



Chief Executive's Report

May 2020

1.Economic Development & Planning:

Economic Development Unit

Local Enterprise Office

The LEO office are currently co-ordinating business supports and information through regular updates on the LEO website, social media, newsletter and business support line to advise the business community impacted by covid 19 in County Wexford. A number of supports have been tailored to assist SME's impacted by the pandemic as outlined below.



Business Continuity Voucher Local Enterprise Office Wexford:

The **Business Continuity Voucher** is a specific LEO Covid 19 support measure which extends the remit of the LEO's from 10 employees to micro enterprise employing 50 people. To date 162 businesses have applied for support and LEO has 102 approvals with the aim of fast tracking applications within 6 days of application.

Micro Finance Ireland Covid 19 Loans Decrease in interest rate

The Covid-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland is a Government-funded initiative to support small businesses through the current period of uncertainty, aimed at protecting jobs and allowing businesses to continue to trade.

Where applications are with the Local Enterprise office there is a 1% discount on the interest rate which has been reduced by 2.3% from 6.8% to 4.5%. Under Covid 19 the first 6 months are interest free and a moratorium on repayments for 6 months.

Expansion of Trading Online Voucher Scheme under Covid 19

From the 7th April the Trading Online Voucher Scheme has been expanded to increase the level of support from 50% funding to 90% funding to a maximum of €2,500. The scheme is supported under the governments digital strategy and LEO is supporting SME's to look at alternative ways of doing business by applying technology. Funding can be towards eligible costs such as digital marketing strategies, e-commerce websites or app development. In the past 2 weeks 37 applications have been received and 20 businesses approved.

Training

A number of Online Training Courses for financial planning, HR, working remotely etc have been developed to respond to the current needs of SME's and to support their recovery plans. There has been an excellent response to the virtual training as business owners utilise the time to upgrade their skills and information on their business with 160 people trained to date over the past month. Training to date includes:

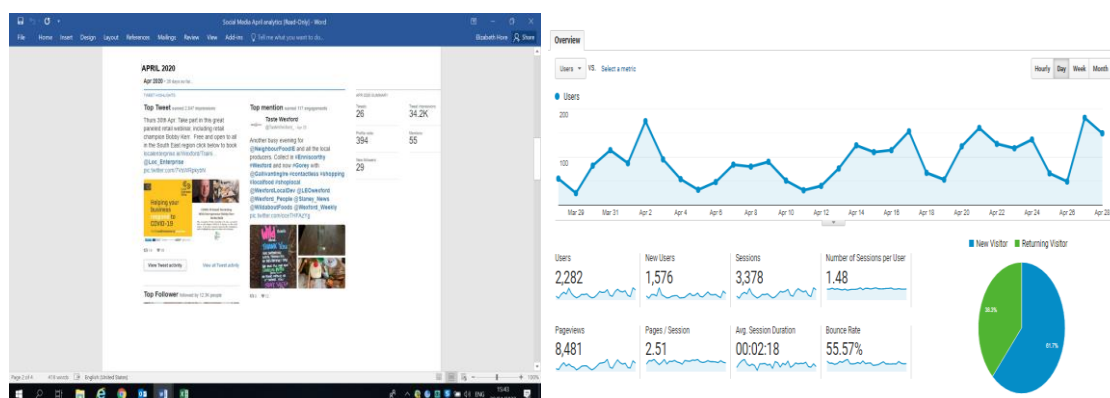
- How to Start a Podcast 23rd April 2020
- Social Media Fiona McGuire join the Dots 28th April 2020
- Developing an e-commerce website with trading Online Vouchers Fiona McGuire Join the Dots 28th April 2020

- How Irish Food and Drink brands can Sell successfully on Amazon with Aidan Duffy DF5 ecommerce 29th April 2020
- Lunch and learn series Cashflow Blaise Brosnan 30th April
- Practical Actions Retailers can take with entrepreneur Bobby Kerr 30th April 2020
- Developing an e-commerce website with Fiona McGuire Join the Dots 6th May 2020

Further details and bookings available online at www.localenterprise.ie/wexford or Email info@leo.wexfordcoco.ie; Phone 053 9196620

LEO social media

LEO Wexford as part of our Covid 19 communications strategy implemented a social media campaign and sent out a weekly newsletter updating clients on the latest news and covid 19 business supports. We had 1,596 new users of the website.



Wexford LEO Survey

The LEO office is currently carrying out a survey of grant aided clients to assess the impact of Covid 19 on their business and to tailor LEO supports to their needs. The survey will be available next week to inform the LEO programme but from the sample to date the following key results for Wexford are.

- 43% are closed
- 46% are working in a reduced capacity
- 60% of those closed expect to begin trading in the future post covid 19
- 60% of business have changed their work practices
- 74% have had to lay some staff off
- 57% have staff working remotely
- 56% have availed of the wage subsidy scheme
- 77% listed financial supports as the number 1 assistance they require for recovery

Reviving Wexford

Wexford County Council is supporting the County Wexford Chamber initiative Reviving Wexford. The aim is to support business with a recovery plan to position the County for the future and to focus tailored responses to local business needs in a post pandemic environment. The action plan will be published in May and will inform agencies how best to co-ordinate measures to restore economic confidence and get the economy moving.



www.revivingwexford.ie

PLANNING

COVID 19 Response – Planning Department

The Planning Department is open and operational. All contact is now managed through post, email or phone.

Forward Planning – the FP team are all working remotely. Work continues on the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The timeframes have also been paused which will require flexibility in setting up meetings with Council Members and the subsequent public consultations.

Development Management – the DM team are working remotely apart from a small team of 3 / 4 people in Admin who continue to validate new applications. No site inspections can take place at the moment. New Planning Applications are being received and validated but the further processing of applications to decision stage is effectively paused until the 9th May as per revised Ministerial Order. The Department continues to receive planning applications and some decisions can still be issued. However the time frames have been paused which will have an impact on processing applications, site notices, newspaper notices, consultation periods, appeal periods etc. The planning list cannot be produced but staff will continue to work in the background to enable a rapid recommencement of the service. Applications will be scanned and available for viewing online and submissions/objections can be received by email. Planners continue to work remotely on applications and when possible, preplanning and condition compliance. New temporary exemptions have now been received relating to public health buildings and hot food takeaways.

Building Control continues to operate remotely as the BCMS system is a cloud based platform and access is available on laptop, tablet or phone. Inspections on building sites have ceased until the 9th May. Again, normal timeframes for response on Commencement Notice and Certificates of Completion are paused until the 9th May.

The Access Team continues to operate remotely and process any DAC applications pending – any new applications received during this current period will have time extension allowable until the 9th May.

Planning Applications

Numbers are those received up until the 29th April 2020.

No. of valid applications to Planner Stage	74
No. of invalid applications	1
Extension of Duration	4
Exempted Development Declaration	2

Forward Planning

Wexford County Development Plan 2020-2026: Work on the County Development Plan, including; the Written Statement, Development Management Manual, Energy Strategy, Housing Strategy, Retail Strategy, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, is on-going. Adjustments are being made to some of the strategies to reflect the changed circumstances we find ourselves in and in particular revised GDP figures which will affect affordability calculations in the Housing Strategy and spending projections and floorspace requirements in the Retail Strategy.

The team have adjusted to the challenges of remote working well and have attended a webinar on Marine Spatial Planning hosted by the Department of the Housing Planning and Local Government and meetings with consultants via Microsoft Teams.

Biodiversity and Natural Heritage

Natural Wexford

Following the launch of The Geological Heritage of County Wexford, a collaboration between the authors the Geological Survey Ireland, Wexford County Council and The Heritage Council, the Forward Planning section are working on a programme to disseminate this information with public information signs at important or well visited sites under the Natural Wexford programme. The first sign has been installed at Camross and desktop and design work is on-going for the next signs at present. In some instances signs will also reflect the special natural heritage associated with the site.



