



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**October 2017**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & SPECIAL PROJECTS

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** The Park obtained Part 8 Planning in April, 2016 based on a preliminary design by Wexford County Council. Consultants Brady Shipman Martin have been appointed and are currently preparing detailed design and contract documents. A tendering process for construction will commence in Qtr. 4, 2017 and a contractor will be appointed in Qtr 1, 2018. Preliminary enabling works commenced on site in June and will be completed by October.

**Wexford Quays:** Architects Scott Tallon Walker has completed the draft Stage 2A report on the Economic Development and Spatial Implementation Plan for the Wexford Quay front. The draft Stage 2A report was issued to the Council's Wexford Quays Working Group for review in August and will be finalised by end of September.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** The strategy plan is being finalised with a view to presentation to members in quarter four of 2017.

**Enniscorthy Business Park, Killagoley:** Reddy Architecture + Urbanism have been appointed to develop the master plan, secure planning and develop & construct infrastructure services for the Enniscorthy Business Park at Killagoley. Initial surveys, studies and site investigation works are substantially completed and the development of master plan layouts is to be completed by end of September. Planning documentation and an application will be completed in Q4 2017.

**New Ross Business Park:** Wexford County Council has prepared documents for obtaining expressions of interest from developers willing to partner Wexford County Council in delivering an advanced technology building on this site. The pre-qualification stage was advertised via the eTenders platform in September. The procurement is following a 2 stage process. Following evaluation of the pre-qualification submissions, qualified applicants will be invited to submit a full tender submission by the end of the year. Tenders will be subject to a negotiation process in order to obtain the best possible solution.

**Gorey Market House:** A project is in progress to determine and procure the best use for the Market House in Gorey. To guide the procurement process, the Council sought the views of parties interested in the viable and sustainable re-development of the Market House. 21 submissions were received from a variety of interested individuals and groups. These submissions have now been reviewed and a report was presented to the Gorey District Councillors at the September District meeting for their consideration. The general projected approach was accepted by the members. Following pre-qualification, qualified applicants will be invited to submit a full tender setting out detailed proposals to progress the project in line with the Council's objectives and taking account of the building's importance as a focal point on Main Street and its status as a protected structure. The procurement process will follow a two stage process with the intention of awarding a concession contract to the successful applicant to deliver services of a cultural/community/heritage/artistic nature from the Market House.

**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. Bucholz McEvoy Architects have been appointed to review existing plans and to develop a detailed design Brief for Services. A draft Brief was submitted to the WAC for comment in September. Funding must be expended by March 2020.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) TEAM

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### Economic Development Team

**The Cube, Wexford Enterprise Centre:** Launch event of new coworking and incubation facility taking place on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, 3.30-5pm. Official launch by Tom Enright

**Wexford Business Expo:**

Taking place in Wexford County Hall, October 4<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm.

Range of speakers and lots of networking opportunities.

See [wexfordbusinessexpo.ie](http://wexfordbusinessexpo.ie) for further information.

**SE Radio Hospitality Awards:** Wexford County Council congratulates the winners across all categories of the SE Radio hospitality awards, held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017:

<b>S.E. RADIO HOSPITALITY AWARDS</b>	
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>HOTEL WINNERS</b>
Best Hotel Restaurant	Amber Springs Hotel
Best Boutique Hotel	Marfield House Hotel (for a second year)
Receptionist of the Year	Veronica McMahon Creacon Wellness Retreat, New Ross
Best Resort/Destination Hotel	Kelly's Hotel, Rosslare (for a second year)
Best Hotel Bar	The Talbot Hotel, Wexford (for a second year)
Best Business Hotel	Seafield Hotel & Spa, Gorey
Wedding Co-ordinator of the Year	Liz Fagan, The Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy
Best Hotel Manager	Paul Finnegan, Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey
Best Hotel Spa	Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford.
Best Hotel Leisure Centre	Whitford House Hotel
Best Value Hotel	The Upton Court Hotel, Kilmuckridge
Over Hotel of Year	Kelly's Hotel, Rosslare
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>RESTAURANT WINNERS</b>
Best value for money	Cistin Eile, Wexford

Fine Dining Restaurant of the Year	The Conservatory Restaurant, Marlfield House Hotel
Best Customer Service Restaurant	The Courtyard, Ferns
Seafood Restaurant of the Year	La Cote, Wexford
Chef of the Year	Eugene O'Callaghan, La Marine Bistro, Kelly's Hotel
Best Dining Experience	The Lobster Pot, Carne
Best Casual Dining	Westgate Design, Wexford
Best New Establishment	Button & Spoon, Wexford
Best Restaurant Manager	Edwina Hynes, La Cote, Wexford
Best organic Restaurant	The Wild's, Enniscorthy
Overall Restaurant of the Year	The Duck at Marlfield House Hotel
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>BAR AWARDS</b>
Bar Manager of the Year	Reece Breslin, Butlers Bar & Restaurant
Country Bar of the Year	The Tara Vale, Ballymoney
Staff Personality of the Year	The Staff of The Courtyard, Ferns (For a second year)
Tourist Bar of the Year	Mary Barry's, Kilmore
Sports Bar of the Year	Stamps Bar, Enniscorthy
Modern Bar of the Year	D. Bar, Enniscorthy
Traditional Bar of the Year	The John Barry Bar, Wexford
Overall Bar of the Year	The Sky and the Ground (for a second year)

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>JUDGES SPECIAL AWARDS</b>
Best Tourist Attraction	The Hook Lighthouse
Best Leisure/Activity	Kia Ora Farm, Gorey
Judges Rising Star Award	Kate from Kate's Coffee Shop and Deli Kilmuckridge
Judges Special Merit Award	Maura Bell, The Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig, Wexford

## **Tourism Team**

**County Wexford Tourism Strategy:** A County Wexford Tourism Strategy is being developed at present. The Strategy, on completion, will guide investment for Wexford County Council the future. The successful tenderer will begin work shortly.

**Spiegel tent Festival:** Wexford County Council are sponsoring the Speigeltent festival this year as an economic initiative which has a large impact on the retail and hospitality industries of the town. The box office for the Speigeltent festival is open on Main Street in Wexford Town. WCC are working with Visit Wexford in promoting County Wexford as a tourist destination.

**Visit Wexford Destination officer:** Visit Wexford with the support of Wexford County Council has employed Norma Quinsy as a Destination and Marketing Officer to work with the tourism industry in developing the county as a tourism destination. She will be based in County Hall, Carricklawn.

