



Chief Executive's Report

July 2018

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Economic Development (Team)

Wexford attracts jobs and talent as Hatch Lab opens its doors

The first in a range of ambitious projects being developed by Wexford County Council to attract investment and jobs to Wexford became reality on Friday 8th June when Cathaoirleach John Hegarty officially opened the 5000 sq ft *Hatch Lab* in Gorey, County Wexford.

The *Hatch Lab* is located on the M11 Business Campus in Gorey, County Wexford, less than 1km from the M11 Motorway and offers incubation and co-working facilities for fledgling micro-enterprises within the innovation and technology sector. The state-of-the-art facilities 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.

The building has access to up to 1GB of speed and boasts an impressive array of essential facilities, including meeting rooms, conference room, coffee dock and canteen, shared printing services, skype booths, relaxations areas and private lockers. Users of the Hatch Lab can choose from a variety of charges, with Hot Desking available from €15 per day and Private Desk from €190 a month.

Enniscorthy Enterprise and Technology Centre supplies the Hatch Lab with administration and operation services.

Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Councillor John Hegarty performed the opening ceremony. “*We’re delighted to say that the Hatch Lab is enjoying considerable success and has already hosted a number of exciting companies such as Abodoo.com – now a HPSU with Enterprise Ireland, WluderWander.com, Schedulie.com, Detour Guide, Infinite Zero and VoiNext*” said Councillor Hegarty.

“The Hatch Lab is one of a number of property solutions investments planned by Wexford County Council for each of our main towns”, said Tom Enright, Chief Executive of Wexford County Council. He added “*Just like our other property solutions, the Hatch Lab has been designed and constructed to meet the very high standards of today’s business investor. We fully expect that these new high-quality commercial office and manufacturing facilities, together with County Wexford’s other attractions of a skilled and talented workforce, affordable housing, enviable amenities, excellent motorway access and high quality of life, will encourage businesses to strongly consider Wexford as a viable and attractive option, when seeking a location for new investment or expansion of existing operations.*”

Also present at yesterday’s official opening was JJ Keyes, County Manager Bank of Ireland. “*We are delighted to partner with Wexford County Council and Redmond Brothers in helping to provide such an*

ambitious business facility here in North Wexford” said Mr. Keyes. “ Bank of Ireland’s investment of dedicated staff, supported by a targeted marketing and promotion plan, amounts to almost €1 million over a 5 year period, and it has allowed the Hatch Lab to attract clients and be fully functional right from Day 1”.

The Hatch Lab is the first building in Wexford County Council’s ambitious property solutions development programme to come to fruition and is based in the first of three 36,000 sq ft buildings being developed by Redmond Construction in the brand new M11 Business Campus in Gorey town.

Anybody interested in learning more about the Hatch Lab can make informal enquiries by emailing info@thehatchlab.ie.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Team

County Wexford Skills and Training Expo

As part of the Future Skills and Education Needs Taskgroup, the LEO Wexford participated in a County Wexford Skills and Training Expo in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy on the Wednesday 13th June. The purpose of this event was to gain feedback on the training requirements of industry, in particular the manufacturing and engineering sectors within the county. It highlighted the offerings from a cross section of suppliers such as the Education & Training Board, WIT, IT Carlow, Skillsnet etc. While it proved a very informative event for the stakeholders unfortunately industry attendance was low.

The Taskgroup are considering holding a Wexford Careers Showcase event similar to an event held in the Institute of Technology Carlow on the 1st May which targeted transition year/senior cycle students, Adult/FET learners and job seekers. The objective of this event would be to improve the promotion of careers within a number of key sectors such as Engineering, ICT, Life Sciences, Financial Services, Hospitality and Construction. It would present an opportunity to young learners to engage directly with industry and a give them insight into working in a particular industry – “day in the life” of a laboratory technician for example. Other areas include skills requirements, education and training and progression.

Training and Mentoring

The following is an update of training and mentoring activities for the first half of 2018;

Couse Title	Total	Male	Female
Showcase	1	0	1
Business Idea Clinic	7	4	3
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	93	38	55
Start Your Own Business (Wexford, Gorey)	15	7	8
Twitter For Business Clinic	7	0	7
Time Management	11	5	6
Basic Bookkeeping For A Small Business	10	2	8
Train The Trainer Course - QQI Level 6	9	4	5
Linkedin For Business	8	3	5
Public Relations Clinic	5	2	3
Start Your Own Business (Gorey)	18	6	12
Trading Online Voucher	8	5	3
Facebook For Business Beginners (Wexford)	10	5	5
Wexford Food Summit	78	36	42
Kick Start Your Food Business	12	4	8
Facebook For Business Clinic	7	2	5
Pricing For Profit Clinic	9	2	7
Twitter For Business Beginners (Wexford)	8	3	5
Introduction To Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)	12	2	10
Sales Clinic	7	3	4
Facebook For Business Advanced (Wexford)	10	3	7
Facebook For Business Beginners (Enniscorthy)	13	2	11
Excel For Business Beginners	11	3	8
Facebook For Business Advanced (Gorey)	8	2	6

Tax & VAT For Start-Up Business	10	2	8
Excel For Business Intermediate Level	14	11	3
Office Management Skills	7	1	6
Instagram For Business	9	2	7
Facebook For Business Advanced (Enniscorthy)	5	0	5
Working With A Wordpress Website	7	3	4
Go 2 Tender Workshops	13	5	8
Introduction To Email Marketing	9	6	3
Trading Online Voucher	12	8	4
LinkedIn for Business	7	4	3
International Women's Day	64	11	53
Women in Business Network Event (Enniscorthy)	40	0	40
Lean Programme	6	5	1
	580	201	379

The new Autumn/Winter training programme is currently being developed.

Sixty two businesses has been approved a total of 81 individual mentor sessions across a range of business areas such as sales and marketing, finance and intellectual property.

Lean Programme

Three Wexford companies have participated on a Lean Programme which is focused on increasing performance and competitive. This is a joint programme between the Local Enterprise Offices in Carlow and Wexford. Participating companies from Wexford are; Fox Brothers Engineering, Wells House and Gardens and Wexford Home Preserves.

New RD&I and Agile Innovation Fund

New RD&I and Agile Innovation Fund are now open to Local Enterprise Office clients. The Agile Innovation Fund in particular is targeted at smaller businesses with shorter product life cycles that need to develop products rapidly. The fund can be accessed for areas such as prototype development, consultancy services and staff salaries. It also presents an opportunity to help businesses innovate and respond to challenges for their businesses associated with Brexit. Enterprise Ireland will do an initial assessment based on a 2 page online proposal to look at eligibility before the promoter submits the full application. Funding for this initiative is outside the normal budgets for grant aid allocated to the individual LEOs. A key benefit of this funding is that applications can be considered from businesses with more than 10 employees and Agile funding is up to €150K.

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

Key project milestones for June 2018:

- BUCANIER Information Session held in Killarney on 15th June
- BUCNAIER Sign up session held at the Hatch Lab Gorey
- Attended CALIN Innovation in HealthTech Event in Cork
- Attended launch of the ReNu2Farm - Interreg Project

Planned Project Milestones for July:

- Ratify 18 companies signed up for BUCANIER and assign each a mentor to complete assessment and action plan
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PLANNING

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 22/06/2018	666
No. of pre planning requests up to 22/06/2018	385

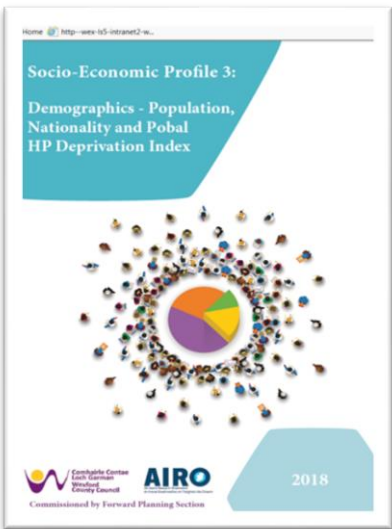
Forward Planning:

Socio-Economic Profiles – AIRO 2018

ON the 11th of June 2018, Cllr. John Hegarty, launched a series of Socio-Economic Profiles, prepared by All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) 11th of June 2018. They are comprised of a series of reports based on six socio-economic themes:

- Employment, Industry and Occupation
- Commuting Flows
- Demographics – Population, Nationality and Pobal HP Deprivation Index
- Education and Field of Study
- Health and Disability
- Housing

The reports are primarily based on Census 2016 information and provide very useful information and statistics on a range of topics including who we are (demographics), where we live and the type of housing we live in (housing), our education levels and what we work at and where we work (employment & commuting). The reports provide comparisons to other counties in the South-East, the Southern region and the State. The information is also displayed on maps to show the geographic spread of trends. The reports allow us to compare how things have changed since the first Socio-economic Report on the county was prepared by AIRO in 2015.



Pre-draft Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy



The new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region is currently being prepared. The RSES project team recently sought information from all local authorities in the region requesting details of their priorities and inputs for consideration in the formulation of

the pre-draft RSES. The focus of the information request was around required critical infrastructure (of regional importance) and strategic developments and assets within the County and to identify key strategic locations within each local authority area. Forward Planning co-ordinated the response which provided details on the Council's key economic drivers, priorities and projects for the county, priorities for enhanced regional and inter-regional connections, the location of strategic employment lands, the location of strategic housing lands and a list of priorities and projects relating to rejuvenation of town and village centres, heritage, tourism and recreational assets and quality of life and public services.

Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 and the Preparation of New County Development Plan

Having completed the consultation process, the Forward Planning team are now working on the preparation of the pre-draft Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025.

Work is well advance on the Retail Strategy. As part of the Retail Strategy, Future Analytics have carried out telephone surveys, shopper surveys, pedestrian counts, Health Checks and Stakeholder meetings in the four main towns. Online surveys and retail floor space surveys within the four main towns will take place in the coming weeks.



Work is also well advance on the Housing Strategy for the County. Other items completed include updated flood mapping of the County and screening for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Directives. Baseline reports are being prepared for both at present.

Review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended)

Work has commenced on the review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 and the preparation of a new plan for the area.

Solar Arrays

The Members of the Council previously requested an update on the position on the assessment of Solar Array applications. The current position is as follows:

Solar Energy

Solar energy uses the sun's energy for power or heat production. Solar energy can be captured in two ways:

- Active solar techniques which include the use of photovoltaic panels and solar thermal panels to harness energy;
- Passive solar techniques including orientation of a building towards the sun.

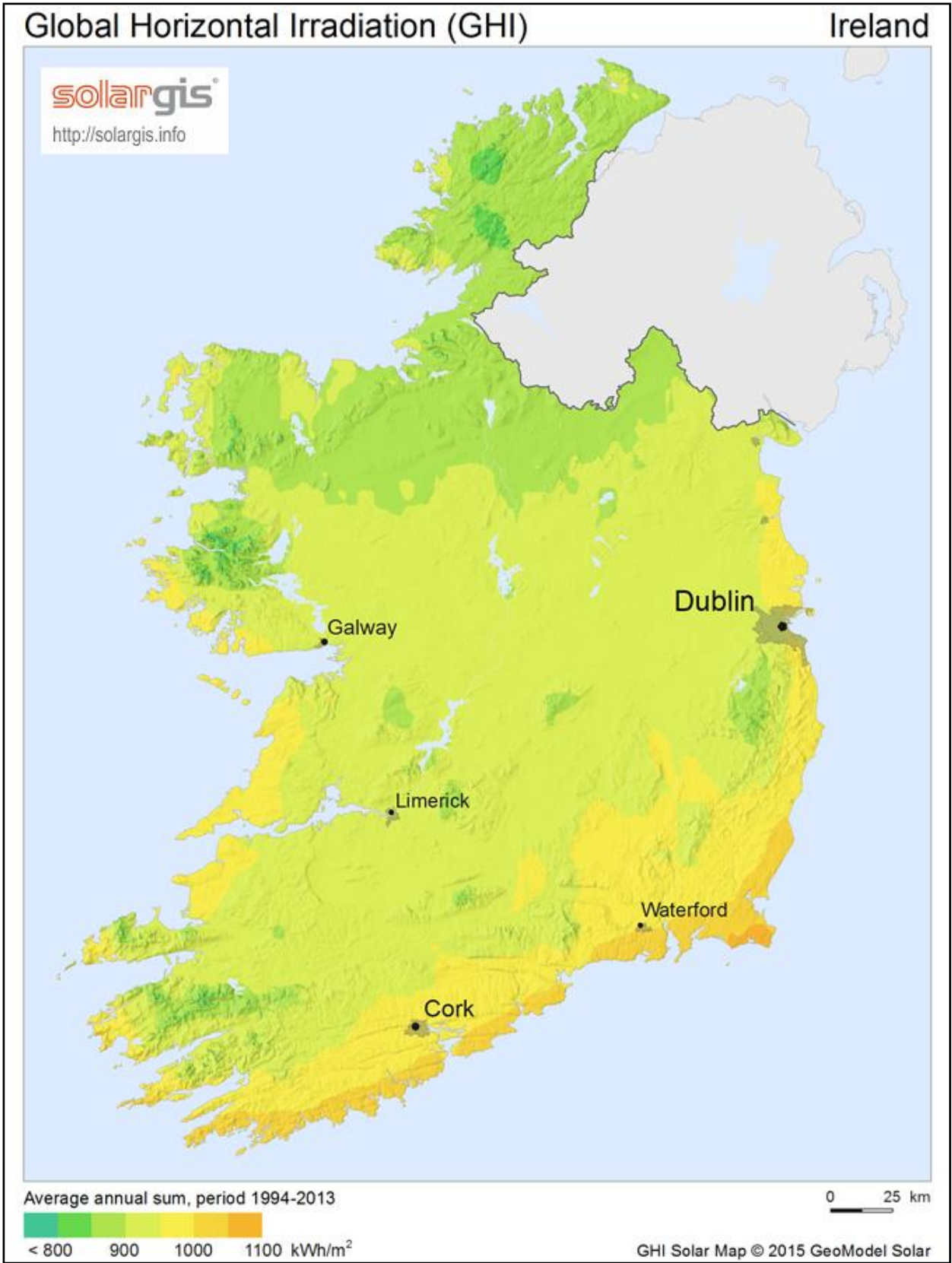
Solar Photovoltaic

Photovoltaic (PV) systems use daylight to convert solar radiation into electricity. PVs respond to both direct radiation (i.e. direct sunlight) and diffuse radiation (i.e. through cloud cover), and their output increases with increasing irradiance. A grid-connected PV system is one which connects to the electricity grid and "exports" to the grid. A "solar farm" is a large scale collection of grid connected solar PV panels used to generate electricity which is exported to the national grid via a substation. There has recently been a significant decrease in the cost of solar PV panels and this together with the relatively fast construction time in comparison to other electricity generation sources, has led to increased demand for this type of development over the last couple of years.

Theoretical Resource

Map 1 shows Ireland's average annual solar radiation in kWh/m.sq./day. It shows that the southern half of the country, including County Wexford, has higher annual solar radiation making it suitable for solar PV developments subject to normal planning and environmental considerations.

Map 1 Ireland's Average Annual Solar Radiation in kWh/m.sq./day



Planning Applications for Solar farms in Wexford

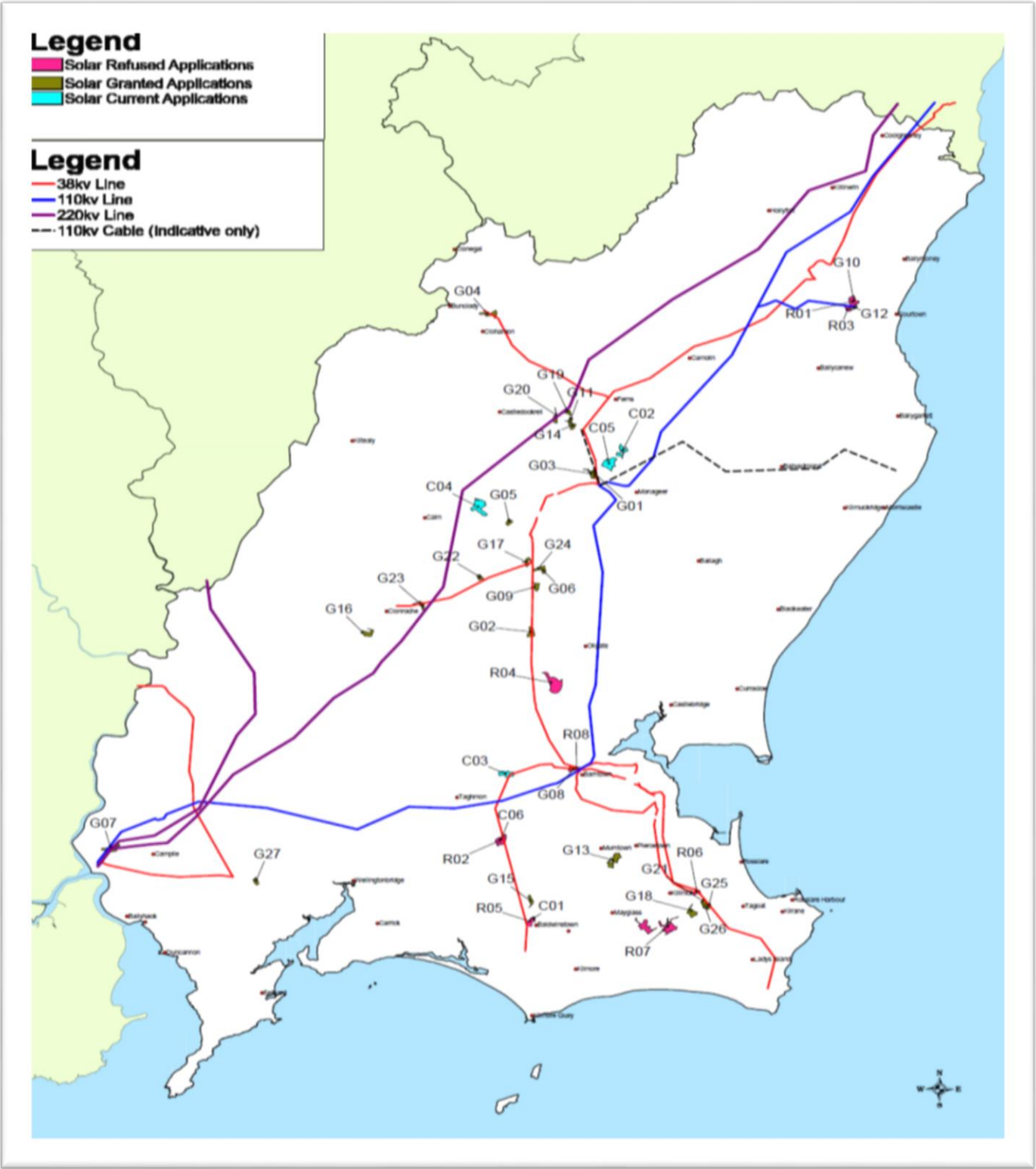
To date planning permission has been granted for 27 solar farms in County Wexford with a combined anticipated output of c.182MW. This includes two applications which were partially granted and partially refused. A further 6 applications are described as 'current' being either undecided or under appeal to An Bord Pleanála with an anticipated output of 116MW.

