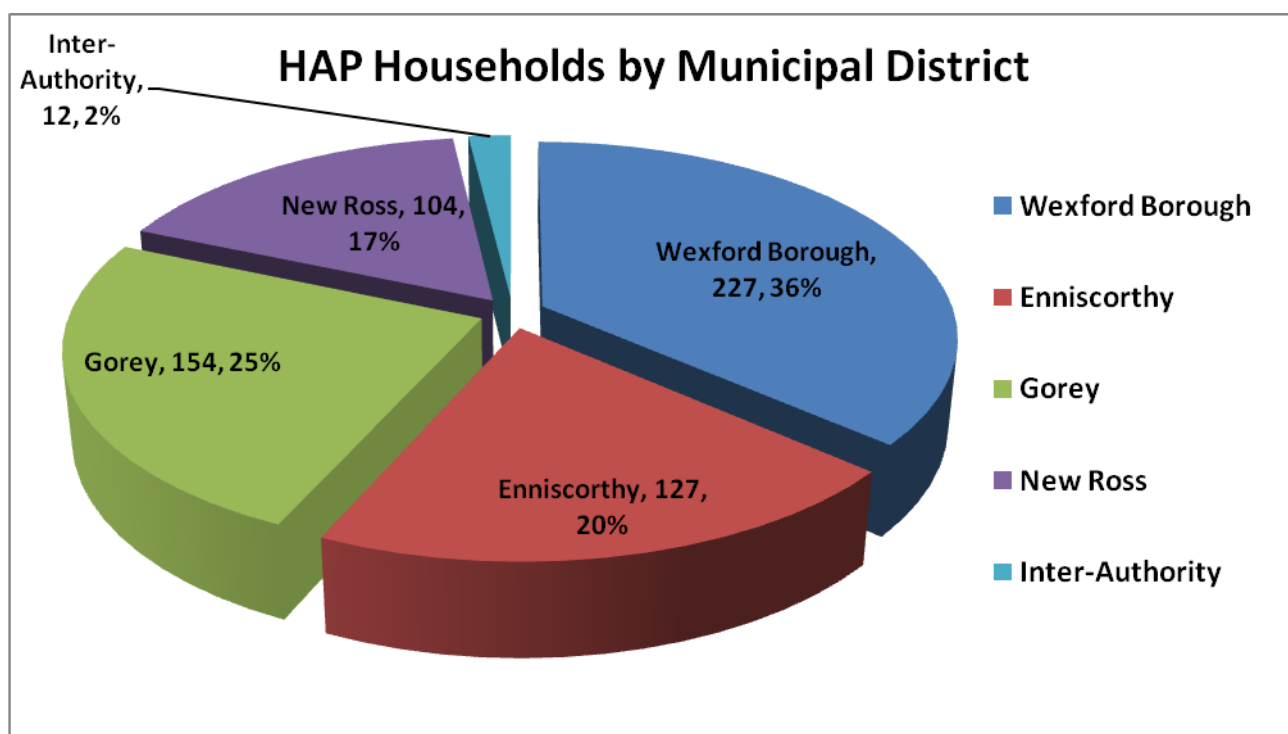
The pilot survey was on 4 specific areas and was carried out through a collector app which was also developed in 2018. The table below gives a summary of the actual vacant homes identified during the pilot survey:-

Total Number surveyed	81
Total No vacant (possibility for future use)	28
No Possibility for future use	43
Derelict	9
Dangerous	1

Private Rented & HAP

The following table shows details from the 1st January to 31st December 2018 for the Private Rented Sector and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The category "Inter-Authority" are households housed with HAP tenancies in properties outside Wexford.

Municipal District	New HAP Units	HAP Units, transferred from Rent Supplement	Total	New Ras Tenancies	New Leasing Units	Repairs & Leasing
Wexford Borough	154	73	227	5	6	9
Enniscorthy	81	46	127	1	5	1
Gorey	102	52	154	1	2	1
New Ross	80	24	104	12	3	0
Inter-Authority	10	2	12	0	0	0
TOTAL	427	197	624	9	16	11



Inspection of Private Rented Properties

There was a significant increase in the number of inspections carried out on Private Rented Properties in 2018 as set out in the table below:-

Year	No of Inspections
2016	201
2017	400
2018	844

The Department target for Wexford County Council for Private Rented Inspections in 2019 is 1,273.