**Welcome Ambassador Programme – Opera Festival scheme:** A call-out will be circulated this week for volunteers to participate in the Wexford Festival Opera version of the Visit Wexford Welcome Ambassador programme. This scheme will ensure that a volunteer friendly faces promoting the Visit Wexford brand will be on hand during the busiest days of the Opera Festival to assist visitors to Wexford Town with any simple queries they may have and will work with the Fáilte Ireland Tourist Office in supporting visitors to Wexford.

**Visitwexford.ie:** Visitwexford.ie is County Wexford's premier tourism website moderated by Wexford County Council. As a result of a major increase in web traffic to the visitwesford.ie website as part of the marketing programme for 2017, it has been decided to make improvements to the site including the mobile development and optimisation of the site. This is being developed at present.

**Tourism training with the Local Enterprise Office:** Four Tourism courses are being delivered as part of the LEO Autumn training programme

- Driving Public Relations for your Tourism Business
- Developing Real Customer Centred Offerings
- Effective Social media marketing
- Storytelling for your Tourism business

The courses should be booked directly through the LEO

## **Bunclody Tourist Office**

- Developed in collaboration with the Community section as part of the REDZ programme with the donation of the premises by a local businessman.
- Opened July 2017
- Volunteer led facility with Tús worker now in place 20 hours p/week
- Application to include as a Fáilte Ireland approved Tourism Information Point for 2018

## **Norman Way**

- The Norman Way was one of three finalists from Ireland for the EU EDEN [European Destination of Excellence] competition for best use of cultural assets to grow visitor numbers in Ireland. The other two finalists from Ireland are Mayo's Ceide Coast and Scattery Island in Clare. The overall winner was announced as Scattery Island in Clare.

**Creative Ireland:** The Creative Ireland initiative celebrates the fields of arts, crafts, design, literature, music and film making. At the end of September, journalists visited some film locations in Ireland's Ancient East, taking in Curracloe Beach and the Brooklyn Walking Tour in Co. Wexford as part of this initiative. In addition, five Buyers (Tour Operators) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland on a visit to Ireland in late June visited County Wexford taking in the Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish National Heritage Park.

**Ireland's Ancient East/ Fáilte Ireland:** A **Fáilte Ireland Brexit Briefing** will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> in Clayton Whites Hotel in Wexford Town between 9.30am-12pm. The aim of the workshop is to inform Tourism businesses as to the implications of Brexit on their industry and their customers and issues to be mindful of in the current climate. A customised suite of supports has been developed, focusing on the four key areas, to assist businesses through these uncertain times. All are welcome. Full details are available at <http://www.failteireland.ie/Supports/Get-Brexit-Ready.aspx>

The **Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP)** for the Ireland's Ancient East signature experience stories of Castles & Conquests and Vikings is underway and Failte Ireland have been collaborating with the relevant industry in Wexford. The VEDP will help develop visitor experiences that will motivate visitors to understand the rich and complex histories of our castles, the battles won and lost and the Viking's influence in Ireland.

**TBEX Ireland 2017 Social Media Conference:** Fáilte Ireland won the bid to host a very prestigious social media conference called TBEX. Taking place in Killarney from October 3rd -5th , TBEX Ireland 2017 is Europe's largest gathering of travel bloggers, writers, new media content creators, and social media-savvy travel industry professionals. A number of the attendees will take part in familiarisation trips around the country, visiting Co Wexford on Oct 8th-9th.

**Local festivals to be listed on Fáilte Ireland websites:** Any local festivals who are interested in being advertised on the Fáilte Ireland's festival and events portal should register their festival through [www.failteirelandevents.ie](http://www.failteirelandevents.ie)

**Irish Ferries and Stena Line campaigns:** Wexford County Council, along with Kilkenny and Waterford County Councils have been involved in two marketing campaigns with Rosslare Europort and Tourism Ireland through Irish Ferries and Stena Line. The campaigns are as a result of funding received through the Regional Co-operative programme with Tourism Ireland to push traffic out of Dublin Airport and Dublin Port to the regions. Results for the programme this year have shown an increase in bookings of 25% for Stena Line and an increase of 5% for bookings for Irish Ferries on their Rosslare routes.

**Wexford Trails:** Wexford County Council are working with Wexford Trails in installing directional fingerpost signage for each trail, beginning with the Craft Trail. These will be in place in the coming months.

## Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Team

**Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur – #IBYE Search Closes :** The search to find Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneurs closed on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. With a €2 million investment fund available, this enterprise initiative from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Enterprise Ireland run by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country, supports young entrepreneurs through training, mentoring and direct financial investments. Over 30 Young entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 35 have entered the Wexford competition.

With an available IBYE investment fund of €50,000, Local Enterprise Office Wexford will award six investments to three category winners and three runners-up at county level. The local winners in the Best Start-Up and Best Established Business categories at county level will receive investments of up to €15,000 each and the two runners-up will each receive up to €5,000. The Best Business Idea winner at county level will receive an investment of up to €7,000 and the runner-up will receive up to €3,000 of investment.

The winners at County Wexford level will be awarded on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and will progress to Regional Finals in January and the National IBYE finals will be held in March 2018.

**The Owner Manager Programme – Begins Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September:** The Owner Manager Programme is designed to help small business owners develop to their full growth potential. This 25 week Management Development Programme, certified by Waterford Institute of Technology involves workshops and mentor meetings and runs over a 6 months period from September to April.

This year another 20 Owner Managers from around the County will take part in this flag ship programme facilitated by Blaise Brosnan of the Management Resource Institute. The programme is run from the Wexford Enterprise Centre and is due to be completed on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**National Women's Enterprise Day – 12<sup>th</sup> October:** The Local Enterprise Office's in Carlow, Kilkenny & Wexford have come together to put on a great event for national Women's Enterprise Day #NWED. The event will take place in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow on Thursday 12th October to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day.

Nationally 15 LEO-led events are taking place across the country on Thursday, 12th October to encourage more women in Ireland to 'open doors to new markets' for their businesses

## PLANNING

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

*No. of valid applications received up to 22/09/2017* 1,039

*No. of pre planning requests up to 22/09/2017* 668

***Forward Planning: Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 and the Preparation of New County Development Plan***

The forward planning team have commenced the review of the existing County Development Plan and the preparation of a new County Development Plan for the County. The process commenced with a consultation process during which time submissions could be made with regard to the preparation of the new Plan. Issues Papers were prepared to stimulate debate and invite submissions. The papers were also circulated to a wide variety of prescribed authorities, infrastructure providers, stakeholders and interest groups. The review process was widely publicised in local press and using social media. The forward planning team also hosted a series of public meetings. Following these consultations the Chief Executive presented a report to the Members of the Council detailing the submissions received during the consultation process. This report was considered by the Members at a Special meeting of the Full Council held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017. The forward planning team are now working on the preparation of the pre-draft Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025. It is anticipated that the pre-draft plan will be presented to the Members at the end of Q1 2018. The Retail Strategy, Housing Strategy, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment have all been placed on eTenders and the tenders received are currently being assessed.