Eight applications for solar farms have been refused (including two split decisions) for reasons including:

- Visual impact from adjacent roads, surrounding countryside and nearby properties
- Traffic hazard
- Glint and glare on adjacent national roads
- Impact on the amenities of residential property
- Loss of agricultural land
- Premature pending national, regional or local guidance or strategy for solar power

Map 2 shows the location and status of solar farm planning applications in County Wexford. Tables 1-3 show applications granted, current applications and applications refused.

Map 2 Location and Status of Solar Farm Planning Applications in County Wexford.



Solar Planning Applications in Co. Wexford-Overview June 2018

- 27 Solar farms granted with a combined output of 182 MW
- 6 Applications under appeal with a combined output of 116 MW
- 8 Solar farms refused with a combined output of 134 MW

Table 1-Planning Applications Granted

Map Reference No.	Planning No.	Applicant	Location	Site Area (Ha)	MW	Council Decision and date	ABP Decision and date
G01	20171680	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd	Killabeg, Tinnacross	10.4	5	Grant 14-02-18	N/A
G02	20171314	Terra Solar Ltd	Mackmine, Ballyhoge	20.75	10	Grant 22-11-17	N/A
G03	20171127	RES Ltd	Killabeg, Tinnacross	12.7	5	Grant 11-10-17	N/A
G04	20170495	Highfield Solar Ltd	Graigie Beg, Newtownbarry	20	10	Refuse 02-06-17	Grant 19-02-18
G05	20170489	Meridiem Renewable Cherryorchard Ltd	Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy	10.85	5	Grant 12-06-17	N/A
G06	20170333	Highland Solar Ltd	St. John's, Enniscorthy	10.7	5	Refuse 10-05-17	Grant 05-03-18
G07	20170330	Solas Eireann Development Ltd	Kilmannock and Great Island, Kilmokea	28.14	14.8	Grant 07-07-17	N/A
G08	20170139	Power Capital Renewable Energy Ltd	Ballygoman, Carrick	5.94	5	Refuse 05-04-17	Grant 05-03-18
G09	20170132	Power Capital Renewable Energy Ltd	Loughgerald, Bree	13.17	5	Grant 09-08-17	Grant 05-03-18

G10	20170077	Elgin Energy Services Ltd	Banoge and Tomsilla Upper, Courtown	28.52	7 circa	Refuse 24-03-17	Split Decision 15-02-18
G11	20161231	Solas Eireann Development Ltd	Tincurry, Ballycarney	7.96	5.25	Grant 16-12-16	N/A
G12	20161217	RES Ltd	Banoge, Courtown	10	5	Grant 16-12-16	N/A
G13	20161110	Harmony Solar Dennistown Ltd	Dennistown, Sallystown, Milltown and Murntown Lower	39.9	20	Refuse 30-11-16	Grant 14-02-18
G14	20161097	Crory Energy Ltd	Tincurry, Ballycarney	9.66	5	Grant 18-11-16	N/A
G15	20160811	Harmony Solar Ralphtown Ltd	Newtown Big, Ralphtown, Muchtown and Kilcowan	11.7	6.37 circa	Refuse 07-09-16	Split Decision 23-03-17
G16	20160717	Highfield Solar Ltd	Tomfarney, Clonroche	19.9	12	Refuse 18-08-16	Grant 21-12-16
G17	20160689	Highfield Solar Ltd	Monfin, Enniscorthy	12.7	5	Refuse 03-08-16	Grant 10-01-17
G18	20160644	Arena Capital Partners Ltd	Ballykereen, Rosslare	22.75	11	Grant 22-07-16	N/A
G19	20160595	Power Capital Renewable Energy Ltd	Ballycarney, Ballycarney	10.84	5	Grant 20-07-16	N/A

G20	20160594	Power Capital Renewable Energy Ltd	Ballycarney, Ballycarney	12.94	5	Grant 20-07-16	N/A
G21	20160520	Wexford Solar Ltd	Ballycarran, Rosslare	10	4	Grant 16-08-16	N/A
G22	20160487	Davidstown Renewables Ltd	Davidstown, The Leap	10.28	4	Grant 29-06-16	Grant 28-11-16
G23	20160442	Highfield Solar Ltd	Ballymackesy, Clonroche	12.7	5	Grant 22-06-16	N/A
G24	20160207	Highfield Solar Ltd	St Johns, Enniscorthy	7.5	4	Grant 20-04-16	N/A
G25	20160009	John Hore	Ballycarran, Rosslare	10	4	Grant 26-02-16	N/A
G26	20160008	Philip Hore	Ballycarran, Rosslare	10	4	Grant 26-02-16	N/A
G27	20140392	Sarah O'Flaherty	Coolroe, Tintern	10.19	5	Grant 22-12-14	Grant 09-07-15
Total MW = 182 MW							

Table 2-Current Planning Applications

**(This includes planning applications either within the Appeal period
or under Appeal to An Bord Pleanála)**

Map Reference No.	Planning No.	Applicant	Location	Site Area (Ha)	MW	Council Decision and Date	ABP Decision and date
C01	20180389	Harmony Solar Ralphtown Ltd	Ralphtown, Kilcowan	8.9	10	Grant 18-05-18 4 week appeal ends on 21-06-18	
C02	20180055	WXD Energy Ltd	Tomsallagh, Tinnacross	24	10	Refuse 9-03-18	Decision due
C03	20180012	Terra Solar Ltd.	Growtown Upper and Lower, Forth	29	12	Refuse 28-02-18	Decision due
C04	20171630	Engie Developments Ireland Ltd	Monart East, Killoughrum	62.4	50	Refuse 7-02-18	Decision due
C05	20171275	JBM	Tomsallagh, Tinnacross	36	20	Grant 28-02-18	Decision due 24-04-18
C06	20171188	Terra Solar Ltd	Tracystown and Youngstown, Aughwilliam	32.15	14	Grant 20-10-17	Decision due 28-03-18

Total MW = 116 MW

Table 3-Planning Applications Refused

Map Reference No.	Planning No.	Applicant	Location	Site Area (Ha)	MW Output	Council Decision and Date	ABP Decision and Date
R01	20170077	Elgin Energy Services Ltd	Banoge & Tomsilla Upper, Courtown	28.5	8 circa	Refuse 24-03-17	Spilt Decision 15-02-18
R02	20170022	Terra Solar Ltd	Youngstown, Aughwilliam	24.2	14	Refuse 2-03-17	N/A
R03	20161449	Renewable Energy Solutions Ltd	Bannoge, Courtown	11	5	Refuse 22-02-17	Refuse 15-02-18
R04	20161212	Harmony Solar Brookhill Ltd	Ballyhoge, Ballyhoge	84.4	40	Refuse 16-12-16	Refuse 12-04-18
R05	20160811	Harmony Solar Ralphtown Ltd	Newtown Big & Ralphtown & Muchtown, Kilcowan	19.5	10.63 circa	Refuse 07-09-16	Split Decision 23-03-17
R06	20161096	Solas Eireann Development Ltd	Ballybrennan Little, Rosslare	9.91	6	Refuse 25-11-16	Refuse 09-02-18
R07	20160690	Highfield	Ballyminaun	89.4	45	Refuse	Refuse

		Solar Ltd	Big, Grahormick, Hilltown, Jonastown, Newhouse, Gibboghstown, Garryhack and Crosstown, Killinick and Tomhaggard.			10-08-16	02-02-17
R08	20160596	Power Capital Renewable Energy Ltd	Ballygoman, Carrick	11.7	5	Refuse 22-07-16	N/A
Total MW = 134 MW							

National and Regional Policy

There are currently no national or regional government guidelines on solar energy. In the absence of such policy Wexford County Council assesses planning applications under a variety of planning criteria and uses the existing Strategies, Objectives and Development Management Standards in the County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Planning Considerations

- Designated Sites, Protected Species and Biodiversity
- Geological Heritage Sites
- Impacts arising from Glint and glare
- Impacts on Human beings, Residential Amenity and Settlements
- Impacts on Major Roads and Railways
- Landscape and Visual Impacts
- Archaeology
- Geological Heritage Sites and Landslide Susceptibility
- Protected Structures
- Traffic Safety and Capacity
- Environmental Considerations including Air, Soil, Water.
- Loss of Agricultural Land
- Cumulative Impacts
- Impacts associated with ancillary infrastructure such as grid connections, fencing, CCTV, access tracks.
- Drainage and Flooding
- Noise and Dust

At pre-planning applicants are advised to consult local communities and provide assessments of individual dwellings where possible.