Heritage

Heritage Grant Schemes

The Planning Authority has, at the time of writing has not received confirmation of the award of grant funding for protected structures. Once notified, the Planning Section will undertake to notify all successful applicants as a matter of urgency given the importance of commencing work at the end of the current restrictions.

Planning Enforcement

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 29/04/2020 is as follows:

Enforcement cases opened	62
Enforcement cases closed	25
Active enforcement cases	262

Disability Access

Week ending 27/04/2020

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of valid DAC applications for the period from 01/01/2020 up to and including 27/04/2020, totals 37, the breakdown as follows:

Applications Districts	Total for Districts	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	5	0	2	3	0
Gorey	6	0	0	6	0
New Ross	4	0	2	2	0
Wexford	19	1	5	13	0
Rosslare	3	0	0	3	0
2020 Totals	37	1	9	27	0

Disability Proofing carried out as part of WCC Access activity

Referrals	Total
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	27

2. Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works are nearing completion on the majority of the site, with some landscaping works requiring dry weather to allow for completion.

Tenders have been received for the Skatepark works contract and tender assessment is on-going. Commencement on site has been impacted by the Covid 19 situation, and is planned to commence following completion of the main development works.

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction the site was closed on 30/03/2020. At time of closure, there remained approximately three weeks work to completion. A revised opening date will be advised following sufficient relaxation of the Covid 19 emergency restrictions.

Trinity Wharf: Planning approval for the Trinity Wharf project was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30/04/2020.

A decision on the related foreshore application is expected in the coming months.

The detailed design of the access road and new automated railway level crossing is expected to be completed by July/August. Subject to delays relating to the Covid 19 emergency, works are planned to commence on site for the access road in September/October 2020.

Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured for the scheme under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) to date.

A further application for URDF funding will be submitted for the project under the 2nd call for funding in May 2020.

Crescent Quay: Works at Crescent Quay are substantially completed. Snagging works remains to be completed.

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction snagging works have been put on hold until further notice.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have been delayed by the Covid 19 emergency restrictions. A completed preliminary design and bridge options report is now expected in late May/June.

A revised plan for progressing the planning application is being prepared and an application for URDF funding for the project will be submitted under the 2nd call for projects issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The closing date for applications is 29/05/2020.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Works are now substantially complete on Phase 1 of the Technology Park. Snagging works remain to be completed.

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction snagging works have been put on hold until further notice

Gorey Market House: Following discussion at their July monthly meeting, the members of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District have requested that the development of the 2012 Public Realm plan for the Market House be suspended and that the Council re-examine options for the development and operation of a multi-functional performance venue at the site as proposed in the Public Consultation Process of 2018.

WCC issued a Call for Expressions of Interest / Tender Proposals on 10/02/2020 and 2 submissions were received by the closing date. These submissions are currently under review.

Wexford Arts Centre: The preliminary design is complete and Part VIII approval was obtained on 13th January 2020. Detailed designs and tender documents for the works contract are

progressing. The tender date has been impacted by the Covid 19 emergency, with tenders having been scheduled to be invited in May 2020. A revised tender date will be advised once Covid 19 restrictions have been sufficiently relaxed.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: The Council has received initial RRDF funding in the value of circa. €0.328m towards the acquisition and redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. It is planned to convert these buildings into a high quality enterprise hub. Architects have been appointed for the project and a CPO and planning process is due to commence in Q2 2020.

High Hill, New Ross: Detailed design and tender documents are progressing, with tender documents due to be advertised in Q2 2020 and works are expected to commence in Q3 2020. An application for RRDF funding approval for this project as part of the expansion of the New Ross tourism experience was successful.

Esmonde Street: RPS Consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works at Esmonde Street. Initial design work commenced in mid Feb 2020 and a part 8 planning consent is expected to be advertised in July with a tender documents for works to be completed by Nov/Dec 2020.

WCC received initial RRDF funding of €95,224.00 for this project.

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction the on-site surveys and investigations planned for this month have been delayed.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Works have commenced on Phase 1 (access road, car park, trails and services) and is programmed to be completed by Q3 2020.

An RRDF application for funding for the scheme was submitted in August 2019 seeking support for the scheme. This application was not successful.

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction the site was closed on 30/03/2020.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Alan Sherwood & Associates has been appointed to prepare the feasibility study and an application to Fáilte Ireland for Capital Investment funding.

The project was presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting and the draft report was finalised in September 2019. The phasing of the project is currently been considered prior to advancing to the next stage of development.

An application for funding for the project was submitted to Fáilte Ireland's Pathways to Growth programme in July 2019 but was not successful in progressing to the next stage.

Kilmore Quay Link Road: Part 8 approval was obtained in February 2019. Tenders for construction works have been received and a preferred tenderer identified. Works on site were planned to commence in Q1 2020.

Covid 19 Update - It is now planned to finalise contracts and commence site works after Covid 19 emergency restrictions are lifted.

Gorey Town Park: Niall Barry & Co. Ltd was appointed for the construction of the re-development works at Gorey Town Park in March 2019. Works commenced on site in May 2019 and were due to be completed by June 2020.

Tenders have been received for the playground equipment tender was issued on 31st January with tenders due in by end of February. Works were planned to commence on site in June (following completion of the Niall Barry contract).

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction the site was closed on 30/03/2020. Revised dates will be advised following sufficient relaxation of the Covid 19 emergency restrictions.

Monck Street Enhancement Scheme: Tenders were invited for design services for this scheme on 30th March 2020 and tenders received on 27th April. It is planned to make an appointment in May, with works planned to commence on site in early 2021.

WEXFORDIA – INHP, Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

WCC has secured RRDF funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the county.

Design services are currently being procured for the development of the INHP and the Hook Lighthouse to shovel ready status including securing the required environmental, planning and other consents. Design services for both projects are expected to commence in Q2 2020.

A brief for the procurement for detailed design for the New Ross Transformation Tourism Experience is being prepared.

New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1: Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks

Fehily Timoney & Co have been appointed to provide engineering services to Wexford Co Co for site investigations and removal of the structures.

Covid 19 Update – In accordance with government direction site investigations will commence once emergency restrictions have eased

Wexford Flood Relief Scheme: A quotation for the Wave and Water Level Modelling study for Wexford and the Burrow CAPOs has been received and Wexford County Council received funding to progress the study. PRS were appointed as consultants on the 10th March and the project is expected to be completed by the end of May.

The project brief for the Flood Relief Main Project has been advertised on Etenders. The closing date for tender proposals has been revised from the 24th April 2020 to the 26th May 2020 in line with the OGP guidelines.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme: The Public Consultation Phase is complete, the Public Exhibition Report has been completed and the Confirmation Documents were submitted by WCC to the OPW on the 16th December 2019. The documents were signed off by the OPW at a special meeting of the commissioners and delivered to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform on the 11th March 2020 for approval. The detailed design for the new River Slaney Road Bridge is complete and tender documents for short listing contractors were published on eTenders 5th February 2020. The date for receipt of tenders has been extended from the 02nd April to the 26th May 2020, in line with OGP guidelines. The design of the Promenade Sewer diversions has been agreed with Irish Water and tender documents for these works are being prepared.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway.

Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents have been completed. Public information events were held in Wellingtonbridge & Rosslare Strand in May 2019. The draft EIAR & NATURA Impact reports are being reviewed by WCC and the CPO drawings and schedules are being prepared.

An application for development consent and CPO has been delayed by the Covid 19 emergency and is now planned for submission to An Bord Pleanála in May 2020.