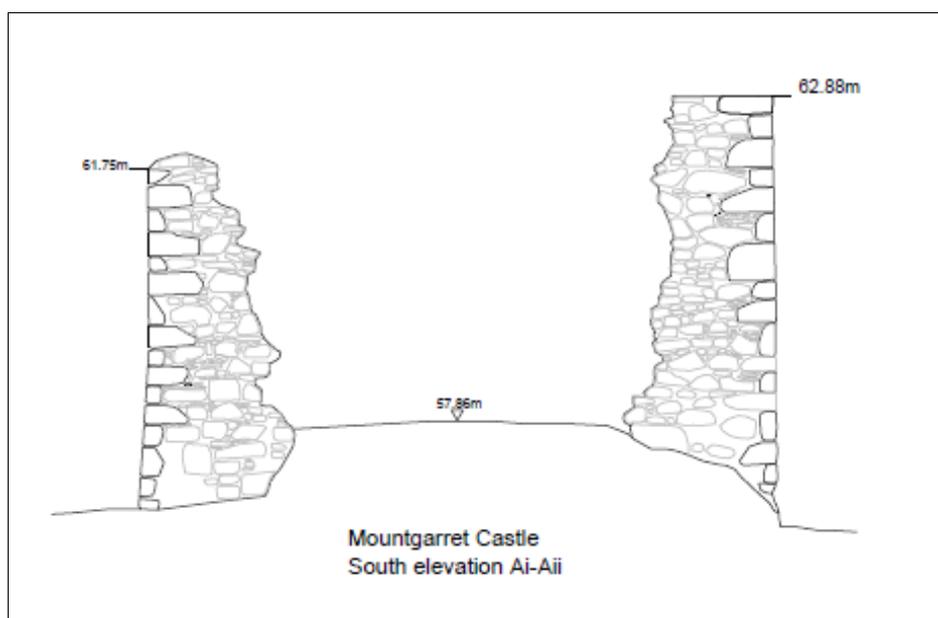
### **Review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended)**

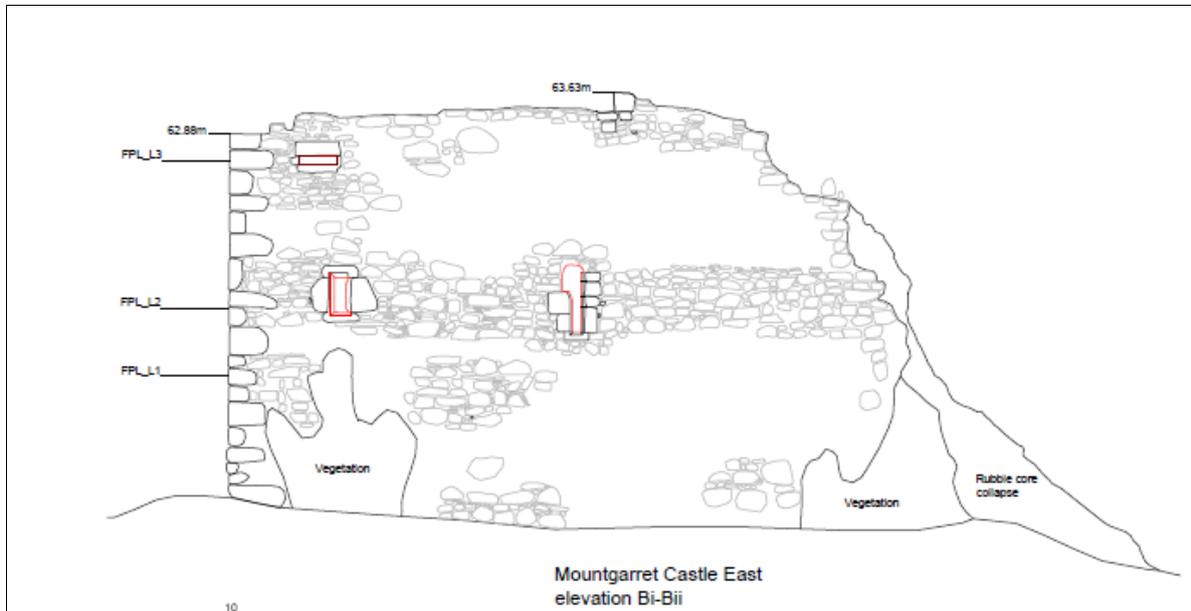
Work has commenced on the review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 and the preparation of a new plan for the area.

**Heritage: Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017:** Ongoing works to 10 Protected Structures under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme are expected to be fully completed by November 2017. A total of €88,000 was allocated under this scheme.

**Wexford Town Wall:** A grant of €5,000 was received from the Heritage Council to fund preliminary conservation studies on the portion of the Town Wall that adjoins St Patricks Graveyard. This work involves the clearing of vegetation, recording of the current condition of the wall by laser survey and the production of a method statement that will provide guidance for the conservation of the Medieval Walls.

**Mountgarrett Castle:** Following the unfortunate collapse of this National Monument, stabilisation works are now planned. Vegetation has now been removed and the next phase of the project is site clearance. This is quite a delicate operation as it must be ensured that no further wall collapse occurs.