The new County Development Plan 2019-2025 will contain a Renewable Energy Strategy which shall include a section on solar energy.

Building Control:

Commencement Notices

A total of 218 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 22nd June, 2018 on the BCMS.

Wexford	76	Gorey	63
Enniscorthy	46	New Ross	33

Taking in Charge

We have a number of estates that are currently at different stages of the Taking in Charge process. Inspections have been carried out on six estates. Documents have been prepared and sent to Irish Water for the next stage of the taking-in-charge process.

The six estates are:-

- Hunters Green
- Fern Hill Close, Killinick
- Harbour View, Duncannon
- WillowBank, Blackwater
- Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine, Courtown
- An Bruach, Kilanerin

Eight estates are proceeding to the public consultation stage on the 26th June 2018. These estates are:

- Ard A Bhealach, Coolballow, Starvehall, Drinagh
- Beachside (Phase 1 & 2), Courtown, Gorey
- Beachfield Manor, Screen
- Oakwood, Ramsgate Village, Gorey
- O'Rahilly View, Gusserane
- Port na bPucaí, Kilmore
- Ravenwood, Glynn
- The Paddocks, Phase 1, Ramstown, Gorey

The following estates were formally taken in charge at the relevant Municipal Districts in June.

- Seabury, Rosslare
- Cúl Caislean, Taghmon
- Woodlands, Ballymurn
- Madeira Oaks, The Moyne
- Old Forest, Bunclody
- An Caislean, Bridgetown
- Ocean Point, Courtown
- Summer Cove, Rosslare

Works in Progress

Sandy Lane, Rosslare

Pricing documents were issued to the contractors for works in Sandy Lane, Rosslare to bring the estate up to Taking in Charge standard.

Annesley Court, Camolin

Public lighting remedial works are being carried out in Annesley Court, Camolin

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

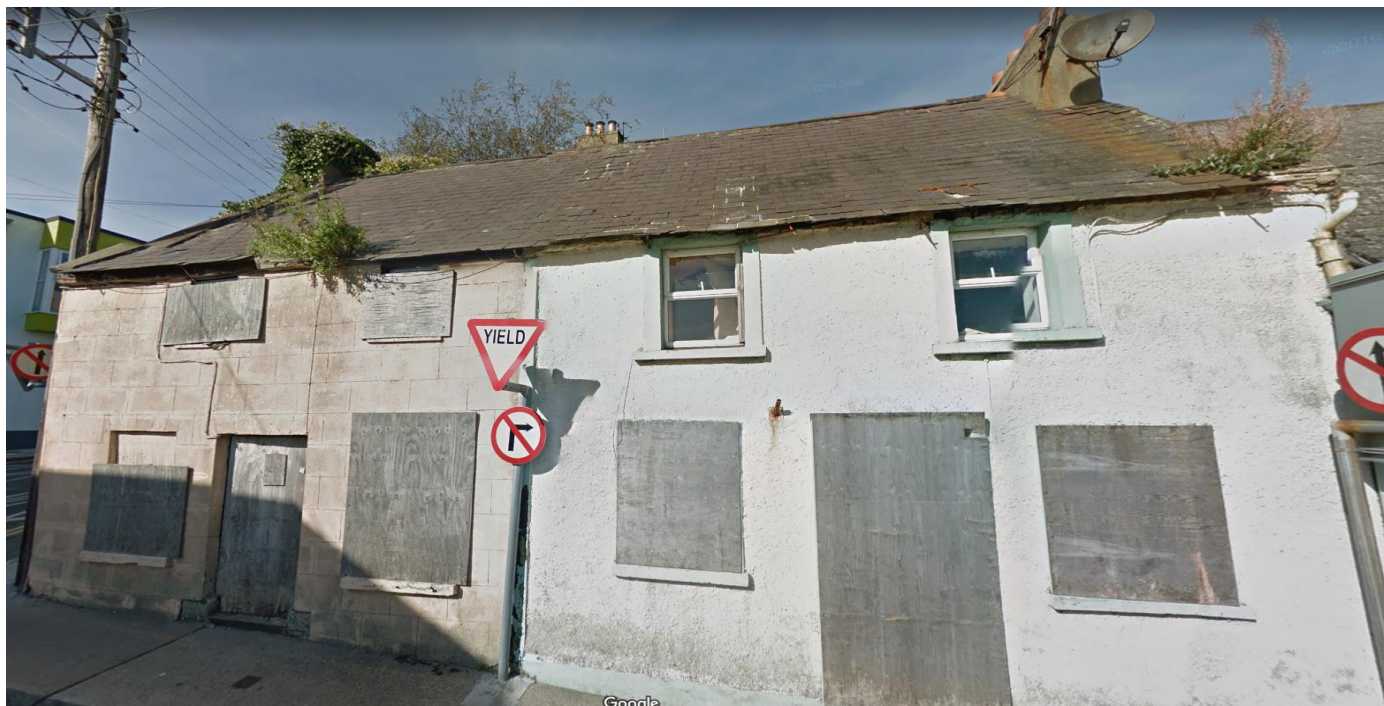
Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	24
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	3
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	4

Derelict Sites can have a negative impact on the social, visual and commercial aspects of a neighbourhood. On-going work is being carried out in relation to Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures. Windows and door decals were erected on two derelict houses in Bride Street, Wexford to improve their appearance.

Back in 2014 the Old Parish Hall, Broadway was deemed a derelict site and the Council served appropriate notices. On further inspection an Engineer deemed the structure to be dangerous and prompt action was taken to remove the dangerous structure.

2 Houses in Bride Street, Wexford

Before



After



Old Parish Hall, Broadway

Before



After



Planning Enforcement:

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 22/06/18 is as follows;

➤ Cases Opened	5
➤ Live Cases	337
➤ Cases Closed	1

District Court Cases

6 planning enforcement cases were listed in the District Courts during June 2018

Gorey: 1 listed for hearing
Wexford: 3 listed for hearing, 2 for mention

Gorey:

- Enforcement case 0005/2017 – Case adjourned to allow defendants to allow for payment of costs. Relates to sign at Main Street, Gorey.

Wexford:

- Enforcement case 0050/2017 – Case listed for hearing in relation to unauthorised HGV trailer parking area.
- Enforcement case 0123/2015 – Case listed for hearing relating to sale of non-bulky goods
- Enforcement case 0167/2016 – Case listed for hearing relating to removal of palisade fencing and non-compliance with planning permission 20110616
- Enforcement case 0180/2015 – Case for mention in relation to sale of non-bulky goods
- Enforcement case 0061/2015 – Case for mention only to confirm if a planning application was submitted in relation to retention of shed.

Access Section

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC applications, validated for the period from 01/01/2018 up to and including 22/06/2018, totals 47.

Projects

Changing Places Pilot at the Irish National Heritage Park



The successful Launch of the Changing Places took place on the 20th of June at the Irish National Heritage Park. Attendances include representatives from Changing Places Ireland, the LGMA, PPN representatives and many local disability groups and organisations.

Changing places is a pilot project, initiated by the Access Section in conjunction with the Environment Department. It provides for WC facilities to support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal injuries, people living with stroke as well as older people.

A Changing Places WC, provides more space and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist to enable users their family and carers assist in the use of the toilet safely, with dignity and comfort.

A Changing Places WC opens up a world of possibilities for users and their family to engage, and to participate in, community life.

Access for All Garden Parks and Community Spaces

Sunday 24th June saw the official opening of the sensory and woodland walk at Monageer Grotto carried out by Bishop Denis Brennan with Chairman of Enniscorthy Municipal District in attendance. In 2015, the inaugural year of the Access for All Garden and Park Competition, Monageer Grotto Committee were awarded 2nd prize for their design to create an accessible park and amenity for the village. After two years of outstanding commitment by the committee, community and volunteers Monageer Grotto sensory and woodland walk presents as a prime example of an inclusive and accessible amenity.



SPECIAL PROJECTS – July 2018

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: The Park obtained Part VIII Planning in April, 2016 based on a preliminary design by Wexford County Council. Detailed design and contract documents have been completed and the tender for construction was initially advertised on Dec 19th 2017. Following a detailed tender assessment process, the preferred tender was withdrawn and the contract has now been re-tendered. Closing dates for tenders is 26th June 2018. A contract is expected to be awarded by mid-August and works are expected to commence on site in September 2018.

Wexford Quays – Economic and Spatial Strategy: Architects Scott Tallon Walker have now submitted their final stage 2B report on the Economic Development and Spatial Implementation Plan for the Wexford Quay front.

Trinity Wharf: The Trinity Wharf site was acquired by Wexford Co. Council to attract investment and stimulate economic development in Wexford. Architects, Scott Tallon Walker have been appointed to prepare a master plan, environmental studies, preliminary designs and the related planning and foreshore applications for the development. The draft master plan is due for completion by end of June 2018. Environmental Impact assessment processes have commenced and are planned for completion by September 2018. An application to An Bord Pleanála is due to be submitted in October 2018. The Council intends to make the proposed Master Plan available for viewing by the public through a non-statutory consultation process by late July 2018.