New Ross to Waterford Greenway / South East Greenway:

Section 85 and funding agreements have been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council & Waterford City & County Council to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority for this project. Detailed design is currently underway and it is planned to tender for a Works contractor in June 2020, when the railway abandonment process is

completed. Site investigation, vegetation clearance works & the topographical surveys have been completed.

Tenders for the Rail and Sleeper lifting contract have been assessed and the lowest tenderer is being recommended.

Grant aid funding of €8.0m for the project was awarded from DTTAS on 21/06/2019.

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 the ABP decision and met with the NPWS to review issues raised in the Planners report. A decision on proceeding with a further application is being considered.

Wexford to Rosslare Greenway

Tenders have been invited from our framework of consultants for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments. Tenders are due on 12th May. It is planned to make an appointment in June 2020.

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

HOUSING

Housing Section and Covid 19

The Housing Section continues to provide the critical services identified in our Business Continuity Plan. These services are:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services

The plan allow the Housing Section to deliver both services throughout the Covid 19 Emergency. It contains detailed procedures that protect both staff and the public against Covid 19. Both services are operating well. We are focused on providing essential services to the most vulnerable. The Housing Staff continue to operate in two teams for the following reasons:-

- 1) Allow social distancing
- 2) Prevent any possible spread of infection throughout the entire Housing Staff
- 3) To maintain a presence in the main office for the core working hours

Technical staff continue to progress and monitor our Capital Projects. Private Residential Tenancy inspections have been suspended for the time being. This is classed as non-essential. However, where there is a specific urgent request it will be considered in accordance with Covid 19 Guidelines. HAP and Rents continue as normal. The Grants Section continues to process applications. However, in the absence of inspections actual activity is greatly reduced. The Area Housing Officers are processing all Housing Applications and the Tenant Liaison Officers are dealing with anti-social behaviour issues as they arise.

Housing Supply

Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Construction complete	Completed in Dec 2019
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Construction complete	Special needs completed in Dec 2019
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete June 2020
The Ballagh	7	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete June 2020
Taghmon	18	Rosslare	Under construction	Due to complete July 2020
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary & Environmental issues unresolved (no activity)
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Stage 3 approved	Prepare tender for May 2020
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 3 approved	Tenders due back in June 2020
Rosetown, Rosslare	23 (phase 1)	Rosslare	Stage 3	Stage 3 to DHPLG Q2 2020
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2	Propose CPO of land for access (no activity)
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Stage 2	Women's refuge Stage 2 to

				DHPLG April 2020
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG Q2 2020 consultants appointed
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 – Higher densities under discussion with DHPLG
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 2	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 Q2 2020
Ballyhine, Barntown	7	Wexford	Stage 2	Stage 2 – Q2 2020 Design team appointed
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 2	Q2 2020 - reviewing Knotweed and Framework. Architects tenders due in May. 2020 S2 Q3
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 2	Demolitions complete, Stage 2 Q3 2020
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 1	Stage 2 Q2 2020
TOTAL	257			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage – Tender Q2 2020
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Sketch Design commenced
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Enabling contract Q2 2020
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 23/05/19) not approved – on hold (no activity)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford (single stage)	TAP house, site ownership to WCC – Land transfer underway. Part VIII approved. Tender Q2 2020
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – Funding approved from WCC. Tender Q2 2020
TOTAL	7		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design by others, awaiting road
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water (no activity)
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q4 2020)
Daphney View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussion with Focus (no activity)
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works Q2 2020
TOTAL	87		

Other Projects (early feasibility)

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Enniscorthy	Survey 2019 (recommend sale), prepare PEP for demolition and site clean-up. Assess then for HSE build or site sale. Demolitions Q3 2020. Site clean-up tendered
Adamstown	2	New Ross	Demolition of old house required, demolition Q2 2020. CPO commenced, in newspaper. Single stage Q2 2020 awaiting CPO action.
Monomolin	4	Gorey	Services and enabling works 2020.
King Street	2	Wexford	Municipal District approved, Stage 3 Q4 2020
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Partial funding required from WCC. Tender Q3 2020
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to next Municipal District meeting
TOTAL	16		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Delivered
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	13	Wexford	13 units delivered
Millquarter, Knockmullen	18	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Due to be delivered Q3 2020
Roxborough Manor, Mulgannon	22	Wexford	14 units to be delivered Q3 2020, 8 units to be delivered Q2 2021.
Hunters Hill, Gorey	3	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To be delivered Q3 2020

Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver by end Q4 2020
Clonhaston /Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2021/2022
An Glasan, Enniscorthy	5	Enniscorthy	4 units to deliver 2020, 1 unit to deliver 2021
Gleann an Ghairdin Ph 3	6	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	6 units to deliver by Q4 2020
TOTAL	93		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	3	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delivered (7 units delivered 2019)
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q4 2020
Michael St, New Ross	3	New Ross	Delayed on site. To deliver Q4 2020
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit to deliver Q2 2020. 18 units to deliver Q4 2020
Whitewater Estuary, Ballyhack	3	New Ross	To deliver Q3 2020
Clonhaston, Enniscorthy	50	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis from 2021
5 The Break, Aylesbridge	1	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delivered
64 & 74 Chapelwood, Kilmuckridge	2	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Delivered
Clonattin Upper, Goreybridge	8	Gorey Kilmuckridge	To deliver Q4 2020
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Enniscorthy	DHPLG approval received Mar 2020. To deliver 2021.
Bridgetown	12	Rosslare	DHPLG approval received Apr 2020. Expected to deliver Q4 2021
TOTAL	124		

Turnkey proposals received by Wexford County Council are assessed by the Internal Housing Committee.

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be delivered Q3 2020
Cluid			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020 and 2021
Tuath			
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	All units delivered
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	10 units to be occupied by Q4 remainder to be occupied as completed
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020/2021
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	To deliver Q4 2020
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey	To deliver 2020
Peter McVerry Trust			
Tuskar House , John's Gate St Wexford Town	12	Wexford	CAS Funding. To deliver Q4 2020
TOTAL	261		

As of 28th March, 2020 all construction ceased operation due to the Corona Virus – this will have an impact on the Housing Delivery Programme

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) & Local Action Group (LAG)

Given the current situation with Covid-19 a decision was taken not to proceed with the meeting of the LCDC.

In accordance with recent Circulars as issued by the Department the meeting of the LAG proceeded by teleconference on the 15th April 2020.

The LAG Chairperson welcomed Mr. Paul L'Estrange to his first LAG Meeting. The LAG meeting dealt with and approved the following:

- LEADER Staffing Costs & Apportionment Update,
- LEADER Expenditure for August 2019 to January 2020,
- Letter to issue to the Department to recommend changes to the LEADER Operating Rules with regard to the Maximum Rate of Aid for Enterprise projects,
- 2 LEADER projects requiring approval for the phasing of payments and approval for the outcome of procurement,

- 7 LEADER project requiring Extensions,
- Local Development Strategy (LDS) Budget Amendments – to make funding available for recent calls under Theme 2.1b Walking Trails/Tracks,
- The use of telephone or other video conferencing facilities for LAG meetings and meetings of the Independent Evaluation Committee for the duration of the current Covid-19 situation.

LEADER

5 claims received for Article 48 pre-payment check. 5 were checked with 3 returned for minor queries to the implementing partner, Wexford Local Development. These are awaiting documentation from the promoter and once received will progress to the next stage of the process. A total of 4 claims to the value of €127,903.84 was paid out to projects. 5 projects that are currently at stage 4 of the process have been manually checked and once received at Art 48 checking stage (stage 8) will be updated on the system.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 11th May has now been re-scheduled and will be held on Monday the 8th June 2020 at 11.30.