Private House Grants

The Housing Department aims to assist works which improve the living conditions of people with a disability, persons with mobility issues as well as assist older people living in poor housing conditions with due regard given to best value for money when assessing applications. In 2018 a total of €2,257,041 was allocated to the grant schemes to assist 407 households.

Grant Type	No Applications	of	Amount Paid
Housing Adaptation Grant for persons with a Disability (HGD)	34		€519,246
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	199		€840,379
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	174		€897,416
TOTAL	351		€2,257,041

In 2017 a total of €1,778,948 was allocated to the grant schemes to assist 351 households.

ENVIRONMENT

1	<p>Courtown Coastal Erosion and Marina Project</p> <p>The final draft of the above report has been received by the Environment Department.</p> <p>The final report will be presented to the members of the Gorey MD in February. Subject to a favourable response in terms of funding then the various statutory processes including Planning Permission and Foreshore License etc. can be commenced.</p>
2	<p>Environmental Clean Up Crew</p> <p>Environment staff has attended the 4 Municipal Districts in November and December to discuss and outline the details of the expansion of the Clean Up Crews..</p> <p>The elected members will be updated on the progress of the expanded Clean Up Crews on a regular basis</p>
3	<p>Waste Presentation Bye-Laws</p> <p>The waste presentation bye-laws are now in force and they will be used to target illegal dumping blackspots in the coming month</p>
4	<p>Coastal Erosion Countywide</p> <p>Following on from other previous coastal studies in particular areas including the Rosslare and Courtown area Environmental coastal staff will be reviewing recent impacts on the entire coastline highlighting public infrastructure and dwelling houses throughout the county that may be at risk from severe storms.</p>

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Courses (Child Protection)

Safeguarding 1: 22 Courses have been completed with a total attendance for **2018** of **370** participants.

Safeguarding 2: 4 Courses have been completed with a total attendance of **52** participants.

Sport Ireland Funding

We have been awarded the following funding under the Dormant Accounts Scheme 2018. **Youth Leadership €15000 and Volunteer Training and Supports €15000**

Men's Shed Program

Aims To engage with men's shed groups and encourage them to become more active both physically and sociably.

Results Through Sports Active Engagement the men's shed across Wexford have taken part in walks in Kennedy Park and in Tintern but the big success by far was their participation in the various scooch tournaments. To the extent that in a cross county blitz in Kildare Wexford had the highest number of participants. This will continue on with the sheds organising matches between themselves and they should only need our help in organising cross county matches. The men have certainly become more sociably active and in some this has had a very visible impact. At the moment they are at the early stages of planning with Tintern and ourselves on a medieval festival.

Progression While respecting the ideals of the men's shed and being conscious of not pushing but asking and guiding asking the question, would they be interested in engaging with other groups such as active retirement etc.,

COPD Peer Support and Exercise Group

The first exercise class of the newly established COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Peer Support and Exercise Group took place on Friday 14th December in Clonard Community Centre from 2pm-3pm. The weekly exercise class is co-ordinated by Bryan Mullet (Sports Active Wexford Tutor) and includes monthly educational sessions from health care professionals. The classes took a break for the Christmas holidays and will begin again in early January.

Syrian Refugee Swimming group

Five men from the Syrian Refugee group in Enniscorthy concluded a ten week swimming programme on Monday 17th December. The men were awarded a Novice Achievement by the Waterfront Swim Academy.

Age and Opportunity: Have awarded the partnership €1300 to assist in programmes for older adults.

Staff Activities

The Six weeks block of staff zumba classes finished on Wednesday 12th December.

Staff yoga started for another 4 week block in November

Total staff participants from September to December 2018.

September = European Week of Sport = 57 participants in the taster sessions.

October = Yoga : 35 Circuits : 8 Walk : 8

November = Yoga : 31 Circuits : 9 Zumba :15 Walk : 4

December = Yoga : 31 Circuits : 5 Zumba :15 Walk : 2

Yoga, circuits and the lunchtime walk will all resume on the week of 7th January, with the introduction of Cardio Boxfit the following week on Wednesday 16th January.

LTI Courtown

On Tuesday 11th December the students and staff from the LTI headed to Bunclody Urban Adventure Hub where they were met by staff from Shielbaggan Outdoor Adventure Centre. Due to weather conditions the group were unable to go on the river and instead went to Kilbrannish Hill for a guided walk.