Crescent Quay/Ballast Office: A package of Improvement Works in the Crescent Quay Area is currently being formulated as the first phase of the overall plan for the Quay Front Area.

These works will enhance and upgrade the public realm around the Crescent / Waterfront areas and improve the pedestrian links from Main Street to the Quays and the waterfront. Preparation of Part VIII approval documents has commenced and will issue for public consultation in mid July 2018. Works are expected to commence on site in January 2019.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: The launch of the Regeneration strategy took place in Templeshannon in February. Identifying the requirements for land-take and planning for the pedestrian bridge and streetscape works commenced in April 2018. Drawings for public consultation for the streetscape works are being prepared and will go on display in July 2018. Consultants will be appointed to prepare preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the pedestrian bridge in September and a planning application for the bridge will be advertised in November / December 2018.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Reddy Architecture + Urbanism have developed the master plan and a Part VIII planning application was lodged on 13th February 2018. A planning report was prepared and issued to the members at the May meeting and Part VIII consent granted by Council. Tender documents for the construction works are currently being evaluated. It is planned to award the contract for construction works in July 2018.

New Ross Business Park: Following a pre-qualification process, there are now two qualified applicants interested in partnering with Wexford County Council in delivering an advanced technology building on this site. Final tender documents for a negotiated procurement procedure were issued to these two candidates on 13th June 2018 with a closing date for final submissions of 26th July 2018.

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 tender submissions received are currently being evaluated and assessed.

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. Funding must be expended by March 2020.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Wexford County Council has prepared a brief for services for the design and tender of infrastructural work at Carrigfoyle as the initial stage of a project to develop an activity centre on the lands. Appointment of design services consultants will be completed by August/September 2018 with construction planned to commence in Q2-2019. It is envisaged that works will be completed by Q1-2020.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: A project has commenced to create a vision and opportunity plan to develop Enniscorthy town as a tourism destination. Wexford County Council is procuring services to prepare a feasibility study to develop and implement a major plan to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. The procurement process is currently in progress with a contract award expected July/August 2018. An application for funding to Fáilte Ireland is planned for Q1 2019.

Greenways:

Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.

Wexford County Council has procured services to examine the feasibility of developing a greenway from Rosslare Harbour to Waterford City. The study will review route options for the greenway, including the use of the rail corridor from Rosslare Strand to Waterford, prepare baseline environmental studies and prepare and submit planning applications over the next 12 months. The project is running to schedule with the familiarisation report now complete and the initial environmental studies and investigative works in progress. Draft route selection reports and environmental screening documents are to be completed by end of July.

New Ross Red Bridge Greenway and Walking Trail: The development of a greenway around New Ross, linking with Kilkenny County Council's planned greenway from Rosbercon to Waterford City, is currently at the planning stage. A Part VIII planning application was advertised for public consultation on 22nd May 2018. Submissions and observations are due by 17th July 2018.

Greenway Regional Strategy: Wexford County Council, in its function as the lead authority for the regional greenway office is preparing a regional strategy for the development of an integrated network of greenways across the South East. It is planned that this network of Greenways would be developed as a major tourism resource that links with national greenways and opens up the South East region to the activity, leisure and recreational tourism market nationally. The brief for services has been completed. Agreement to proceed to procurement prior to the publication of the national Strategy for Greenways is currently under review.

HOUSING

Estate Awards Scheme

The Estate Awards Scheme for Local Authority Housing Estates 2018 recognises and rewards the work of the residents in the upkeep of Local Authority Estates. It acknowledges the continuous voluntary contribution of residents in the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of their estates. It is open to all Local Authority built estates. This award scheme is about fostering pride in local authority estates and recognising and rewarding individuals and groups for their efforts.

Prizes will be given in the following categories: Best kept estate and Best kept estate runner up in each Municipal District Area, Best Estate Feature in each Municipal District Area and an overall prize for the best Local Authority Housing estate in County Wexford. Winners will be announced at Wexford County Council Residents Day which will be held at Halloween 2018 with judging taking place during the summer months.

Housing Supply

A number of housing capital projects have been approved by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and are progressing to construction stage:-

Construction Complete

- **2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate** – Houses completed May 2018

Under Construction

- **8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy** – Under construction, on programme to complete in September, 2018.
- **2 houses in Cois Mara, Rosslare** – Cert of substantial completion June 2018
- **9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey** – Under construction, on programme to complete in 2018.



- **1 house at Ross Road Enniscorthy** – Contracts signed, construction to begin, awaiting ESB to re-direct overhead powerline. Commence on site in July 2018.

- **10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey** – Under construction, due to complete in March 2019.
- **10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford** – Under construction, commenced on site April 2018 due to complete in April 2019.



Stage 4

- **10 Houses in Danescastle** – Stage 4 approval received awaiting contractor bond, construction due to commence in July 2018.
- **1 TAP house in Castlemoyle** – Tender in July 2018.
- **7 Houses in Coolcotts** – Stage 3 approval received, going to tender in June 2018.
- **1 House in Castlemoyle for Special Needs** – Stage 3 approved, going to tender in July 2018.

Stage 3

- **1 house at Ballynaboola** - Stage 3 approved 6th June, 2018. Costs have been reduced and a new planning permission was lodged.

Stage 2

- **18 houses in Taghmon** – Stage 2 approved. Stage 3 submission in July 2018.
- **45 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford** – Stage 2 approved on 26th April 2018. Stage 3 progressing.
- **6 units at The Ballagh** – Stage 2 approved. Stage 3 submission in June/July 2018.

Stage 1

14 Houses in Carricklawn – Stage 1 in June 2017, on hold. Problems with title to be rectified by land owner before we finalise purchase. This will be a 2018 project to commence in 2019. Recommend to discontinue this project as no response from landowner.

7 Units at Belvedere Road, Wexford – Consultancy tenders received appointment due in July 2018.

3 units in Ballyhine – Not approved by members, a new scheme will be proposed for this site in July 2018.

11 units in Ballywish – Stage 1 approval. On hold until additional land is purchased to achieve 220m sightlines as requested by Roads. Approach to adjoining landowner made, nothing back from landowner at this time.

34 units at Kileens, Wexford – Stage 1 approved on 21st March, 2018, Stage 2 Q3 2018. Consultants to be appointed in July 2018.

43 units at Rosetown, Rosslare – Stage 1 approved on 21st March, 2018 enabling works consultant tenders received. Enabling site works 2018, houses to be tendered in 2019.

17 units at Enniscorthy – Stage 1 approved on 23rd March 2018 awaiting CPO.

12 units for Women's Refuge – Appointment of an integrated design team June 2018.

12 units at Creagh, Gorey – Stage 1 approved on 13th June, 2018.

The number of units with Capital Approval is 287. The following project for 12 units was submitted to DHPLG in March 2018:-

Pre-development Stage

We are working on another **109** units preparing feasibility studies prior to the Stage 1 application. These include the following larger projects:-

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • Daphne View, Enniscorthy | 24 |
| • Castlemoyle, New Ross (<i>Land Aggregation Scheme</i>) | 40 (<i>phase 1</i>) |
| • Rosbercon, New Ross | 22 |
| • Marconi Park, Enniscorthy | 1 |
| • 5 Francis Street | 1 |
| • Wexford Street, Gorey | 21 |

Longer Term Projects

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Park, Wexford | 10 |
| • Clonard, Wexford | 26 |
| • Adamstown (<i>no services capacity</i>) | 16 |

Rent Review 2018

The rent review 2018 has commenced. Tenants have been given a deadline of 13th July 2018 to return their updated forms and it is hoped to have all 4,993 rent accounts reassessed by the end of November 2018. The new rents will be effective from 30th December 2018.

Grants

The 2018 allocation to Wexford Co Council for Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability for private householders is €2,165,026. This is an increase of over €370,000 on last year's allocation.

ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT CE REPORT

1	<u>Harbour Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Department of Ag, Food and Marine 2018 annual fishery harbour works underway. Fethard Harbour remedial works contract awarded June 2018.- Kilmore Quay – minor repair works to quay wall completed June 2018.
2	<u>Blue Flag & Green Coast Beaches</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 7 blue flags awarded by An Taisce in 2018.- 8 Green coast awarded by An Taisce in 2018.- An Taisce carried out inspections at Ballymoney, Courtown, Morriscastle. An Taisce reports were very positive, with only minor action items required.- Rosslare Strand: dune restoration works undertaken to fence off area from pedestrian access, remove non-native species and over time replant with maram grass.
3	<u>Water Presentation Byelaw</u> <p>The Environment Department presented the new Draft Waste Presentation Bye-laws to the last meeting of the Environment SPC. These Bye-laws will give additional powers to the Council in terms of tackling the illegal dumping problem, such as</p>

	requiring the submission of documentary evidence to prove that that the waste was dealt with in accordance with the byelaws.
3	<p><u>Wind Farm Consultancy</u></p> <p>The monitoring programme on wind noise on the wind farms in Castledockrell is ongoing</p>
4	<p><u>Environmental Education</u></p> <p>The application submitted to the Department for the Anti - Litter Anti- Graffiti was successful and a grant of €28,000 was secured. A further grant application has been submitted to the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) for €20,000 (maximum grant allowable). Projects submitted under this grant include waste prevention projects for Rock n Roll Festival in Enniscorthy and some community based projects.</p>

COMMUNITY

Bunclody

Bunclody has been selected as a candidate for the 2018 Pride of Place competition in the population 2,000-5,000 category 4 and a Community Action Team which includes local authority representatives has been established to manage this process. The town will be visited by the judges on Thursday 26th July 2018.