Community Meals Coordination Steering Committee 2020

The inaugural meeting of the Community Meals Coordination Steering Committee was hosted by the Community Section on Thursday 23rd April, 2020. This aim of the Committee is to aid with the management of the countywide provision of meals and food packs for the disadvantaged in a coordinated, effective and efficient manner. The committee is a whole of county inter-agency response to food poverty among vulnerable people due to the Covid-19 public health crisis.

Traveller Inter-Agency Group:

Wexford County Council hosted a tele conference meeting on the 7th of April of Wexford Traveller Inter-agency (TIG) in order to consider tangible collaborative and coordinated inter agency approaches for the Traveller community, in response to Covid 19. This community is recognised as one of the more vulnerable groups at risk in the current public health crisis. The meeting facilitated a conversation between agency reps to enable the sharing of information, identify gaps and duplication in services, and to enabled assistance to be sought, where required.

Burial Grounds:

Contingency plans have been put in place for all Wexford County Council open Burial Grounds to prepare for different scenarios as a result of Covid 19, including an increase in burials, illness or unavailability of caretaker. A local back up arrangement for each burial ground has been set up through each local District Administrator.

New Burial Ground caretakers/registrars have been appointed to Enniscorthy, Bunclody and Ferns burial grounds.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT EXPO

Due to the Covid 19 situation this event has been deferred to a later date.

PLAYGROUNDS

Due to the Covid 19 situation all playgrounds have been closed to the public.



The impact of Covid 19 has been significant on the planned Healthy Ireland Fund Actions. However, the agencies leading the Actions expect that work can be completed once the emergency has passed.

As in all organisations work focus has changed slightly, and the Healthy Wexford activity is now looking at ways to support Wexford through the Covid 19 crisis. As part of this activity the Healthy Wexford Coordinator has been working with the **Community Response Forum** to support them in any way possible.

One practical support being put in place, through a Healthy Ireland Action happening regionally but being managed locally, is provision of **Care Packs to Vulnerable People** across County Wexford. The care boxes will provide essential items for those who are vulnerable and cocooning/self-isolating but will also communicate essential public health messages including minding mental wellbeing and staying well to reduce avoidable escalation of chronic condition symptoms. Through collaboration with the HSE, the Care Packs contents and information for the packs will be sourced and bought regionally. Locally, 80 vulnerable people will be identified through the Community Response Forum Vulnerable Persons List to receive a pack. Wexford Civil Defence are partnering for packing and distribution of the Care Packs.

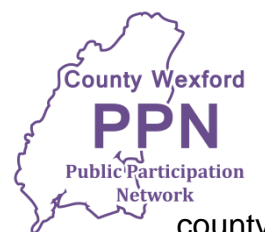
Outside of this activity we have been **sharing resources and supports available** to community workers, volunteers and communities in general. These include, for example, Stress Control Online, Mental Health Supports, HSE Guidelines, and Key Contact information. We have been linking in with Wexford PPN to share this information and Healthy Ireland messaging also.

Key among this is the new **#Together Wellbeing Campaign**. The campaign, which is hosted on gov.ie, points people to the HSE's Your Mental Health supports and resources which include many online and telephone services, as well as providing tips and advice from cross-Government and Healthy Ireland partners on topics such as physical activity, parenting, coping with daily routines, supporting the 'cocooned' and getting involved in the community solidarity efforts. The campaign emphasises the importance of collective support and staying connected to others, and while all of us are experiencing different concerns, it highlights:

"no matter what you're going through, let's stay connected and make it through, together".
#Together

Full details available here <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/together/>

WEXFORD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)



The PPN have been actively involved in the Covid-19 response in the county including:

- Informing members through regular updates of initiatives and work that is happening at both local and national level
- PPN Members have been identifying vulnerable members of their communities and this information has been sent on to the Community Support Helpline who are contacting these individuals on a regular basis (generally every 2 to 3 days) and providing further assistance where required (e.g. Meals on Wheels, shopping, prescriptions, etc.)
- The PPN is a member of the Covid-19 Community Response Forum and attends their weekly meetings.

- The PPN are working on innovative ideas to help support vulnerable members of our community whilst utilising the volunteers. One example of this is the dog walking service for older people who are cocooning which helps to ensure they remain indoors.

The PPN County Membership meeting planned for Monday 23rd March was postponed. The decision was made with public health in mind as a result of Covid-19 (Corona virus). A rescheduled date will be arranged as soon as government restrictions allow.

Age Friendly

Daily updates are sent to members of the Older Peoples Council and the Age Friendly Alliance which include information on local and national initiatives as well general information on supports and other services that may be of interest to older people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sports Active Wexford

Since March 18th Sports Active Wexford has been working under alternative arrangements, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.






We have supported the people of County Wexford by promoting exercise at home during the restrictions and supporting positive mental health; this has been carried via social media and includes a sound cast for older adults and vulnerable people.


We worked with Wexford Mental Health services and designed a 10-minute older adult exercise sessions that can be found on our social media and Soundcloud. This is also aimed towards people with mental health issues, Men's Sheds, COPD group and rock-steady-boxing Parkinson's group.

Age and Opportunity are providing free exercise classes for older adults to do at home on social media. Conscious that many of the targeted group of people may not have internet access or are on social media, we contacted Age and Opportunity and have got DVDs that can be distributed to these people.

The Application for Sport Ireland Dormant accounts funds for 2020 have been submitted, and include an innovation project which is based around the concept of fitness and physical activity within the parks and on nominated beaches. We expect to hear later in the summer whether we have been successful or not.

ENVIRONMENT

Service		Update
Piers and Harbours		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harbours open for Commercial Fishing. 2. Leisure use of harbours prohibited in Covid 19 regulations. 3. Public offices at Wexford, Kilmore Quay closed to public.
Coastline and beaches		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On a daily basis access points to beaches throughout the county checked by an inspector 2. Most beach car parks have been closed to ensure compliance with Government Regulations 3. A number of key beach locations are manned daily 8.00 to 20.00 hrs.
Waste		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All enforcement activities have ceased barring investigations of any major incident. 2. Civic Amenity Sites are open 3. Environmental Clean Up Crews dealing only with urgent cases of illegal dumping but will continue to monitor in single occupancy vehicles
Water Air Quality Monitoring		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All enforcement activities have ceased barring a major investigations of any major incident
Public Conveniences		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All PC's have closed. 2. APC's have also been closed

General		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal control personnel available and will respond to emergencies 2. Administration personnel working to monitor complaints, pay invoices and wages
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A. COVID-19 RESPONSE

A meeting of the Management Team in the Environment Section determined the following priorities as being essential works:

- The operation of the Holmestown Household Recycling Centre and the Civic Amenity Centres
- Operation of the Rapid Response Crews and Environment Warden Service
- Operation of the Dog Warden Service
- Limited operation of the Harbours and Piers (Support of fishing industry and marine emergency services, monitoring of vessels, extended Declaration of Health to all vessels).
- Payment of Creditors Invoices

With the introduction of more stringent social distancing measures announced on 28th March, only staff involved in the payment of wages and invoices are attending the office, all other staff are working remotely. The following have been suspended pending further guidance:

- Routine inspections carried out under the various acts
- Educational and community initiatives
- Use of harbours and piers for leisure activities (even if closer than 2km).
- Public conveniences have been closed.

Where timeframes apply for complying with the requirements of statutory notices, these will be reviewed and extensions may be applied.

To assist with the restriction of unauthorised accessing of public beaches, a number of car parks and access roads have been closed. This is under constant review. The Environment Section have been working in consultation with the gardai to monitor areas where reports of non-compliance are received.

B. COASTAL MATTERS

Harbours -

Wexford County Council is preparing a preliminary submission for possible harbour projects under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) annual Fishery Harbour and Coastal Development Scheme. This will be submitted to the DAFM by 6th March 2020.