## **Building Control:**

**Commencement Notices:** A total of 339 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 on the BCMS.

**Taking In Charge:** Eight new applications for taking in charge have been received this year to date.

Forty Three estates were referred to the relevant Municipal District meeting for the formal Taking in Charge in September, 2017. The Members agreed the taking in charge of following estates in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Arduain, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy         | 23. Bellevue Heights, New Ross               |
| 2. Bishop's Well, Nunnery Road, Enniscorthy      | 24. *Grangelawn, Ramsgrange                  |
| 3. Carraig Dubh, Inch Blackwater                 | 25. Lacken Valley, Irishtown, New Ross       |
| 4. Cluain Bui, The Moyne                         | 26. Rectory Mews, Duncormick                 |
| 5. Cluain Oir, The Moyne                         | 27. The Bowling Green, New Ross              |
| 6. Greenville Court, Enniscorthy                 | 28. The Orchard, New Ross                    |
| 7. Hempfield Close, Enniscorthy                  | 29. Woodlands Grove, New Ross                |
| 8. Meadowlands Estate, Ross Rd, Enniscorthy      | 30. Ballinamorrhagh, Curraclloe              |
| 9. Sean Browne Crescent, Enniscorthy             | 31. Bishopspark, Wexford                     |
| 10. *The Brambles, Galbally, Ballyhogue          | 32. Coolballow Cul de Sac                    |
| 11. *An tArdan Killenagh, Ballycanew             | 33. Elm Park, Wexford                        |
| 12. Ballycanew Grove, Ballycanew                 | 34. Hunters Court, Coolcotts                 |
| 13. Barmona Heights, Monamolin                   | 35. McClure Meadows, Wexford                 |
| 14. Cluain Oir, Monamolin                        | 36. Slaney Woods, Park, Wexford              |
| 15. Dunehaven, Ardamine                          | 37. Spawell Close, Wexford                   |
| 16. Meadowgate, Gorey                            | 38. Strandfield Manor, Spawell Road, Wexford |
| 17. Sean Doire / Cois Doire, Gorey               | 39. Summerhill Heights, Wexford              |
| 18. Woodlands, Gorey                             | 40. Tincone, Ferrybank                       |
| 19. *Skuna Hill, Donaghmore, Ballygarrett, Gorey | 41. Westgate Park, Wexford                   |
| 20. *Skuna Bay, Donaghmore, Ballygarrett, Gorey  | 42. Westlands, Wexford                       |
| 21. *Greenacres, Donaghmore, Ballygarrett, Gorey | 43. Walsheslough, Rosslare, Wexford          |
| 22. Ard Alainn, New Ross                         |  |

The following 13 estates have been sent to Irish Water for their approval for the next stage of the Taking in Charge process.

1. Branogue Park, Riverchapel
2. Coill Aoibhinn, Wexford
3. Meadowbrook, Oulart
4. Orchard Close, Ardavan
5. Sallyville, Rosslare
6. The Willows, Killinick
7. Woodlands, Clonroche
8. Woodview, Castlebridge
9. Churchwood, Kilrane
10. Rosehill Heights, Rosslare
11. Ard na Cuan, Whiterock ( Houses 35-44)
12. \*Millhaven, Ballyedmond
13. \*Waterside Close, Clonhamon

\*Estates including Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI)

- **Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites**

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990

40 since 1<sup>st</sup> January

1 for the month of September (up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept)

Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964

8 since 1<sup>st</sup> January

0 for the month of September (up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept)

Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

6 since 1<sup>st</sup> January

0 for the months of month of September (up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept)

**Derelict Sites:** Derelict Sites can have a negative impact on the social, visual and commercial aspects of a neighbourhood. By way of adopting a more proactive approach and engagement with the Derelict sites on our register we introduced a pilot project to improve the site by way of window/door graphics and paint to improve the overall appearance and recoup the cost from the owner.

**John Street, Wexford**



**Bride Street, Wexford**



### **Planning Enforcement:**

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 is as follows;

➤ Cases Opened - September	3
➤ Live Cases	457
➤ Cases Closed - September	10

### **Gorey District Court**

- 0066/2013 - Shane Barnes, Garden City, Gorey - Undertaking given that he would not use the two sheds on his site for commercial purposes and case struck out.

- 0116/2016 - OH Builders Ltd - 4 houses at Gleann Tire, Killowen, Gorey. Court hearing date sought for this case relating to unfinished access road.

### **Wexford District Court**

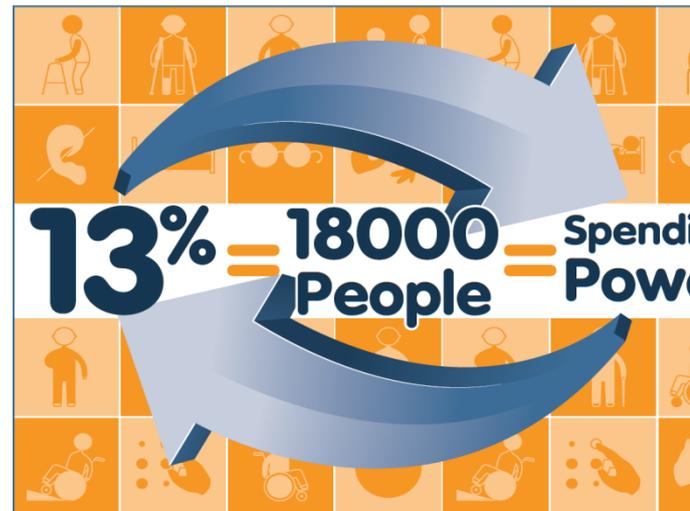
- 0147/2016 - Colette Doyle – Wall at St. Peter’s Square, Wexford. Court hearing date sought for this case relating to a protected structure.
- 0061/2015 - Laurence Devereux, Mayglass Road, Killinick - unauthorised shed. Case adjourned until October.
- 0001/2015 - Shane Cummins, Gibberwell, Duncormick – unauthorised development. Case adjourned pending result of An Bord Pleanála appeal on planning refusal.
- 0121/2014 - Declan Power, Park, Wexford – unauthorised pontoon. Case adjourned to arrange payment of costs and an undertaking not to refloat pontoon.

### **Access Section:**

**Disability Access Certificates (DAC):** The current number of Disability Access Certificate applications, validated for the period up to and including the 22/09/17, totals 45 with a further one currently going through admin / technical validation. This is an increase of 10 applications from the previous report in August.

Current applications include:

- Two DAC applications for extensions to schools, Boolavogue National School and St. Marys Secondary School, New Ross
- An Breacadh Nua – Ard Aoibhinn Services had submitted a DAC application for the Old Library Building, Redmond Square Car Park, Selskar.



**Slade Harbour:** These accessibility works, to provide a new ramp and stepped approach, are on-going with some revisions based on onsite constraints.

**Retail Booklet:** It is expected that the Access for All guidance booklet ‘*Improve Access Increase Income*’ designed for businesses will be available in early October. The aim of this booklet is to inform on some of the basic and low cost principals to improve access for local businesses to assist in making their services more accessible for all.

13% of County Wexford's population of approximately 145,000 are registered as having a disability. This equates to 18,000 people who may not be able to avail of services or purchase goods from local business because of access related issues.