Preparations are also well underway for this year's Summer Festival called "Alice in Bunclody" which will take place from 20th to 22nd July 2018.

Age Friendly & Older People's Council

The Age Friendly Alliance met on 6th June 2018. Progress reports from each member were given on the Age Friendly Action Plan. Sinead Shannon from the Department of Health gave a presentation on the HAPAI (Health and Positive Ageing Initiative) data and identified how Wexford is performing relative to other parts of the Country.

The LCDC Sub-Committee on Loneliness and Isolation among Older People met on 11th June 2018. Representatives from this group met with Friendly Call in Cork which is a Freephone call service for older people which has been identified as an example of best practice in the Country.

Cultural Companions

Cultural Companions is a joint initiative between the Arts Department and the Community Department to set up a cultural network for older people in Co. Wexford. This initiative brings together older people who want to go to arts and cultural events but don't have anyone to go with. It provides the opportunity for older people to meet new people, combat loneliness, get out more and enjoy all that Co. Wexford's arts and culture sector has to offer.

Following on from the Public Meeting on 22nd May in County Hall, which was very well attended with over 70 members of the public, 54 individuals signed up for Cultural Companions on the day and a further 7 individuals put their names forward as volunteers to assist in the running of the project. A calendar of events for the period June to August has been circulated to members and the first event is scheduled for 21st June 2018 in Wexford Arts Centre.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 was launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring, TD in April. For 2018, there will be €15 million in funding for rural towns and villages for projects. The scheme is specifically targeted at rural towns and villages with populations of less than 10,000. Applications from towns and villages can range from €20,000 to a maximum of €100,000. Funding of up to €200,000 will also be considered for a limited number of projects which can deliver exceptionally strong economic benefit to a town and its outlying areas.

Wexford County Council has received 27 expressions of Interest (EOIs) from town/village groups who may have a suitable project for consideration under the scheme. All expressions of interest have now been assessed and the 12 successful EOIs are being developed into full applications to be lodged with the Department on or before the end of June.

District	Village Covered	Amount Applied for	Synopsis
Enniscorthy	Blackwater	€200,000	Community Hall refurbishment
	Galbally	€100,000	Works to Community Centre
	Courtnacuddy	€40,000	Village Health Check
Gorey	Courtown/Riverchapel	€200,000	Enhancement Works
	Ferns	€100,000	Themed Playground & Tourist Project
	Askamore	€77,000	Repairs to Community Hall
New Ross	Fethard On Sea	€100,000	Merchandising & enhancement Works
	Saltmills	€90,000	Marine & Village Enhancement Works
	Clongeen	€238,350	Redevelopment of Community Hall
Wexford	Murrintown	€150,000	Playground & Garden Area
	Kilmore Quay	€200,000	Extension to Stella Maris Centre
	Barntown	€130,000	Works to Community Centre

Healthy Ireland Fund 2017

Work is on-going to complete the required reporting forms, for each of the 13 Actions, completed under the 2017 allocation.

Under Action 12 the Healthy County Plan passed through various committee stages and was approved at the full Council meeting in June.

The 2018 Healthy Ireland Actions are outlined in the in the table below.

2018 HEALTHY IRELAND FUND APPLICATION		
Action Number	Action Description	Action Estimated Cost €
1	Regional Health and Wellbeing Training and Awareness Programme	5,000.00
2	Healthy Woodlands and Men's Shed Project - Sports Active	8,400.00
3	Increase opportunity for schools to access swimming lessons	8,000.00
4	FAI Summer Soccer Schools Free Places	7,800.00
5	Training Programme for Kayak and Sailing - Southend FRC	12,355.00
6	Healthy Wexford Coordinator	28,445.00
7	Age Friendly Befriending Pilot Scheme	5,000.00
		75,000.00

INTERREG – Celtic Routes

The €2m project to encourage visitors to explore lesser known areas of Ireland and Wales has commenced. The partners include Wicklow, Waterford and Wexford County Councils and Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The contract is partly funded via the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Cooperation programme 2014-2020.

A successful Contractor Blue Sail Ltd has been selected for the Mapping Contract. Ms. Oonagh Messette has been appointed, on secondment from the Regional Assembly to the post of Project Coordinator and has taken up duty on Friday the 22nd June 2018

LCDC Sub Group – Future Skill and Education Needs

The County Wexford Skills & Training Upskilling event organised by the Wexford Chambers Of Commerce and supported by Wexford County Council LCDC was held in Riverside Hotel in Enniscorthy on the 13th June 2018.

Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 - 2021

HLG 1

To foster the culture of educational attainment and lifelong learning in County Wexford and provide opportunities to develop educational and workforce skills, to improve work readiness and access to employment.

Science Week 2018 – Grant of Funding from Science Foundation Ireland

Wexford County Council, Community Development, Libraries and Arts and the Environment Sections have been awarded a research grant of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland to deliver the WexSci Science Festival in County Wexford for Science Week 11th to 18th November 2018. This grant is to organise, manage and deliver a Science Week Festival, in conjunction with the national Science Week campaign managed by Science Foundation Ireland and with 12 partners. The partners are WWETB, Environmental Protection Agency, Institute of Technology, Carlow, including Wexford Campus, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Local Link Wexford, Taghmon and Raheen Family Resource Centres, Bunclody/Enniscorthy, Gorey, Bridgetown and South West Wexford School Completion Programmes and TEKCentral.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)

June Update 2018

The PPN has been out and about raising awareness in June. Volunteers manned a stand at the Active Retirement Summer Health & Wellbeing Event in Wexford on 6th June and a Wexford PPN stand at the Gorey Agricultural Show on 16th June. This activity is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the PPN.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Courses (Child Protection): Safeguarding 1: 12 Courses have been completed with a total attendance for 2018 of 197 participants

Safeguarding 2: 3 Courses has been competed with a total attendance for 2018 of 40 participants

World Orienteering Day: On Saturday 26th of May Sports Active supported World Orienteering Day by supporting an orienteering event in Pierce Park New Ross. This park has just recently been mapped out for orienteering and this was launched on the day with an orienteering challenge open to the public to participate in. Shielbaggan OEC ran the event and set up all the flags and maps for the day.

Traveller Pride: On the 7th of June SAW supported Wexford Local Development in an event in the Sports Hub in Enniscorthy to celebrate Traveller Pride. At this event there were sports games for children to participate in and also recognition and celebration for all the traveller women who participated in the Dublin Women's Mini Marathon on the 3rd of June.

Men's Health Week: SAW linked in with Irish Men's Sheds Association to host a National Men's Health event in Astro Active Enniscorthy. On the day there was a speaker from Men's Sheds, from Diabetes Ireland and Get Ireland Walk. We also had a scooch competition and an introduction to Walking Football. 50 men were present from Men's Sheds and also Syrian men's groups from New Ross and Enniscorthy who came with Wexford Local Development with an aim to join the Men's Shed groups in their area.

Wheelchair GAA Training: The Irish Wheelchair Association came down to Wexford on Monday 18th of June to deliver inclusive training to all the GAA Development and coaching team. SAW is working closely with Wexford GAA to ensure that GAA is accessible to everyone in Wexford. The GAA will also be delivering a Cúl Camp in Astro Active in August for Children with a Physical Disability in conjunction with The Slaneyside Super Stars.

Woodlands for Health: Woodlands for Health is an innovative Eco Therapy programme developed by Coillte and prescribed by HSE medical professionals for adult mental health patients to engage them in forest activities to enhance their quality of life. We have secured a grant for this programme from Get Ireland walking and in partnership with Wexford Mental Health, Coillte, Local Link and the Wexford walking trails , we will be launching this in August at Tintern Abbey. We hope to have 20 participants take part in a 12 week programme .

Community Coaching Programme: We have now partnered with the ETB Learning Training Initiative in Courtown Riverchapel to work with their Level 4 Group. There are 16 participants in the group and they now have embarked on Safeguarding courses and Foundation level with the GAA. This programme will we hope ling a local training programme with a number of programmes to be rolled out in the Riverchapel community Complex

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

CREATIVE IRELAND

Cruinniú na nÓg, Saturday 23rd June was designated a national day of creativity for children and young people. Here in County Wexford, Wexford County Council in partnership with Creative Ireland delivered twenty one events for children, young people and family groups in Wexford, New Ross, Gorey, Enniscorthy and Bunclody.

The programme involved delivering free workshops in art, storytelling, music and drama. It was promoted widely on media outlets and from the website. An events brochure was developed and distributed widely. Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was presented in partnership with RTE and the Local Authorities.