Ports Past and Present Project

A Project Officer was recently appointed to Ports, Past and Present project; an EU-funded four year long project under the Ireland-Wales programme. The project explores the cultures of the

port areas of Rosslare, Dublin, Holyhead, Fishguard and Pembroke Dock and will bring this heritage to public awareness, both within coastal communities and to increase visitor numbers and enhance visitor experiences. In doing so it will increase the capacity of coastal communities to utilise their natural and cultural heritage as a driver to economic growth. The project aims to bring life and colour to the ports, enhancing the experience of modern travellers of all ages and interests and encouraging people to spend more time and money in these towns.

1. Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network –

WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites March 2020	Recycling out (End March) 2019 (t)	Recycling out (End March)2020 (t)
Glass bottles		774	873
Aluminium Cans		19	21
Total	104	793	894

Household Recycling Centres –

Summary of Activities								
WASTE CATEGORY	Enniscorthy		New Ross		Holmestown		Gorey	
	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan-mar 2020 (t)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2019 (t)	Recycling out Jan- Mar 2020(t)	Recycling out Jan – Mar2019	Recycling out Jan - Mar 2020)	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2019	Recycling out Jan-Mar 2020
Total Recycling out	126	130	172	165	46	65	111	125
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	174	168	N/A	N/A
Daily Average Customers Jan-Mar	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	56	59	111	121	89	98	73	83

Due to net operating costs increases, an entry charge of €2 was introduced to all household recycling centres on 13th June 2017.

2. Rapid Response Crew

Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with one two-man crew servicing Enniscorthy and Gorey Municipal Districts and a second servicing Wexford and New Ross Municipal Districts. Their headline activities for year to date are summarised below:

Activity	<i>To end March 2019</i>	<i>March 2020</i>	<i>To end March 2020</i>	% +/_
Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups	1069	274	878	- 18%
<i>Gorey *</i>		49		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>		121		
<i>Wexford *</i>		73		
<i>New Ross*</i>		31		
Total Bring Site Inspections	624	352	927	+48%
<i>Gorey</i>		87		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		84		
<i>Wexford</i>		107		
<i>New Ross</i>		74		
Total Ringbuoy Inspections	1606	1338	4014	+149%
<i>Gorey</i>	<i>North</i>	398		
<i>Enniscorthy *</i>				
<i>Wexford*</i>	<i>South</i>	940		
<i>New Ross*</i>				
Other Works	821	344	1003	+22%
<i>Gorey</i>		56		
<i>Enniscorthy</i>		96		
<i>Wexford</i>		88		
<i>New Ross</i>		104		

**Including Towns*

Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign: A series of images and messages have been put out on twitter to encourage all dog owners to pick up after their dog and dispose of the poop bag responsibly.



Green Dog Walker: Promotion of the Green Dog Walker is ongoing. The campaign has been highlighted on social media and individuals can apply online.



LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

LIBRARY SERVICE

Response to Covid-19

Wexford Libraries remained closed to the public for the month of April, as part of the national effort to stop the spread of Covid-19. April was the first month where our library service had moved fully online because of restrictions imposed. Library staff remained working remotely, providing telephone and email support to library members and providing daily online content to allow the public to engage with the library, albeit remotely.

Book Call Delivery Service

On Wednesday 22nd April Wexford Library Service launched the Book Call delivery service. In an extension to our homebound service, and in order to mitigate COVID19 social isolation, members of the public who are elderly or vulnerable and who are cocooning at home can now request a delivery of library books, audiobooks and DVDs.

To avail of the service, a person who is cocooning phones the Wexford Community Call helpline. Council staff take details and pass it onto library staff. Library staff then contact the individual and organise suitable library material for them. The selection of books and other items is delivered out to the recipient and dropped at their door while adhering to physical distancing.

This is a countywide delivery service and has proven very popular since its inception. As of 29th April there had been over 130 requests from members of the public for book deliveries.

Wexford 3D Printer used for PPE

On 8th April the 3D printers from Wexford, New Ross and Gorey libraries were loaned so that it could be used for the production of personal protective equipment or PPE.

Online Resources

There has been a massive increase in the usage of e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines, e-newspapers, e-language learning and e-learning courses. Many people have joined the library remotely in order to avail of these services. Library staff are dealing with a significant number of queries about membership and requests for technical assistance. There was more than a 300% increase in users of the e-book service nationally during March. Additional resources have been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development to make more e-services available during the current crisis.

Local Studies, Culture &Community

Online research queries are on-going, ranging from help with research for completing master's thesis to advice on book publishing and help with family genealogy. Work continues promoting local studies materials on social media for the Decade of Commemoration. Online content from local papers highlighting the War of Independence News is continuing. Online tutorials on how to use Vital Digital Asset Portal and Oral History collection have been developed and are being prepared for upload to the Wexford Library Service YouTube channel. Volume 3 of On Our own Ground Co. Wexford Parish by Parish: Text and Images for 8 chapters of the third volume are now edited.

Services for Children during COVID 19 **Right to Read Literacy programming at your library**

'**Spring into Storytime**' is the libraries' annual celebration of families reading together. This year Spring into Storytime was delivered online by library staff, from all branch libraries in County Wexford who brought children to library storytimes and rhymetimes in their own homes. Six Storytimes and eight Rhymetimes were recorded and posted. These were then shared with all five libraries in County Wexford and made available to LGMA Libraries Development nationally. Irish publishers and the Irish Writers Union partnered with library services across Ireland, in an agreement that allowed libraries to read selected books and to post or stream of videos online.

Wexford Library Service received an excellent response to our Spring into Storytime video workshops for children. Beat FM featured the videos in their Sunday Grill programme on Sunday 26th April. Feedback indicates that the interactive element of the workshop is proving especially popular with schools and families and also with audiences outside the original intended demographic. They are available on Face Book, Twitter, and Instagram.

Help for Children with Dyslexia

Wexford Library Service has made its our TTRS (Touch, Type, Read and Spell) licences available to children to access from home. Library staff are liaising directly with families and teachers documenting and monitoring the progress of the children to support and encourage them as they work their way through the programme from their homes.

Parenting Today 2020 Talks

Library staff are working to transfer a selection of these important information talks for parents online. The first talk on ADHD was broadcast on all library branch Facebook pages on April 30th. Talks will be pre-recorded but engagement, interaction and all important public participation will continue to be facilitated by the inclusion of a Q&A session. We are inviting the audience to submit their questions in advance and they will be answered by the speaker after the talk. Feedback is very good with a large number of questions from parents and teachers and childcare workers already submitted in advance of our first scheduled talk.

Bookmark Competition

All schools and families have been contacted and invited to let their pupils and children know that they can submit entries to design a brand new official Library Service bookmark. The winning entries will be printed as bookmarks and be available for use by child and teen readers in all branches. This initiative is part of the library offer to continue to support and engage with schools and families throughout Wexford during Covid.

Staff Development and Training

Library staff completed over **700 hours of online training** throughout April. This training opportunity has allowed staff to develop new skills and improve on existing skills in the following core areas, Protection and Welfare of Children, Autism Awareness as part of our Right to Read Strategy, Reader Development, ICT Skills, Customer Service Skills, Team Management Skills and Literacy Skills.

Arts / Culture

Bunclody Library staff are leading a project called **Monday Crafternoons**, this is a short digital piece on family crafts showcased every Monday afternoon on the library's social media channels. Bunclody library prepares and photograph the stages of a craft project and create short MP4 files to music. This online content is then shared with all libraries in County Wexford.