On Monday 17th December sixteen students and two tutors from LTI Courtown took part in walking leader training day. The course was facilitated by Frank Fahey from FitWalk Ireland. This was the first day of the course, with the second day due to take

place on 7th January just in time for the group to assist in the Nationwide Walk for Operation Transformation on Saturday 12th January in Courtown Woods.

Traveller Soccer Programme

In Partnership With FAI and FDYS, 4 venues chosen to run training sessions, Cloughbawn, Bunclody, Enniscorthy and New Ross. With over 56 Traveller men taking part each week for 10 weeks.

These sessions culminated in matches between- Cloughbawn, Bunclody and Enniscorthy, with great attendance from the group.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Removal of Fines

From January 1st 2019 fines for overdue library items are being removed. The removal of fines for library users is one of the actions included in the national strategy, "Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities". This strategy, launched in June 2018, aims to improve access to and increase use of the library as a community hub.

Libraries Lead with Digital

Libraries Lead with Digital a project delivered in partnership with **Google** and **Public Libraries 2020** concluded in December 2018. This international research project saw funding of €10,000 be provided to Wexford County Council Public Library Service in order to test and develop resources to be used by libraries in the delivery of computer science, coding and internet safety instruction to the public.

Fifty primary students and twenty secondary students from DEIS schools in Wexford attended coding and computer science workshops. A group of adult learners also completed a CV preparation workshop as part of the programme. Results of the evaluation showed that libraries have an integral and key role in informal STEM/Computer Science Education as well as teaching basic digital skills.

Family Time at your Library

Family events and activities took place in all libraries during the month of **December** to support the involvement of the whole family in children's reading. Family Time at your Library activities were provided to engage family members in the enjoyment of reading and sharing stories. A total of 780 children and adults attended 36 Family Time events in all libraries in the County.

ARTS

Music Generation is a partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation. During the winter months an early year's music programme (under 5's) has begun with parent and toddler groups. A research project has begun with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Wexford to assess the potential to develop mentoring for songwriters working in the context of mental health.

Per Cent for Art, M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme, the total value of this Per Cent for art commission is €65,000 to be divided across 3 separate commissions valued at €20,000 each. The 10 shortlisted artists have submitted their phase 2 applications the deadline was Monday 17th December 2018. These applications will now be accessed in January 2019 by the Per Cent for Art selection panel consisting of 10 members from different fields of knowledge and expertise.

Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford art offices. In December each art office advertised bursary awards for emerging and professional artists, the deadline for applications is Monday 21st January at 4.00pm.

Creative Communities Scheme An open call was made in November seeking applications from artist's resident in County Wexford, for the 'Creative Communities Programme' 2019. The arts office received 38 artist's applications and an independent selection panel selected 27 artists for the 2019 artist panel.

Wexford County Council Art Collection, The county Art collection in the 2 galleries in the County Council buildings have recently been refreshed and re hung, monthly tours are offered to the public and schools. During December several tours ran including a tour for the Cultural Companions members and another for Ramsgrange Community College 6th year students. Also the Arts office has acquired two further pieces of artwork for the county Art collection, these are a Brian Maguire painting and a Giath Tatha photograph they will be on display for public viewing in the near future.

FIRE SERVICE

News

The ICT systems used by the Fire Services have been upgrade. The Diamond Fire Administration System training/rollout was delayed until December. The Gartan Payroll System continues to be undergoing system review with rollout expected by year end.

The fire service took delivery of a new 4x4 vehicle procured from the Direct Drawdown Contracts for Wexford fire station. A panel van for Wexford fire station is also on order and awaiting delivery. The New Ross water carrier has been completed by the body builders and is awaiting delivery in December. Emergency backup generators were procured and fitted to Bunclody and Enniscorthy fire stations.

Fire Operations

There were 58 incidents in November as detailed below. By the end of the month there were 195 incidents in excess of the same time last year.