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

The National Strategy for the Public Library Service in Ireland **Our Public Libraries 2022 inspiring, connecting and empowering communities** was launched by Minister Michael Ring on Thursday 14th June. It is a five year strategy that will focus on improving access, use and visibility of the public library service. It sets new targets for a range of sustainable integrated services that will support lifelong learning, reading and literacy and the use of our libraries as centres for community and cultural activity.

Science Week grant 2018

Wexford County Council, Libraries and Community Development sections, have been awarded a research grant of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland. This grant is to organise, manage and deliver a Science Week Festival, from 11th to 18th November, in conjunction with Science Foundation Ireland and with 12 local partners in County Wexford. The partners are WWETB; Environmental Protection Agency; Institute of Technology, Carlow, including Wexford Campus; Bord Iascaigh Mhara; Local Link Wexford; Taghmon and Raheen Family Resource Centres; Bunclody/Enniscorthy, Gorey, Bridgetown and South West Wexford School Completion Programmes and TEKCentral.

The objective of Science Week is to stimulate interest and promote awareness of STEM through the delivery of accessible, entertaining and learning events that will engage and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with science, technology and engineering and to increase public scientific literacy.

Wexford Heritage

In June, Wexford Library with Wexford Chamber of Commerce hosted the launch of the book Wexford Harbour Commissioners: A history 1794-2010 written by Ernie Shepherd. And to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States Naval Air Station in Wexford in 1918-1919, Liam Gaul delivered a lecture, Seaplanes on the Slaney.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme event and exhibition

To raise awareness of the new Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme, a public display and information event was held in Enniscorthy library from the 19th June. Design Consultants were available to answer questions from the public. The plan remained on public display for three weeks.

Refugee Week with Doras Luimni and Syrian community

To mark World Refugee Week, from 18th to 24th June 2018, Doras Luimni presented three information events in Gorey and Wexford libraries. The experiences of being a refugee were explored through exhibition, story and art and told by the Syrian people to their local community. Doras Luimní is the migrant support NGO overseeing the Syrian and Iraqi refugee resettlement in Co. Wexford provided both events.

Irish Wildlife Trust and Citizen Science

Wexford County Council, Library and Community Development sections, with Agenda 21 funding, enabled the Irish Wildlife Trust to deliver 16 information events for children and adults in all five public libraries in County Wexford in May and June. In these the public, children and adults, were also invited to engage in Citizen Science by recording online, evidence of wildlife activity in their local area.

Archives

Two significant collections were acquired by the archive in June:-

The business archive of Celtic Linen (1920-2001) including financial material, personnel records, correspondence and photographs.

Two framed illuminated addresses to Lorenzo Nickson Nunn, barrister, one from his tenants on the occasion of his taking over the estates of St. Margaret's and Hillcastle, Co. Wexford and the other from the people of Gorey and North Wexford on his retirement from public life in 1873.

ARTS

Public Art, New Ross

Artist Caomihe Kilfeather has been selected for the Per Cent for Art commission at the N25 New Ross Bypass. A contract has been agreed for the artist to begin work in July 2018. The final permanent work will be installed in April 2019 at Stokestown Lay overlooking new Barrow Bridge.

Music Generation

Co-ordinator Katherine Atkinson presented the Music Generation programme plan 2018-2019 to the stakeholder team, WWETB, WCC Arts office, on Tuesday 19th June. Liz Burns presented same to the June SPC meeting.

The programme is currently recruiting for Music tutors and an administrator. The first music programmes will start in summer 2018 and the school vocal and preschool programme will run from September 2018 to May 2019. An instrumental programme will begin in 2019.

Per Cent for Art Review meeting

Wexford Arts Officer Liz Burns was invited to be part of a national public art group to review and advise Dept. of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht around the Per Cent for Art Scheme, and its development over the coming years. She attended the first meeting on the 14th June in Dublin.

FIRE SERVICE

News: Wexford County Fire Service ran two national courses in May for fire officers nationwide in conjunction with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. These were a passive fire safety course and a compartment fire behaviour training instructor's course. A debrief of Storm Emma was undertaken in week 1 with 11 recommendations for action made.

Fire Operations: In May it was a very busy month with 88 incidents including 10 chimney fires, 20 false alarms, 9 domestic fires, and 10 road traffic accidents.

Incident type	Year to date	May
Fires	129	44
Special Services	91	14
Chimney Fires	90	10
False Alarms	111	20

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

Applications Received	Year to date	May
Fire Safety Certificates	49	11
Planning Referrals	316	94

Number of Inspections	Year to date	May
FSA Inspections	91	18

CIVIL DEFENCE

Operations / Training Report May - June 2018

Civic Duties

We covered 15 community duties for May – June 2018

1. Bannow 1169 Cycle, 6th May
2. Wexford Athletics Camross, 11th May
3. Darkness into Light New Ross, 12th May
4. Bannow CCE, Danescastle National School, 13th May
5. Wexford Athletics Sports Hub Enniscorthy, 13th May
6. Glynn Barntown Hurling Blitz, 19th May
7. Wexford Athletics, Sports Hub, Enniscorthy 27th May
8. Enniscorthy Strawberry Festival, 1st 7 2nd June
9. Wexford Athletics, Road Race, Ferns, 8th June
10. Kilmuckridge, Family Cycle, 13th June
11. Gaelscoil, Wexford, 5K Fun Run
12. Wexford Lions Club Concert, Selskar Abbey, 23rd June
13. Wexford Maritime Festival, 23rd & 24th June
14. Slaney Olympics, Enniscorthy 10mile
15. Wexford Community Games, Sports Hub, 24th June.

Training Courses

FAR Course for Wexford County Council Staff, County Hall.

Training continues on a weekly basis in Gorey, New Ross and Wexford.

CFR Advanced Training course for all our EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) was held on the 4th May and the 15th June 2018.

As part of our emergency Driving training requirements, we completed two courses for Winching assisting with boat launching on 9th and 10th June 2018.

Lourdes Military Pilgrimage 2018

A total of 15 volunteers for Wexford Civil Defence attended the 60th Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes from 17th – 20th May 2018. Two volunteers were presented with their Lourdes medal for attending three pilgrimages in Lourdes, Mr Celestine Swords from the Gorey Unit and Mr. Tony Dennison from the Wexford Unit.

Fethard Lifeboat Naming

The Civil Defence Officer will attend the naming ceremony for the new Fethard Lifeboat on Saturday 30th June 2018.

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 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 on target with programme.

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 for appointment of Consultant and first meeting held with Consultant .

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 by CPO 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. A detailed design report was prepared and workshop held to review report.

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 in Courtown was completed in 2016. The plant is now operated by the contractor. (Aecom is now Murphy Process Engineering).

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 7,500m³ 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. Negotiations for wayleaves ongoing with landowners. The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. The review of the tender documents is complete and final revisions are in progress before contract is advertised for tender.

IW Asset Management: 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. A public information evening was held on Tuesday, May 22nd for Arthurstown, Duncannon and Ballyhack to update the community on the proposed schemes.

IW Asset Management: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

Site Investigation works are complete for gas and water main installation around Wexford town. 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. Tender documentation is progressing and will be issued shortly.

New Ross Sewerage Scheme – Irishtown to Nunnery Lane Sewers

The works are now complete, with the new sewers tested and live.

Reinstatement works are still to be completed.

IW Asset Management: Water Conservation Stage 3– Watermain Rehabilitation Phase 2 (Direct Labour Crew)

Works to the Gorey section are complete. Bridgetown has commenced. IW are funding this project for €2m for 9KM of pipeline rehabilitation.

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.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

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

Works due to commence 2nd week in July.

Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme

TMS shall commence sampling and testing services under the Lab Services Framework on 1st July 2018.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Contract

Planned Works

- South Beach, Duncannon WWTP - Issues with 2 Sulzer pumps, possible pipework blockage, dosing pumps not running, replace aeration actuator.
- Ballyhack WWTP – Replace blower and check sludge return pump (possibly faulty).
- St. Johns, Wellingtonbridge WWTP (ground discharge) - Replace sludge pump.
- Clonroche WWTP – Repair works to RBC (rotating biological contactor) gearbox.

Completed Works

- Clongeen WWTP - Installation of second grinder pump, also a new Siemens Hydoranger / ultrasonic head and 2 new variable speed drives, VSD's, (control the speed of the pumps).
- Carrick on Bannow WWTP - Installed new motor and gearbox to the SBR (Sequencing Batch Reactor).

Sewer Network Pump Station Maintenance Contract

Planned Works

- Rosburcon PS - Foul pump replacement
- South Beach, Duncannon PS - Only one pump in operation, panel , kiosk , pump, tank guide rails etc in poor repair, full refurbishment recommended
- Beechfield, Fethard on Sea PS – Install 2nd submersible pump and move pump junction boxes above ground into mini pillar.

Trinity Street Waste Water Pumping Station

ABB technicians shall carry out inspection works on the Switchgear early July 2018 (ESB informed).

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

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

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

The automated coagulation system has been activated at both plants, they are now operating on streaming current. All other automation works are complete. PH correction works are outstanding in Kilmallock, it is recommended that this will be needed for the coagulation automation to be successful in poor raw water quality conditions. Clarifier repair works are complete at Taylorstown. Sign off of all works is underway.