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

### **HOUSING**

**Turnkey and Development land:** A further advert has been placed in the local newspapers calling for expressions of interest from Private Developers / Building Contractors and land owners capable of delivering social housing units within County Wexford. This would include serviced lands, housing proposals with planning permission or turnkey developments. Current housing demand is prioritised within the urban areas of Wexford, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross but all proposals will be considered including those proposals which address current demand in zoned areas. The order of priority will be as follows:-

- Turnkey developments - acquisitions are on a turnkey basis, potential payment is a fixed price lump sum, on completion of a development with an agreed timeframe
- Services land zoned for residential development with full planning permission
- Mixed development schemes where social residential components could be incorporated into them

**Refugee Resettlement Programme:** Phase Two of the Refugee Resettlement Programme will commence in October/November with the recruitment of a second Resettlement Support Worker and the transfer of 15 families to County Wexford. Ten families will move to New Ross and five families to a combination of Enniscorthy and Wexford.

Mr Tariq Yousif, Interpreter, Translator & Cross Cultural Worker commenced employment on 1st September 2017.

**Residents Day:** Wexford County Council are hosting a Residents Day which recognises the excellent voluntary work that Local Authority Resident Associations carry out to maintain, improve and enhance their built environment. It will take place on 31st October 2017 on the Street in County Hall. The event will see representatives of Resident Associations from Local Authority Housing estates throughout the County attend on the day to listen to speakers on subjects relevant to their work as part of Resident Associations and indeed as tenants in Local Authority

housing estates. Information stands from areas such as the Fire Department, Libraries, Environment, Roads etc will also be present on the day.

The winners of the Local Authority Housing Estate Award Scheme 2017 will be announced on the day and prizes will be given in categories such as Best Estate and Best Estate Feature, culminating with the announcement of the overall Wexford County Council winner.

In conjunction with the Residents Day, a children's competition also takes place, which aims to foster participation by young people in the work of the Residents Association by focusing on their responsibilities for the estate in which they live.

**Rent Review 2017:** A full rent review is underway and the assessment of forms has commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> September. It is proposed to carry out a rent review on an annual basis.

**Repair and Leasing:** Wexford County Council has received 32 expressions of interest from potential landlords under the Repair and Lease Scheme. The housing units are made up of single dwellings and multi unit properties.

Over 50% of the units have now being inspected and 3 were deemed unsuitable (major structural/cost involved). The remaining units are currently with the engineer for inspection.

Of those properties inspected a number are now with the clerk of works to ascertain suitability/costing of works that are required to be carried out to bring the properties in line with private rented accommodation housing standards.

An Agreement Lease has being signed with the owner of 1 property and remediation works will commence shortly. It is expected that this property will be available for social housing within the next 4 weeks.

**Buy and Renew:** A number of inspections have being carried out on potential properties to date and having regard to the combined acquisition and remediation cost in line with the guidelines for the scheme no viable properties has being identified.

Following on from the recent promotion of this scheme at the Municipal District meetings a number of properties have been identified and are in the process of having an inspection carried out to ascertain there viability.

**Social Housing Supply Programme 2017-2019:** Housing Section will present a progress report as of the end of Q3 2017 at the October meeting of Wexford County Council.

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

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

- **Francis Street, Wexford** – construction complete. The keys are with Housing Dept for allocation.
- **No 41 St Martin's Park, Ballycullane** – On programme for October handover
- **2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate** – Roofs on, windows and doors installed, rendering to commence this week. Project on programme for completion in May 2018
- **9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey** – First tender was unsuccessful and was terminated. Tenders due in on Friday 29th Sept. Stage 4 will go to DHP in October for approval to sign contracts.
- **8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy** – Under construction. First 2 houses will have foundations poured this week. On programme to date.
- **2 houses in Cois Mara, Rosslare** – under construction, floors poured and blockwork to commence this week. On Programme to date.
- **No 5 Mountain View in Rathnure** – Construction one week behind but will be complete in October.

The following projects are also approved by DHPCLG and are at various stages of development, the design teams are working on:

- **36 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford** – Delay due to investigations of Attenuation system on site. Stage 2 submission to be lodged in October 2017
- **10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford** – stage 3 was submitted in Sept 2017. Expect to tender in late October. DHP have indicated that they are positive towards it but we have no official Stage 3 yet.
- **10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey** – Costs reviewed and revised Stage 3 was submitted in August 2017. We are awaiting Stage 3 approval. Expect to tender in late October.
- **10 Houses in Danescastle** – stage 2 approved in July 2017. Stage 3 to be submitted in October 2017
- **7 Houses in Coolcots** – preparing Stage 2 for submission in October 2017.
- **1 house at Ross Road Enniscorthy** – To tender in October 2017
- **14 Houses in Carricklawn** – Stage 1 in June 2017, Stage 2 under preparation for September 2017 On hold. Problems with title to be rectified by land owner before we finalise purchase. This will be a 2018 project at best.
- **1 house in Castlemoyle** - Stage 2 was submitted in Sept 2017 Costs to be brought down prior to proceeding to Stage 3. Exercise underway.
- **18 houses in Taghmon** – Stage 1 approved in July. Consultants appointed. Stage 2 Nov 2017
- **1 house at Ballynaboola** - Stage 1 approved. Costs have been reduced and a new PP is required. In hand.
- **7 Units at Belvedere Road, Wexford** – Currently organising appointment of a design team and the first task will be to see how savings can be made.
- **1 House in Castlemoyle** for Special Needs – Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 commenced and submission to Planning for Part VIII
- **3 Units at King Street, Wexford** – Stage 1 submitted June 2017. Design team almost appointed to undertake stage 2 detail costing.
- **1 House in Cloneree** with High Radon levels – Stage 1 submitted in April 2017

The number of units with Capital Approval is 143 as detailed above.

The following projects will be submitted to DHPCLG as the next round of Stage 1 applications:-

• Ballyhine	3	Enniscorthy	12
• Ballywish	12	Creagh	9

We are working on other projects preparing feasibility studies prior to the Stage 1 application. In total there are 90 units in this category. These include the following larger projects:-

• Killeens	35
• Rosetown	40

## ENVIRONMENT

**Coastal Works:** Courtown Pier Refurbishment Works (€1.5m) are on schedule for completion in 2017. Nine minor harbour projects with an estimated cost of €568,000 will be completed in 2017 as part of the annual DAFM Fishery Harbour and Coastal Development Programme. A new disabled beach access / boardwalk was constructed at Carne beach (€50,000). The landscaping of Ely Square is scheduled for completion in 2017 .