ARTS

Living Arts Schools Programme - Open Call Schools and Artists

Wexford County Council Arts Office in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre issued Open Call in April 2020 for applications from primary schools and visual artists to participate in the Living Arts Schools commencing in late September 2020 and running until May 2021. Deadline for applications Thursday 21 May, 2020. The programme is highly subsidised by the Arts Office and schools can apply for a 15 week or 8 week programme of visual art to be delivered by a lead and assistant artist managed by Wexford art centre. In addition visual artists are invited to apply as lead artists or assistant artist's. For further information goes to www.wexfordartscentre.ie

Living Arts 2019-20 exhibition –Online Viewing Room An exhibition of worked produced by over 200 schoolchildren from 4 primary schools and a team of artists participating in the Living Arts Programme 2019-2020 – which was due to open in WAC on 28 March – went virtual and opened online in April 2020. Link to exhibition can be viewed on online viewing room on home page www.wexfordartscentre.ie

The Wexford Playwrights Studio Wexford County Council Arts office is partnering with Wexford Arts Centre (WAC) on a new Wexford Playwrights Studio initiative to support and nurture playwriting in Wexford as part of ongoing support to theatre practice development in the county. Open call took place in April 2020 via WAC and closing date for applications Fri 16th May

2020. The Wexford Playwrights Studio will be limited to eight members who will attend monthly meetings in the Creative Hub where they will be mentored by invited experts- including Billy Roche, Deirdre Kinehan, Thomas Conway and Ben Barnes. Programme will run over 6 months from June – November 2020. It is envisaged initial meetings will be via Zoom to facilitate social distancing.

Music Generation –Online Music Programme for children

Due to COVID 19 Music Generation Wexford's Musician Educators have been developing their work to be presented online, primarily through video. They have been researching methods, gathering resources, preparing and practising their online musician education programmes for each school or for social media resources for the programmes in general. All participating 32 National Schools on the programme were offered the opportunity to continue online as a result of the impact of Covid 19 with the majority of schools opting to continue online. Starting in April the schools are receiving singing or instrumental online tutorial series and these will continue to be developed and run until June 2020. The Early Years Music programme went online with music educators Aileen & Pete McCamley, developing the online content for Mini Maestros – adapting performance and participation for parents and toddlers in their homes.

ARCHIVES

Collections management

The Archive dealt with 36 research enquiries via email and telephone during April. The current closure of the county archive to the public has allowed significant inroads to be made on the cataloguing of the papers of two significant figures of the 1919-23 revolutionary period. A finding aid for the papers of Dr Peadar 'Pax' Sinnott is near completion, and work has commenced on listing the extensive collection of T.D. Sinnott, Wexford County Council's first County Manager.

Outreach

As editor of a forthcoming publication on the 1920 local elections in Ireland, the Archivist compiled the first draft in April. The booklet which is due to be published in early autumn is being funded by the Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government with the text and images supplied by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM).

The text and suitable images for a small exhibition on the 1920 local elections in County Wexford is in progress with an anticipatory launch in early autumn.

Civil Defence – Operations / Training Report March & April 2020

Civic Duties

We completed 1 community support duties in March 2020 - 8th March, Barnadown Gorey, Schools Showjumping

Weekly Training

All Weekly training classes have been stopped since week 9th March 2020. We have only held to provide PPE training to allow volunteers to work during COVID19 calls.

PPE training was conducted for EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) on 22th March, 2020. Further training for volunteers on PPE for COVID19 tasking was completed on 4th April, 2020.

Training Courses

Our EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) completed their CFR Advanced course on Saturday 1st March, 2020.

The Enniscorthy Unit complete their EFR (Emergency First Responder) course on Saturday 7th March completing their practical exams in the Civil Defence College.

Covid 19 – Response

Wexford Civil Defence has been tasked to provide support to the Community Forum helpline in County Hall, HSE and Department of Defence since week 23rd March, 2020.

Each week we have approximately 40 – 50 volunteers available to help with tasking.

We have completed 22 tasks to date; most of these would be transport of people to hospital appointments. Transport has been to Wexford General Hospital, Waterford Regional Hospital, Whitfield Clinic Waterford, St. James Hospital Dublin and St. Vincent's Hospital Dublin. Possible tasking's in the near future could include

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service
- Comfort Boxes for elderly and vulnerable.
- Food Distribution
- Transport of COVID patients to Assessment Hubs
- Department of Justice, Transport of persons from International Protection Accommodation centres for hospital appointments or to isolation accommodation centres.

FIRE SERVICE

Fire Station Priorities for 2020. Wexford County Council has updated the Department of Housing, Planning of identification of the successful building contractor for the New Ross fire station following the completion of the tendering process.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Business Continuity Plans are being updated by sections on an ongoing basis and this will feed into Business Recovery Planning in time.

In coordination with the Health & Safety Section and other essential services further training is being delivered to ensure consistent, safe work practices are developed and implemented throughout the organisation.

COVID-19 PPE and Equipment availability has been reviewed and central purchasing and coordination of these items has been implemented in coordination with the Health & Safety Section to ensure a consistent approach and availability, adequate supply and standard to avoid duplication across the organisation.

Call statistics

Incident Type	Calls March 2020	Calls to date 2020	Calls to this period 2019
Chimney fire (WCC / Private)	7 / 7 (14)	77	76
Domestic fire (WCC / Private)	1 / 6 (7)	21	25
Road Traffic Accident	2	22	35
Industrial fire	4	5	4
Commercial fire	1	4	4
Assembly fire	0	0	0
Agricultural fire	2	2	1
Motor Vehicles	3	23	11
Forest/bog/grass etc	21	31	16
Rubbish	7	21	21
Non-fire rescues	2	15	7
False alarms – good intent	18	87	84
Malicious false alarms	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	6	17	25
Total	87	326	309

Fire calls by brigade to date

INCIDENT TYPE	WEXFORD	GOREY	ENNISCORTHY	NEW ROSS	BUNCLODY	TOTAL
CHIMNEY FIRE	27	12	15	18	5	77
DOMESTIC FIRE	3	3	8	6	1	21
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	3	5	7	5	2	22
INDUSTRIAL FIRE	1	1	2	1	0	5
COMMERCIAL FIRE	1	1	2	0	0	4
ASSEMBLY FIRE	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGRICULTURAL FIRE	0	0	0	0	2	2
MOTOR VEHICLES	5	6	2	9	1	23
FOREST/BOG/GRASS ETC	7	8	3	2	11	31
RUBBISH	8	1	5	3	4	21
NON-FIRE RESCUES	6	1	4	2	2	15
FALSE ALARMS - GOOD INTENT	33	11	20	16	7	87
MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS	1	0	0	0	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	4	3	5	4	1	17
TOTALS	99	52	73	66	36	326

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Number of Applications received in April 2020:	8
Number of Applications received to date:	48
Number of Applications to this period 2019:	41

4. Water Services and Transportation,:

Water Services



1. Irish Water Asset Delivery

2. Minor Capital

3. Rural Water Programme

4. Water Conservation

Water Services Monthly Report to Director Of Services



COVID -19

- Water Services is an essential service and is continuing to provide the following services:

- Operation of all Water and Wastewater Treatment plants and networks.
- Emergency jetting of blockages and burst repairs
- Completion of projects deemed essential for plant operation or health and safety.
- Emergency leak detection and repair
- Emergency connections

(These activities continue using the required social distancing and sanitation measures.)

- All non-essential construction work on Irish Water sites ceased from 30th March 2020 until further notice in line with government restrictions.

Office operations are being carried out remotely and external queries can still be answered. General queries still go through Irish Water 1890 278 278.