IW Asset Management: pH Emergency (Automated dosing control)

Caustic in operation at Coolgreany.

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

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

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Vinegar Hill: Concrete slab for new hypo tank complete. Tank installed. Caustic tanks and instrumentation installed.

Newtown: New pumps and panels being installed

Kiosks installed at Carrigbyrne, Clonroche, Edermine and Bree.

Civil works for new kiosks complete at Carrigbyrne and Clonroche. Contact time pipework installed at Ballinellard.

Water Network Program

Coffey Water have been appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. They have work orders for public side lead replacement works in Enniscorthy and Backyard Service replacement in Wexford 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.

Capital Maintenance Budget

Combined budget for 2017/2018 is 1,879,966. Current approved spend is 1,719,654. Total commitments to date are €1,103,321.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Blackstairs Group Water Scheme – Contract No. 11 Pollpeasty

Contract complete. Road reinstatement outstanding.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

As soon as an Engineer is appointed to Rural Water, an assessment will be carried out on the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme to ascertain whether funding will be made available.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Takeover Process ongoing.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

N25 New Ross Bypass:

Progress Update June 2018

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is approximately two-thirds complete, and the scheme remains on programme to open in 2019.

The construction of the main spans has commenced from Pier 4 (river pier) using “form travellers”. These moveable steel frames were initially assembled side by side on top of the pier and contain the formwork system that casts the concrete deck. The travellers have now separated and moved out in opposite directions from either side of the pier to cast the first deck segments. By this incremental method, the deck is launched, segment by segment, as the separate form travellers move out and away from both sides of the pier. Similar traveller systems will be launched from the piers on the opposite sides of the main spans (i.e. piers 3 & 5) and the separate decks will thus cantilever out incrementally from each pier until they meet in the middle of the span. This process will continue to progress over the coming months. The approach spans on the western (Kilkenny) side continue to progress towards completion, while span 6 on the eastern (Wexford) side is also nearing completion. Night time works on the bridge have commenced following completion of the necessary consultation and approval processes.

The full roundabout on the N25 at Glenmore became operational under temporary traffic management on May 29th. This traffic management will remain in operation until July as finishing works are completed. Final surfacing works on the approaches will then be completed and the roundabout will continue to operate without traffic management. The adjacent Ballyverneen Road

Overbridge and Glenmore Road Underbridge are both nearing completion which will allow the respective local roads to re-open. The piers and abutments for the railway overbridge are also progressing to completion.

Bulk earthworks are now substantially complete and drainage works are over 75% complete. Pavement foundations are also well advanced and pavement layers continue to be constructed over the summer months.

The L8144 Lacken Road and L8046 Creakan Road are temporarily closed until early July to facilitate the completion of the tie-ins of the new road alignments. Upon completion both roads and associated bridges will then be fully open and operational. Road works and temporary traffic management on the R733 Campile Road have commenced for realignment and junction works. The current temporary diversion and statutory 60km/h speed limit will continue to operate on the N25 Wexford Road at Ballymacar until October. At that stage the roundabout will be fully complete and opened to the current traffic network (i.e. both Bypass arms will remain closed). Accommodation works for landowners continue to be developed throughout the site.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that road surfaces, temporary management systems etc. continue to operate safely and as required. The site continues to be monitored for the generation of noise, vibration and dust. The recent very dry weather has created challenging conditions for the generation of dust and mitigation measures are being closely monitored to minimise any impacts on neighbouring properties.

The ninth quarterly project newsletter was published in June, and the project website www.n25newross.ie continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. A further short progress video was released by Wexford County Council in May, and a feature information video will be completed shortly providing detailed information on the project and the construction of the Barrow Bridge in particular. Given the high level of public interest in the project, it is proposed to present this video to local stakeholders and interest groups, including the local authorities, schools, chamber of commerce etc. 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. Glenmore Roundabout fully open under temporary traffic management. Glenmore Road Underbridge to left, Ballyverneen Road Underbridge to bottom right providing grade separated access for local traffic.



2. Barrow Bridge – Finished underside of deck at Pink Rock



3.

Barrow Bridge – Construction of main span decks from Pier 4 by ‘form travellers’.

Approach spans nearing completion at Pink Rock (to right) for commencement of main span deck from Pier 3.



4. Final earthworks nearing completion at cut 3 Stokestown



5. L4021 Arnestown Road Overbridge & Realigned local road network.



6. N25 Ballymacar Roundabout – kerbing and pavement foundations complete



7. Arnestown looking eastbound to N25 Ballymacar Roundabout and Lacken in the distance.



8. From Corcorans Cross looking westbound towards Lacken.

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update

	<i>Total No of Landowners</i>	<i>Settled to date</i>
<i>M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>197</i>

Program

As of June 2018 the program is on target and the M11, N30 and N80 will be opened 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 April 2018	Progress Reported in May 2018	Progress Reported in June 2018
Site Clearance	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Fencing	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	30%	39%	43%	58%
Earthworks	23%	75%	81%	81%	92%
Structures – Main Bridges		56%	76%	79%	86%
Structures – Culverts	29%	96%	98%	98%	99%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	84%	87%	88%	91%
Accommodation Works	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Kerbs Footways & Paved Areas			4%	5%	9%
Safety Barrier			3%	3%	4%
Pavement			7%	10%	22%

EARTHWORKS

Bulk Cut to Fill was approx. 986,821m³ to the end of the year for 2016 (6-month Work Period).

Bulk Cut to fill as reported to the end of December 2017 was 1,700,000m³

Bulk Cut to Fill to date for 2018 was 352,212m³ (total).

Blasting

The Contractor has indicated that all blasting has been completed on site.

Ongoing repairs and monitoring of local roads

The following roads are being inspected on weekly basis by the contractor and Wexford County Council. Any defects arising from this inspection are being addressed by the contractor.

- L6109, Boolabaun
- R702, Milehouse Road
- L2011, Tinnacross Road
- L2020, Ballynabarny

Newsletter

The Newsletter for Q2 of 2018 has been issued and is uploaded on to the PPP Co. website. This website is updated on a monthly basis providing information on blasting and road closures and traffic management.

A 24-emergency telephone 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.

Drone Survey

The drone survey for 2018 has been completed and has been uploaded on to Wexford County Councils Web Site. Additional video surveys will be added to the website as they become available.

Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

Road Closure Applications

The following road closures have been enacted:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Opening Date
M11-S11, L5092, Corbally Road	05/02/18	7	07/09/18
M11-S13, L6055, Drumgold Road	31/10/17	7	11/5/18 (3/8/18)
N30-S8, L2049, Dunsinane Road	05/02/18	8	05/10/18
M11-S8, L2011, Tinnacros	10/04/18	2.5	22/06/18
M11-S7, L1023, The Harrow	18/06/18	2	10/08/18

2018 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following schemes.

N25 New Ross By-Pass Residual Network

N25 Oaklands Roundabout

Works commenced on 3rd. January and is substantially complete.

N30/ R700 Roundabout

Plazamont appointed as contractor for Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District) following tender competition. Work scheduled to start on July 2.

N11 Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme

This scheme was completed on Friday 15th June.

N11 Kileen to Newtown – Phase 1

This scheme will be tendered week commencing May 21st. Construction should commence in July.

N30 Enniscorthy Southern Approach

Topographical survey works were carried out in early May. This scheme should be tendered in July.

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.

N30 Mountelliot

Topographical survey works to be carried out in July. This scheme should be tendered in November/December 2018. This scheme should be constructed in April/May 2019.

2018 HD28 Pavement Works

TII forwarded the list of locations in March. It is hoped to tender these works in July and complete the works by October.

2017 HD28 Pavement Works – Contract 1

This contract is complete.

N11 Glentigue
N11 Edermine
N11 Baylands

2017 HD28 Pavement Works – Contract 2

N25 Ashfield Cross Roundabout – Works to commence in July

N25 Whitford Roundabout – Ongoing most of the works being carried out at night to minimise Traffic disruption.

N25 Carrickbyrne – Works to commence

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

Construction work on Oaklands Roundabout (New Ross District) completed.

Plazamont appointed as contractor for Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District) following tender competition. Work scheduled to start on July 2.

Strengthening

Strengthening programme commenced in the Gorey District on February 19. Programme has been severely disrupted by Storm Emma and its aftermath.

Roads completed in the last month: Crandonnell; Churchtown to Tagoat (both in Wexford District). Coolaw to Aughad; Clonmines; Coolcul to Ardinagh Little (all in New Ross District). Richfield (Wexford District).

Macadam surfacing completed in the last month: Ballyoughter Village (Gorey District); Knockredmond; Ballyhogue Village (both in Enniscorthy District); Ladys Island Road (Wexford District)

Surface Dressing

Preparation for surface dressing in all Districts.

General Maintenance

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

FINANCE:

Annual Financial Statement 2017 – Audit of Accounts

The Local Government Audit Service will be commencing the audit of the 2017 accounts.

Audit Committee

The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 6th September 2018.

Borrowing Programme 2018

Ministerial Sanction has been received for the Public Lighting (€5m) and Housing Loan Programme (€5.5m). Sanction for the Economic and Community Development element is still awaited.

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 will expire on 31st December, 2018.

Tom Enright
Chief Executive