**Public Conveniences:** Refurbishment works at Carne and Curracloe PC were completed during the summer. The day to day management of the Kilmore Quay PC was recently handed over to the Kilmore Quay Development Association

**Water Quality/Air/Noise:** Water quality in Wexford continues to be under pressure with the most recent EPA report published in 2017 indicating the Slaney & Wexford Harbour catchments showing they had a decline in ecological status in the country between 2007-2009 and 2010-2015.

**Noise:** A comprehensive report on noise in respect of 4 wind farms in the County, Gibbet Hill, Knocknalour, Ballycadden and Ballynancoran was published on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2017. The reports are currently being analysed by the Environment and Planning Departments

## COMMUNITY

**Pobal Maps:** An analysis of Pobal Maps “Small Area” data based on the 2016 Census for County Wexford shows an increase number of small areas that are very disadvantaged with 6651 citizens living in those areas. The areas in question are shown in the table below. The criteria used to determine the level of disadvantage are based on a range of social indicators that scientifically determine the score for each a small area. Of 27 the most disadvantaged areas 26 areas have shown an increase in the deprivation score. This upward trend is a cause of concern for Wexford County Council as the number of very disadvantaged communities has also increased from 18 to 27.

Location	GEO Code	Small Area	Population 2016	2006	2011	2016
Carrig Bawn/ Strawberry hill	247094004	Newtownbarry	260	-17.5	-21.3	-29.97
Southend	247124002	Wexford No. 2 Urban	225	-27.5	-25.8	-28.01
Clonroche	247038004	Clonroche	221	-18.5	-26.3	-27.15
Sean Gaire	247046003	Enniscorthy Urban	183	-26.9	-20.1	-26.83
Kennedy park	247117012	Wexford Rural	239	-17.4	-22.3	-26.06
Talbot green	247124015	Wexford No. 2 Urban	236	-20.5	-21.3	-26.06
St Josephs Villas	247107002	Taghmon	341	-19.8	-22.1	-25.02
Slaney View	247045039	Enniscorthy Rural	183	-16.3	-20.2	-24.85
Templeshannon	247046012	Enniscorthy Urban	163	-19.2	-19.7	-24.37
Marafield	247045022	Enniscorthy Rural	260	-24	-18.4	-24.22
Liam Mellows park	247117008	Wexford Rural	325	-15.6	-18.2	-23.79
Bosheen Irishtown	247091017	New Ross Urban	154	-19	-18.8	-23.78
Ryland wood	247094009	Newtownbarry	223	-19	-15.3	-23.48
Woodbine Close	247090013	New Ross Rural	382	-17.7	-17.8	-23.29
Ferndale	247117002	Wexford Rural	437	-23.2	-19.8	-23.16
Etchechim Heights	247002008	Ardamine	203	-14.6	-17.3	-22.6
Fair green	247107001	Taghmon	181	-14.3	-16.4	-22.36
Pearse Road	247046004	Enniscorthy Urban	220	-14.4	-17.5	-22.26
Andy Doyle Close	247045023	Enniscorthy Rural	318	-24.8	-21.2	-22.16
Wolf Tone	247124010	Wexford No. 2 Urban	180	-23.5	-20.3	-21.34
Moran Park	247045024	Enniscorthy Rural	220	-18.6	-20.5	-21.05
Slaney View Park	247045038	Enniscorthy Rural	203	-19.8	-19.4	-20.77
Killagooly	247045019	Enniscorthy Rural	324	-21.8	-19.7	-20.64
Belvedere	247117022	Wexford Rural	282	-17.8	-18.1	-20.63
Allenwood Drive	247052017	Gorey Rural	227	-9.9	-18.4	-20.59
Longstone irishtown heights	247091012	New Ross Urban	176	-20.6	-18.3	-20.48
Cois Doire	247052019	Gorey Rural	285	-12.2	-20.3	-20.3
			6651			

**Wexford AIRO Report:** It is expected that NUI Maynooth will complete the 2016 Socio Economic Study of County Wexford by the end of October 2017. The 2017 report will analyse the 2016 census data from both a social and economic viewpoint and will allow for the development of strategic responses to both areas of concern and opportunity.

**Wexford Age Friendly Programme:** Wexford Age Friendly Alliance held a meeting in September 2017. The Age friendly Action Plan will be implemented and monitored from now until 2021. As part of the process an Older Peoples Forum will be established before the end of 2017.

**Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP):** Age friendly at National Level is involved in ICPPOP. This will involve recruitment of patient champions onto local steering groups and will be a great opportunity to ensure that the older people recruited will have an input into the process.

**Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) acting as the Local Action Group (LAG):**

At its July meeting 12 Applications for Grants under the LEADER Programme 2014–2020 Artisan Food Call were considered and Grants totalling €383,738.10 Euros were approved for funding. This funding allocation marks a significant milestone in the LEADER Programme.

**SICAP:** The public procurement process has commenced to select the Programme Implementers for the next iteration of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, due to roll-out on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, under Directive 14/2014.

The Local Community Development Committee will be the individual Contracting Authority for the SICAP contract. This will entail a one stage open procedure which will be overseen and managed by each LCDC supported by the Local Authority.

**Traveller Interagency Group TIG:** Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS) in partnership with The Community Section have submitted a funding proposal to the Department of Justice for the Development of a countywide Traveller Community Development Project. The proposal has been successful with €112,000 being approved for the project. The proposal will involve two community development workers based in the traveller community building in Drumgould Enniscorthy. The project will visit and work on a weekly basis the following Town/villages Taghmon, Clonroche, New Ross and Bunclody.

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2017:** The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland. Wexford County has lodged 6 number applications under three separate measures namely 2 number Measure 1 (under €10,000), 3 number Measure 2 (under €100,000) and 1 number Measure 3 (under €1m). We have been informed that we have been successful with our Measure 3 Application with a grant of €342,800 to the Great New Ross Riverside Walk and 1 of our Measure 3 applications with a grant of €8,450 to the Tintern Buggy Trail. Measure 2 applications have yet to be decided.

**Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017:** The 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme was launched with €20 million in funding available for developments in rural towns and villages all over Ireland. Wexford County lodged 15 number applications, totalling over €1.52m, as follows: 4 number for Enniscorthy, Gorey and Wexford Districts and 3 number for New Ross District. Also lodged was an application from the Arts Section in line with the scheme guidelines. No decisions have as yet issued on these applications. (See attached table)

**Healthy Ireland Fund Strand 1 Application:** *Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025* is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. The primary aim of the fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health.

The objectives of the initial stages of the Fund are:

- To raise awareness of, and support for, Healthy Ireland through the funding of community-based and national health promotion activities.
- To facilitate and resource cross-sectoral and partnership networks that promote health and well-being.