1. Irish Water – Asset Delivery



Capital Schemes

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Surveying work continuing in Enniscorthy to enable hydraulic model of the sewer network be completed (currently on hold due to covid-19). ➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will follow in Q3, 2020.
Enniscorthy Intake Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten. ➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019. ➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender. ➤ New infrastructure expected to be operational in 2022.
Wexford Drainage Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system. ➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. ➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW. ➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. ➤ Deferred survey works due for completion Summer 2020.
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build. ➤ Irish water has advised that due to budget constraints, this project has been re prioritised and will not go to construction in the near future. A new delivery date is yet to be decided, but it seems it will be post 2024.
Gorey Regional Water Supply	<p>Gorey RWSS To be upgraded and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPO completed ○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua ○ Operational date early 2022 ➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction began October 2019. ○ First reservoir completed, second reservoir 60% ○ Borehole work ready to proceed

Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor selected. ○ Planning permission granted. ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be completed until 2023. ➤ Kilmore Quay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scheme design complete and ready to tender. ○ Land acquisition finalised ○ Planning permission granted ○ Irish water has advised that due to financial constraints, this project will not be completed until 2023.
Wexford Town Water Main Rehab and Gas Network	Irish Water has advised it is no longer funding this project.
Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Currently in Ballindaggin on a mains rehab project. ➤ Crew will focus primarily on the find and fix scheme for 2020 to reduce leakage and unaccounted for water.
Ferns Sewerage Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At detailed design stage

2. Minor Capital



IW Minor Water Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disinfection Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disinfection upgrade project at 95% complete county wide excluding snagging. ○ Works completed at Creagh WTP. Works at Glynn WTP suspended due to covid 19. Snagging suspended. ➤ Treated Water storage programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Killealy. ➤ Kilmallock Bridge to be submitted for planning by summer 2020
IW Minor Wastewater Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trinity Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generator Upgrade works expected to take place Q4 2020 ➤ Fairgreen Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works to decommission WWTP, construct PS and

	<p>rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP to commence in Q2 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sinnottstown Lane Pumping Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade works practically complete, with snagging to be done post-Covid-19 restrictions. ➤ Iona Pumping Station, Rosslare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade works scheduled for May 2020 ➤ Carcur Pumping Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade completed to inlet works Q1 2020 ○ Replacement pump scheduled for May 2020
IW Capital Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide. ➤ 180K of expenditure has been committed to the end of April
New Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 applications received for Water Connections ○ 2 applications received for Wastewater Connections <p>Installation of new connections on hold with COVID-19 restrictions except for emergencies. COVID-19 Test Centre in Whitemill was connected on an emergency basis during April.</p>
Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delayed due to COVID 19 ○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP. ○ Expected completion Q3 2020 ➤ O'Rahilly View WWTP(TIC), Gusserane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow in Q3. ➤ Ballinamorragh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow in Q3.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to restrictions around work practices with COVID-19 operations have been reduced to a minimum from 30-03-20 in line with government restrictions on travel. Essential services are being maintained. ➤ New risk assessments were introduced in March around working during COVID-19 pandemic ➤ Water Services staff have been assigned to work from home where possible during COVID-19. ➤ Key Water services staff have been trained for entry through properties during COVID-19 by fire services. ➤

3. Rural Water Programme



Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance

- Mullawn GWS
 - Turbidity Meter to be installed by EPS by week ending 8th May.
- Killaneran GWS
 - Awaiting quotations for the engagement of a Hydrogeologist.
- Ticknock GWS
 - Installation of new ph unit, manganese and iron filtration system due to be in place by week ending 1st May.

Measure 3 - Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation

- Blackstairs GWS
 - Awaiting revised Fee Proposal from TJ O' Connor & Associates, Client Representative, for the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure.
 - Investigative works carried out for relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir.

Measure 5 - Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes

- Bing GSS
 - Agreement to be reached in regard to Road Re-instatement before Site Investigation quotations can be sought. Site investigation quotations expected to be sought once the current restrictions are lifted.
 - Part XI application on hold until Ecological Report complete

Measure 6 - Community Connection Networks (Water)

- Battlestown CWC
 - Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader that scheme not expected to proceed.
 - Alternative solutions to resident issues currently being investigated.
- Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC
 - Due to insufficient resident uptake, advised by group leader scheme not expected to proceed
- Crosstown GSS Scheme/Orchard Lane GSS
 - Awaiting confirmation from Irish Water on takeover of both schemes

4. Water Conservation



Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Countywide consumption to date, for April 2020 is on average 43.4MLD, an increase of 0.3MLD from March 2020. ➤ This represents a YTD average of 41.8MLD, which means we are currently matching our 2020 target set at 41.84MLD.
Leak Detection & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 36nr leaks were detected and repaired to date in April 2020, including repairs in Enniscorthy, Gorey, Wexford and Wellingtonbridge. ➤ Leak detection crews have responded to callouts in Kilmuckridge, Bree, Enniscorthy, Wexford, Coolgreany and Murntown. These were generally responding to no water/low pressure calls or a significant increase in reservoir outlet flows. ➤ Planned Leak detection is operating on a reduced basis with COVID-19 restrictions. Crews are currently focused on Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, Wellingtonbridge and Fethard- areas which are experiencing plant headroom concerns. This may cause some supply interruptions.
Water Network Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enniscorthy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffey Northumberland have stood down in Bellfield due to COVID-19 restrictions during April 2020. ➤ Ballindaggin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wexford Council main rehabilitation construction in Ballindaggin has also stood down due to COVID-19 restrictions during April 2020.
Find & Fix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Areas have been selected for intensive leak detection works under the find and fix scheme. Find Crews are currently focusing on Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy and the South Regional Supply scheme. ➤

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL ROADS

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme

Due to the Covid-19 virus all Construction Works have ceased on site until further notice and the Site Offices have been closed. The ongoing Operation and Maintenance of the M11 Motorway is being carried out by BAM O&M in accordance with all official Government and HSE Guidelines and BAM's Health and Safety Plan. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies

N25 New Ross By-Pass

In accordance with Covid-19 restrictions, outstanding minor works on site remain suspended and the project site offices remain closed. The PPP Company continues to provide operation and maintenance services as necessary and in accordance with evolving restrictions and guidelines. The 24/7 emergency contact number 1800 989090 will also continue to operate and respond to any emergencies.

Remaining works, including project art piece, will be closed out once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the completion of the outstanding works.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The project is now ready to begin consultation with elected representatives and the public on the findings of the constraints study and to present the scheme options. However in accordance with the current Covid-19 restrictions and advice, all direct project consultations and meetings have been postponed until further notice. Options are currently being explored for briefings and public consultations that do not require public gatherings, but retain a high level of interaction with elected representatives and the public. The scheme will not progress beyond any phases that require public consultation until the project is in a position to engage directly with the public.

Prior notice of the consultation events will be advertised on the project website (<http://oilgate2rosslareharbour.ie>) and on local media. Relevant information will also be uploaded to the project website in advance. In the meantime the project team continues to perform their duties in line with Covid-19 restrictions and government advice, and will also continue to address any project queries by phone or email via the contact details provided on the project website.

N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare and Rosslare Europort Access Road

The project is now ready to begin consultation with elected representatives and the public on the findings of the constraints study and to present the scheme options. However in accordance with the current Covid-19 restrictions and advice, all direct project consultations and meetings have been postponed until further notice. Options are currently being explored for briefings and public consultations that do not require public gatherings, but retain a high level of interaction with elected representatives and the public. The scheme will not progress beyond any phases that require public consultation until the project is in a position to engage directly with the public.

Prior notice of the consultation events will be advertised on the project website (<http://rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie/>) and on local media. Relevant information will also be uploaded to the project website in advance. In the meantime the project team continues to perform their duties in line with Covid-19 restrictions and government advice, and will also continue to address any project queries by phone or email via the contact details provided on the project website.

2019 National Road Pavement Schemes

The following schemes were either awarded or commenced in 2019 and will be completed in 2020.

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.

This scheme and was completed on 27 March 2020.

Pavement Repairs N25 Ring Road Wexford, N25 Orristown Junction Killinick

This scheme was tendered in October 2019.

A contractor was appointed in November 2019.