Incident Type	Calls November 2018	Calls to date 2018	Calls to this period 2017
Chimney fire	8	122	128
Domestic fire	2	77	57
Road Traffic Accident	8	97	105
Industrial fire	0	9	8
Commercial fire	1	5	5
Assembly fire	0	4	6
Agricultural fire	0	5	8
Motor Vehicles	6	57	44
Forest/bog/grass etc	2	216	122
Rubbish	7	89	90
Non-fire rescues	1	24	30
False alarms – good intent	18	259	196
Malicious false alarms	0	3	2
Miscellaneous	5	68	39
Total	58	1035	840

Fire Safety

The number of applications for fire safety certificates, planning referrals and Fire Services Acts inspections for the months of November were as follows:-

Applications Received	Year to date	November
Fire Safety Certificates	109	7
Planning Referrals	826	85

Number of Inspections	Year to date	November
FSA Inspections	302	35

4. Transportation, Water Services:

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

1. M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update Program

The contractor has stated during the last progress meeting that their program is on target and the M11, and N80 will be open to traffic in July 2019 with minor works taking place up to the contract end date of November 2019.

Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in Dec 2016	Progress Reported in Dec 2017	Progress Reported in Nov 2018	Progress Reported in Dec 2018
Site Clearance	96%	98%	99%	99%
Fencing	85%	86%	92%	93%*
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	30%	89%	91%*
Earthworks	23%	75%	98%	98%
Structures – Main Bridges		56%	95%	96%*
Structures – Culverts	29%	96%	99%	99%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	84%	96%	96%
Kerbs Footways & Paved Areas			64%	68%*
Safety Barrier			27%	34%*
Pavement			58%	60%*

*Works estimated for December allowing for demobilisation for Christmas period

Newsletter

The newsletter Q4, 2018 has been circulated to local information centres and made available to members of the public as well as being uploaded on to the M11 website. The M11 website WWW.m11goe.ie is updated on a monthly basis providing information on blasting and road closures and traffic management.

Advance Notification of Major Road Works

Major road works are due to commence on the tie in locations on the M11 Frankfurt Interchange, N30 Templecoby, N11 Scurlocksbush and N11/ N80 Clavass. Any traffic delays associated with these works will be kept to a minimum and the public will be notified in advance of the works so that they can plan their journeys accordingly.

Applications submitted to WCC by the PPP Co.:

Road Closure Applications

The following road closures are to be submitted for statutory procedure:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Opening Date
L2008, Old Dublin Road, Clavass	tbc	tbc	tbc
N80, Clavass Roundabout	4/03/19	2 weeks	23/3/19

COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

2. N25 New Ross Bypass

Progress Update January 2019

The overall design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is over three quarters complete, and the scheme is currently scheduled to open in 2019.

The construction of the pylon towers on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge continued to progress in December at all three main piers (Piers 3, 4 & 5) and the installation of tower cables is progressing at Piers 3 & 4, while the construction of the cantilevered deck segments from all three main piers also continues to progress. On the Wexford side, the construction of the deck wing sections on span 6 is almost complete, the construction of the deck central box is complete on spans 7 & 8 while the construction of the central box has commenced on span 9.

Road works on the mainline continued to make good progress in December with pavement, barrier, signage and road markings significantly progressed. Landscaping works are also progressing throughout the site. Road users will have noticed significant progress milestones before Christmas with the opening of new roundabout junctions on the N25 at Ballymacar, the N30 at Corcoran's Cross and the L4026 Stokestown Road. These roundabouts and associated works will continue in their current operation as part of the existing road network until the bypass opens to traffic later this year. Final pavement and junction works on the R733 are also anticipated to be completed by the end of January. On the Co. Kilkenny side, final surfacing works at the N25 Glenmore Roundabout will be completed in January and further traffic management will be in operation for these works. The new local road realignments for the Ballyverneen Road and the new Glenmore Link Road will also open in January.

The closure of the Pink Rock Road has been extended until the 18th February, and the road will fully re-open on or before this date. The construction of the bridge deck for the railway overbridge at Ballyverneen is also complete and finishing works are progressing.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that all operations continue to operate safely and with minimum disruption to local communities and residents. Winter maintenance protocols for public roads within the site have been re-activated for the coming season.

The eleventh quarterly project newsletter was published before Christmas. The project continues to attract very significant public interest and the project website www.n25newross.ie continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works. Wexford County Council continues to release periodic project videos to keep the public updated on progress. The 24 telephone hotline continues to operate 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. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Construction of pylon tower and installation of cables at Pier 4 in foreground. Pier 5 and approach spans on Wexford side in background.



2. **Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Pier 4 and cantilevered decks in foreground, Pier 3 (Pink Rock) in background.**



3. **R733 Grade Separated Junction – L4026 Stokestown Road Roundabout to the left of photo (now open to traffic).**



4. N25 Mainline at Arnestown between N25 Ballymacar Junction and R733 Junction

2019 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

The 2019 TII road improvement allocation has not been received from TII. It is hoped the following schemes will be progressed in 2019.