HEALTHY IRELAND FUND APPLICATION		
Action Number	Action Description	Action Estimated Cost €
1	Comhairle na nÓg - Youth Health Awareness	6,000.00
2	Sports - Sports club for Children with a Disability	5,744.00
3	Sports - Playground Marking	6,342.00
4	Sports - School access to Swimming Lessons	6,000.00
5	Sports - Physical Activity Programme for Men Sheds Groups	4,000.00
6	Inter County Tobacco Plan	10,000.00
7	Cycle - Without Age Rickshaw	7,134.00
8	Cycle - 9 Stones Signed Cycle Loop North of County	15,777.00
9	PPN Confident Cookers COOK IT Programme	3,600.00
10	FAI Walking Soccer	10,000.00
11	AIRO Profile Health & Heat Map	3,403.00
12	Healthy Cities and County Application	17,000.00
13	Weaning Clinics – Wexford Public Health Nursing	5,000.00
		100,000.00

- To resource the development of locally-led, cross-sectoral strategies promoting health and wellbeing.
- To add value to existing health promotion initiatives through the provision of Healthy Ireland resources.
- To support the health and wellbeing of the most disadvantaged groups and areas and those experiencing significant health inequalities through long-term planning.

The Community Section, on behalf of the Wexford County LCDC, has lodged an Application under Strand 1 seeking the maximum grant of €100,000. The Application includes 13no. diverse Actions with associated budgets. A summary of the Application is detailed below:

**Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) 2016/17 – Bunclody:** The Bunclody REDZ initiative received Government funding of €100,000 with additional funding of €25,000 provided by Wexford County Council. Much has been achieved since January which started with the setting up of Bunclody Redz Steering Group and Bunclody Town Team which is a representative group with members from Wexford County Council, other public bodies (FDYS, WLD, etc), local public representatives, as well as local community and business leaders.

Progress has been made in a number of areas including:

- Setting up a new Tourist Office in the town
- Town enhancement works in Market Square
- Funding given to 16 local community groups for a range of community initiatives
- New 3 day summer festival held – “Streams of Bunclody”
- Social media presence – new Facebook Pages incl. Visit Bunclody and Bunclody Means Business
- Mentoring and Enterprise Training for local businesses
- Enterprise Support grants for local businesses
- Street Paddler training for local at risk teenagers (joint initiative between Sports Active and FDYS)

The Bunclody Redz project has been very successful and will be completed by December 2017.

**Science Week 2017:** Wexford Council secured grant funding of €8,000.00 from Science Foundation Ireland to hold a Science Week from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. Events will be centred in libraries with the central theme of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, there will be an Open Day Showcase and large scale STEM Promotion Event entitled “Wexsci Science Showcase” in County Hall, Carricklawn. Some highlights of the week will include:

- The “It takes guts” Show by the London Science Museum;
- Decoding Sound by Brendan Cooney, Wexford County Council;
- What can you find with a particle detector? by Brendan Wallace;
- Making Big Problems Small, by Paul Hickey, Breadboard Labs, Enniscorthy;
- Build your own games console by Breadboard Games, Dublin Institute of Technology;
- A Career in Electronics by Jason Berry, WIT’s Applied Robotics Lab.

**Reminder re. Bio-Enterprise Academy - National Call for Applications:** Stakeholders who are either working in or delivering programmes in the Agriculture or Forestry Sectors may be interested to know that the AgriForValor H2020 project has launched a national call for applications for the 'Bio- Enterprise Academy', an intensive support program for researchers and entrepreneurs.

Please contact Cliodhna Dowling at [cliodhna.dowling@staff.ittralee.ie](mailto:cliodhna.dowling@staff.ittralee.ie) or on 00353667144247 for further information and an application form. Applications should be returned by email to [cliodhna.dowling@staff.ittralee.ie](mailto:cliodhna.dowling@staff.ittralee.ie) no later than 29.09.2017.

**Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN):** Wexford PPN is planning the Autumn Training Schedule and the upcoming County Membership meeting, which takes place in Enniscorthy on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The theme of this meeting is ‘Funding Focus’ and will include a Grant Writing Hints & Tips presentation and launch of a new ‘Support Signposts’ leaflet compiled by Wexford PPN. With PPNs annual registration is due by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

At a national level, Wexford PPN was one of the PPNs represented at this year's National Ploughing Championships. With the support of the Department of Rural & Community Development, and co-ordinated by Wexford PPN & Offaly PPN, PPNs across the country manned a PPN stand to increase awareness and to highlight the role of PPNs.



Locally Wexford PPN has been working with a number of Departments within Wexford County Council to help in communicating to the public through member information bulletins and our facebook page. Operationally Wexford PPN had some recent Secretariat resignations and work is underway to seek nominations for new representatives.

## **SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

**Learn To Swim Programme Launch:** The Launch of the Swim Ireland learn to Swim Programme took place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Cllr Barbara Ann Murphy along with Mary Dunne Swim Ireland president launched the programme at the Wexford swimming Pool. The programme is a partnership between Wexford County Council, Swim Ireland and Sports Active Wexford, and will be supported for 3 years to improve the delivery and staff training of teaching Aquatics in the five public facilities.

**Ben 5k:** The event took place on 24<sup>th</sup> September, with over 400 runners taking part. The sports partnership had run an 8 week training programme for staff wishing to walk or run the event 9 staff took part in the programme and successfully completed the run.

**CAMHS Programme:** We developed a partnership with Wexford Gymnastics Club with 5 coaches, 2 CAMHS staff and **18** young people who attend the CAMHS centre with ADHD. The programme is running every Friday for 8 weeks and it is based on using physical activity for those children with disabilities improve their behaviour and learning As part of the GymAble Project the group have also been invited to Gymnastics Ireland headquarters in Abbottstown in December to see the facilities.

**Urban Adventure Hub:** Sports Active Wexford has applied in partnership with Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre for Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts funding to set up a Kayaking hub in Bunclody.

We have applied for 4 projects, which include Sports Wheelchairs, Playground marking equipment, Traveller and Men's Shed's Programme and Deis School support swimming Programme

## **LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES**

**Music Generation** Music Generation has announced that County Wexford will receive €600,000 in 50% matched funding over three years to enable access to high quality subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition for children and young people throughout the county. A corresponding 50% in locally-generated matched funding will be raised by Wexford Music Education Partnership, which is among 9 new areas of the country selected for participation in Music Generation's second phase.

Ireland's national music education programme, Music Generation was initiated by Music Network in 2010, and is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills and Local Music Education Partnerships.