This scheme was due to be commenced in April. The start date has been postponed due to the Covid-19 emergency. This scheme duration will be 4 weeks.

2020 National Road Pavement Schemes

The 2020 TII road improvement allocation has been received from TII.

The following schemes will be carried out in 2020;

- N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme
- N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme
- N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great Pavement Scheme
- N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

N30 Mountelliot Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the newly constructed Mountelliot roundabout to the R731 Ballyanne junction in New Ross.

Contract documents are substantially completed and tender documents will be issued week commencing 27 April with a tender return date of 28 May. Commencement on site will depend on the outcome of the current Covid-19 emergency.

N11 Kileen to Newtown Phase 2 Pavement Scheme

This scheme runs from the Ferrycarrig Bridge to the Maldron roundabout on the N11. Works are progressing on the tender documents. This scheme should be tendered in May.

N25 New Ross Roundabout to Clonard Great Pavement Scheme

This scheme may be postponed until 2021 due to its proximity to the N11 Kileen to Newtown scheme. Survey works were completed in March,

It has been replaced by a pavement scheme on the N25 from Holmestown to Tomcool.

N25 Holmestown to Tomcool Pavement Scheme

Survey works were completed in February. It is expected to tender this scheme in June. It may not be possible to deliver the entire scheme in 2020 as the budget for this scheme is up to twice the budget of the scheme it replaced. If it is not possible to deliver the entire scheme in 2020 it will be completed in 2021.

N11 Ferns Pavement Scheme

Preliminary archaeology investigations were carried out in 2019. Further archaeological investigations are required to be carried out in advance of the pavement scheme going ahead. The timing of the pavement scheme will become clearer once the archaeological investigations have been completed. The archaeological investigations are due to commence once the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Winter Maintenance

The 2019/2020 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday, 14 October 2019 and ended on 30 April 2020. There were a total of 48 no. call outs up for the season.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations were announced on 21 January 2020. Wexford's allocation was €17,088,007, up €2,646,207 on 2019.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme commenced in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District on 21 February. All works ceased from 27 March, in line with the new Covid-19 restrictions.

General Maintenance

All normal maintenance work was suspended in April due to Covid-19 restrictions. Emergency patching was carried out on the Regional Road from Taghmon to Waddingtown, the Local Primary Road from Smiths Cross to Ballyoughter, and the Local Primary Road at Kildavin. Roads staff responded to a number of emergency calls during the month. These involved traffic accidents, trees down, flooding, collapsed culvert, rubbish collection and oil spills.

Public Lighting LED Upgrade

Over 7,000 lanterns have been upgraded to Led since the beginning of 2016. It is hoped to upgrade the remaining 5,700 lanterns on **non-national roads** and housing estates in 2020. Design for these upgrades is underway. The programme for delivery and installation is unclear and is dependent on when the current working restrictions are lifted under the Covid-19 emergency although it is hoped that delivery of lanterns will commence in June. Wexford County Council has applied to TII to upgrade the remaining lights on **national routes** to LED in 2020. The locations are listed below:

- N11 Oilgate
- N25 Kilrane and Rosslare Harbour
- N25 Ashfield cross Roundabout
- N25 Barntown
- N25 Larkins Cross
- N25 Balinabola
- N30 Clonroche
- N80 Ballycarney
- N80 Bunclody

TII approved all schemes on 16 April.

Lighting designs are underway. The nine schemes will be tendered in four separate Lots. Lot No. 1 will be tendered on week commencing 27 April.

It is expected to have all nine sites upgraded by the end of October.

Public Lighting Development Fund

Additional public lighting has been or is being installed at the following locations under the Public Lighting Development Fund.

- Newtown Road Wexford Town
- Clonard Village, Clonard, Wexford Town
- Castlebridge Village southern end (Completed)
- Castlebridge Village -Crossabeg road (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Ferns Village – rear of funeral home (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Puddle Lane, Ballycanew (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Fishers Row, Trinity Street, Wexford Town (Awaiting ESB connection).
- Marian Terrace, Camolin (Electrical contractor due to commence)
- Tomhaggard Village (Contract awarded to electrical contractor)

5. Finance:

Audit Committee/Audit

The Audit Committee meetings have been deferred until a time when the government measures associated with the COVID-19 situation allow for them to resume. This in turn impacts on the arrangements for the committee to meet the LG auditor to discuss the 2018 Accounts and associated Audit Report.

The 2019 Audit of Accounts by the Local Government Audit Service has also been suspended for the moment but plans are being made to implement arrangements in line with government restrictions and guidelines to allow this process to progress, possibly in June. _

Annual Financial Statement 2019

The Annual Financial Statement for 2019 has been completed and will be brought formally to members at the next available full meeting of the council. In the meantime a copy of the 2019 AFS and associated Report to Members has been posted to the Minutepad for members reference. Some particular points of note from the accounts include:

- A reported improvement in the Revenue Balance of €1,642,312 for 2019 financial year bringing the overall Revenue deficit down to €2.1m.
- A total spend of €73m across a range of Capital Projects in the county during 2019
- An increase of €30m in the asset values for the Council primarily informed by the Housing Programme
- Increased collection levels in Major collection areas for the council

The statutory submission deadline of the end of March for local authority accounts has been extended to the end of June 2020 as a direct result of the COVID 19 situation. The 2019 Accounts have also been amended to record a Post Balance Sheet event in light of the potential enormity of the financial impact on the finances of the council in 2020 as a direct result of the Covid Health Emergency.

COVID -19

The COVID 19 emergency continues to impact negatively on the finances of Wexford County Council across all income sources. During the month of April we saw significant drops in income and income transactions, most significantly but not limited to Commercial Rates, Housing Rents, Housing Loans and Car Parking income. The emergency also continues to impact on the council's ability to deliver budgeted expenditure for 2020 both in terms of Operational and Capital

expenditure while we also accumulate unplanned expenditure on our response to the crisis. In the current uncertain situation it is not possible to determine or estimate the full impact or the extent of the impact will and for the moment the focus will be on monitoring the situation and increasing efforts to secure as much income as possible to try and stabilise our financial position in as far as we can.

At this point a total of 341 of our ratepayers have registered for the 3 months rates deferral implemented following the government decision on this on 20th March to implement this deferral period. The announcement on Friday 1st May of 3 months alleviation from Rates for businesses forced to close from 27th March with associated funding of €260m being made available to the sector for this income loss is welcome. Discussions are ongoing between the DHPLG and DPER in relation to the position on Commercial Rates post 27th June and there has been no further announcements in relation to the details of the Rates alleviation programme at this time.

43 Mortgage Customers have applied (at the 5th May) for the 3 Month Mortgage Break since it was implemented on 20th April as an option for customers struggling to pay their mortgages to the council. An online application is available on the Council's website to facilitate these applications.

Overall the focus, for the moment, is firmly on cash flow and financial management as we move through the crisis while also trying to assist our customers in as far as we can. It is expected that as restrictions and measures are reduced and some services return the increase in expenditure will place additional pressure on cash flow and with falling income it is likely that there will be an increased reliance on overdraft in the short term. Planning towards our financial recovery can only really commence when we have some indication that there is a return to some level of normality and some indication of what if any funding will be provided to Local Government to deal with the costs of the crisis and more importantly the financial impact on local incomes.

Unplanned expenditure to date on dealing with the emergency by Wexford County Council is currently at €394k

Cash Flow/Overdraft

Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m for the period to the 31st December, 2020. In light of the COVID 19 crisis and the immediate and potential cash flow difficulties that may be facing the council an extended overdraft to €30m has been sought and approved in principle by the DHPLG and our bank. This extension will need to be formally approved by members and we will therefore be bringing this borrowing requirement to the next formal meeting of the council to complete this process.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**