- N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.
- N11 Maldron roundabout to Ferrycarrig bridge (Killeen to Newtown Phase 2)
- N11 Kyle Upper to Ballynaslaney.
- N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

2018 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

The following schemes were ongoing in December 2018.

N25 New Ross By-Pass Residual Network

N30/ R700 Roundabout

Works commenced in July. This scheme is due to be completed in February 2019.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 1

This scheme runs from Ferrycarrig Bridge to just south of Kyle Crossroads. Works commenced on September 12th. Drainage works were completed in December. Pavement works will be completed in the first quarter of 2019.

N30 Enniscorthy Southern Approach

Works commenced on 4th. December and was completed in December 2018.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2

Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present. The timeline for construction works are dependent on the outcome of the site investigation works. This scheme should be tendered in the first quarter of 2019.

Public Lighting LED Upgrade

The 2018 programme involved the upgrade of 2,450 lights to Led in Wexford Town. This was completed in September. This scheme will result in over 60% energy and maintenance savings annually. Works have commenced in the 2019 upgrade which will involve the replacement of up to 3,400 lanterns.

Installation of the lanterns should commence in February and should be completed by September.

Winter Maintenance

The 2018/2019 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 15th. October.

There have been 8 no. call outs up to January 6th.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

Work ongoing at Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District).

Strengthening

The roads completed in December were as follows: Polldarrig (Enniscorthy District) and Kilbride (New Ross District)

Local Improvement Schemes completed in Sheilbaggan, St Leonards and Carrig-on-Bannow (New Ross District)

General Maintenance

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

WATER SERVICES

Irish Water – Asset Delivery

Irish Water Capital Schemes

IW Asset Delivery: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme

The WWTP is to be extended to cater for a PE of 26,000, up 10,000 PE from the existing 16,000 PE, which is an increase of 30% in the available capacity. The DBO contract was signed on the 10th April, 2017. Ward & Burke are the contractors and have commenced on site. J.B. Barry are the Consulting Engineers. Works are progressing ahead of programme as the inlet works and treatment process are currently taking flows.

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade

Surveying works have commenced in the Enniscorthy area to enable a hydraulic model of the sewer network to be completed. Once the model is complete, design works on areas requiring rehabilitation / upgrade will commence.

IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S.

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following elements of work on this Scheme:
New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.

Site Investigation Works were completed in November, 2018. Currently in negotiations with one land owner for permanent acquisitions and wayleaves required to complete the project. Planning permission is scheduled to be submitted by Irish Water Consultant, Nicholas O'Dwyer in April, 2019.

Wexford Drainage Area Plan

This project will produce a complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. A full detailed hydraulic model will be produced identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. Nicholas O'Dwyers have been appointed as Consultants by IW. Site Survey Tenders are currently being reviewed with survey of infrastructure expected to start in Wexford Town in early February, 2019.

IW Asset Delivery: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Foreshore application was lodged. The land acquisition by CPO has also commenced for the selected WWTP site and Pumping Station site.

IW Asset Delivery: Gorey Regional Water Supply – South Wellfield

The Gorey RWSS will be upgraded and a new 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m³ reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. Planning permission was granted by WCC to upgrade the borehole sites and build a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun. The hydrogeological investigations show that remedial works will be required to most of the boreholes and the contract documents are being revised accordingly. The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. Tenders were received from two contractors in December, 2018 and are currently being reviewed.

IW Asset Delivery: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment scheme for the villages of Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon. These designs are currently underway. A Scheme for Kilmore Quay is also currently being designed. These have progressed from the Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS) to identify areas of the highest priority requiring treatment. Detailed design works are underway. Land owner engagement has started and site investigation works are now complete. The treatment standard for the schemes has been increased to both primary and secondary treatment.

The CPO for Duncannon, Arthurstown and Ballyhack has been advertised. This project is now out to tender Arthurstown, Ballyhack & Duncannon with tender due to be returned by the end of January, 2019.

IW Asset Delivery: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

Design works are currently underway for the remaining water main and gas mains, as well as design to eliminate back yard services around Wexford. A new hydraulic model for Wexford town is being updated to allow for the design works to progress. Landowner engagement has started. The Project is currently out to tender and due to return for assessment at the end of January, 2019.

Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew

The crew are currently rehabilitating the water main on Redshire Road, Murrintown between November & December & January and will then carry out similar rehab works in Kilmallock in February & March, 2019.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following for a feasibility study on this Scheme.

Atkins have been appointed to carry out preliminary design works for an upgrade to Ferns waste water treatment system.

The feasibility study report on options to upgrade the plant has been completed and is currently under review.

There have been a number of smaller studies commenced lately on Gorey waste water, Enniscorthy waste water and Wexford waste water capacities.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

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

- Pump Station mechanical & electrical works completed
- Connection to rising main by mid-January 2019

Trinity Street Waste Water Pumping Station

- 1st of 2 number Storm Pumps removed for repairs installed Friday 21st December 2018
- Delivery and installation of the final repaired Storm Pump shall be at the end of January 2019.

Distillery Road Waste Water Pumping Station

- Installation of new pump due mid-January 2019 - delayed due to extra mechanical works required before installation of new pump

Ballygillane Little Pump Station, Kilrane

- Pump mechanical and electrical failure – replacement pump ordered

Fair Green WWTP, Ballycullane

- Pump mechanical and electrical failure— replacement pump due mid-January 2019

Barr na Halle Pump Station, Rosslare Harbour

- Overhaul/repair of existing pump due for completion end of January 2019

Glentire Heights WWTP, Ballaghkeen

- Replacement secondary treatment plant motors mid-January 2019

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

Works complete at Edenvale and Newtown with the exception of minor snagging.

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

Project is at substantial completion and now in the defects period. Staff training has been completed and works are at snagging.

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

Commissioning at Creagh complete and gathering raw water data. Newtown WTW in automatic mode with manual override since May 17th. Vinegar Hill in automatic mode with manual override since early November.

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Disinfection works at Chestnut Grove, Hollyfort, Ballinellard, Clonroche, Bree and Coolgreaney commissioned.

Works nearly complete at Vinegar Hill. Mechanical works almost complete at Newtown and Kilagoley.

Works partially complete at Kilmuckridge, Edermine and Ballindaggin boreholes. Bolabeg, Raheen and Tellarought boreholes added to IW Disinfection Programme.

Water Network Program

Coffey Water (CNL) have been appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. CNL have work orders for public side lead replacement works in Enniscorthy and Backyard Service replacement in Wexford, Gorey and Taghmon. This work will be ongoing throughout the year and new work orders issued for other identified works. First fix leak repairs are ongoing on a daily basis around the county. 1400 non-domestic meters are due to be replaced in bulk with drive-by meters. Scheduled PRV and flowmeter works are currently on hold due to IR issues with outdoor crews. This is being escalated within IW via their Union liaison representative in order to get resolution.

Capital Maintenance Budget

Combined budget for 2017/2018 is 1,879,966. Current approved spend from IW is 2,335,887.35. Total commitments to end of October were €1,646,338, reports for Nov/Dec not yet available from Irish Water. Items not progressed in 2018 can carry over in to 2019. Budget for 2019 has yet to be announced.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

Assessment ongoing in regard to requests for funding for group water and sewerage projects under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Application for connection for the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme forwarded to Irish Water on the 21st December, 2018. Awaiting response.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Takeover Process ongoing.

5. Finance:

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met with the Local Government Auditor to discuss the 2017 Accounts and associated audit. The committee will now proceed to prepare their report for the Council on the Audit Committee activity during 2018, their views following consideration of the Audited Financial Statement for 2017 and associated audit report together with a note on their proposed programme of work for 2019. It is expected that the report will be submitted to the Council for consideration after the next Audit Committee which is scheduled for March 2019.

Annual Financial Statement 2018

Work will be commencing on the preparation of the 2018 Accounts shortly once all transactions for 2018 have been updated to the financial management system. This work will take a number of months but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March.

Capital Programme 2019 – 2021

Work has commenced on the preparation of the next 3 Year Capital Programme and it is planned to have this ready for consideration of members in the first quarter of 2019.

Borrowing Programme 2018

During 2018 Ministerial Sanction was been received for the Public Lighting (€5m) and Housing Loan Programme (€5.5m). Partial Sanction, €15m, was also received for the Economic and Community Development element (€40m), the remainder is the subject of additional correspondence with the DHPLG and formal ministerial approval is still awaited.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction has now been confirmed in respect of the application approved by Members at the November meeting, for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m in respect of the period up to 31st December, 2019.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**