Wexford Music Education Partnership's (MEP) goal is to develop a range of affordable and accessible performance music programmes for children and young people age 0 to 18. This will include the coordination of music tuition services within the county, working in partnership with schools, community music groups and tuition centres in the formation of choirs, ensembles, access programmes, composition and songwriting projects, and more, across a range of musical genres and styles.

**'Advancing the Arts', Draft Arts Plan 2018-2022**, was approved by the Housing Community and Environment SPC on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and will now be presented to the next meeting of Wexford County Council.

**Science. WexSci Science Festival** from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017 will feature a large public event, the WexSci Showcase in The Street on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The programme will be headlined by The London Science Museum who will enthral the audience with their interactive roadshow.

New Ross Library was actively involved in the **Kennedy Summer School** in early September. The New Ross Kennedy Book and Research Archive was launched in New Ross library on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September by Professor Richard Aldous. The Archive which holds a range of Kennedy related books, magazines and other articles is expected to grow substantially over the coming years. On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September the library hosted Late Late Show host Ryan Tubridy and Laureate na nÓg PJ Lynch to talk about their Kennedy related book, ***Patrick and the President***.

Wexford Library Service, in partnership with Wexford County Childcare Committee, is developing recommended reading on **Diversity for Early Year's Services** throughout the County as part of the Access and Inclusion model of childcare provision.

Three new Librarians have been appointed to the areas of Local Studies, Children and Young People's Services and IT Services and began work in September.

Wexford Library welcomed a delegation from Ypres, Belgium to view the **Willie Redmond Exhibition** on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. A tour led by Librarian Jarlath Glynn was interested in viewing the exhibition which details the life of Major Willie Redmond and his final resting place near Ypres following his death in the battle of Messines.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

**News:** The months of August and September have been very busy in terms of licensing. There were 82 licence applications received between the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Most of these hotels, pubs, and clubs have been inspected. Four have been asked to undertake a section 18(6) fire safety assessment. Deficiencies noted in the others have been highlighted to the owners by way of written correspondence. Once addressed the courts are informed that we have no objection to the licence.

**Fire Operations:** August was a relatively quiet month with 51 incidents including 7 road traffic accidents, 14 false alarms with good intent and 14 small fires.

<b>Incident type</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>August</b>
Fires	227	23
Special Services	110	12
Chimney Fires	95	2
False Alarms	132	14

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

<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>August</b>
Fire Safety Certificates	57	5
Planning Referrals	477	78

<b>Number of Inspections</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>August</b>
FSA Inspections	184	40

During August and early September there were 82 notification(s) for liquor licence(s) were received by the Fire Authority.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

**Civic Duties:** There was a total of 7 Civic Duties for September.

DATE	EVENT
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017	Tintern Fun Run, Gusserane O'Rahillys GAA
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017	Picnic in Remond Park (CANCELLED)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Taghmon Pony & Horse Races
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Taghmon Athletics Club, Open Cross Country
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017	Barrow Challenge, New Ross Boat Club
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Ben5K Road Race, Wexford
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Awareness Head to Toe Open Day, Farm Safety, Mental Health, General Health, Leskinfere, Gorey

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

- Four of our current EFR (Emergency First Responder) Instructors attended the Civil Defence College, Roscrea to complete their EFR instructor re certification on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September.
- Driver Assessments continued on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, with 5 drivers from Wexford, Gorey and New Ross been assessed in the following categories B, C, C1 and D1.
- Two of our current CFR (Cardiac First Responder) Instructors will attend the Civil Defence College in Roscrea to complete their CFR Instructor Re Certification.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Civil Defence Officer attended a Rescue working Group meeting in the Civil Defence College on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September to start work on different modules for a proposed new Rescue Course for Civil Defence Volunteers.

Two new recruits started training with the Gorey Unit on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, we wish them well in their training with Civil Defence.

### 3. Transportation, Water Services:

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

#### N25 New Ross By-Pass:

#### **Progress Update September 2017**

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

Earthworks operations progressed apace during the summer months and bulk earthworks are now approximately 80% complete. There is some outstanding blasting yet to be completed at Ballyverneen (Glenmore), Stokestown and Camlin, and these operations will be completed in the coming weeks. Drainage, accommodation works, services works and other associated works are also progressing in co-ordination with earthworks.

The three Barrow Bridge piers and temporary pier to the west of the river (Kilkenny side) are complete and deck falsework for the construction of the first 2 approach spans has been installed. The five piers (including river pier) and temporary pier to the east of the river have also progressed to, or near to, the underside of the deck. In the coming months the approach spans on both sides of the river and the 3 central towers will be progressed in preparation for the construction of the 2 main bridge spans.

Structural works are substantially complete for Stokestown Road Underbridge, R733 Campile Road Underbridge & Ballymacar Road Underbridge, and are significantly progressed for Camlin Road Overbridge, Creakan Road Underbridge, Arnestown Road Overbridge and Ryleen Road Underbridge. Structural works have also commenced for the Glenmore Road Underpass (under N25), Lacken South Overbridge and Lacken North Underbridge. 10 of the 11 road bridges are therefore now substantially complete or at various phases of construction. Localised temporary diversions and traffic management are also in place on the local roads at these sites to facilitate the bridge works. Nine farm underpasses are substantially complete and a further six are currently under construction. Works are also progressing on a significant retaining wall to facilitate the realignment of R733 road.

Temporary diversions and statutory 60km/h speed limits continue to operate on the N25 Wexford Road at Ballymacar and N25 Waterford Road at Glenmore. The diversions are via newly constructed sections of road and will remain in place until 2018. Extensive traffic management is being implemented to guide road users safely through and around the diversion routes. The current 60km/h statutory speed limit orders for both N25 Ballymacar and N25 Glenmore will be renewed on 1st October 2017 for a further maximum 12 month period. The Pink Rock Road in Co. Kilkenny remains closed to facilitate Barrow Bridge access and construction. A temporary diversion route and traffic management plan will remain in place until June 2018. It is anticipated that temporary traffic management will be implemented on the R733 at Camlin in October to facilitate the construction of a culvert underneath the road. A stop/go single lane layout will be in operation for approximately 2 weeks, and extended working hours will be implemented to minimise the duration of disruption to road users.

All site access points on the N25, N30 and R733 are now operational, and road cleaning regimes are operational at all exits. Road conditions are being monitored in these areas, and also on local roads where site traffic crosses roads at manned stop/go control points. Road repairs are also being implemented where necessary. The site is also being monitored for the generation of noise, vibration and dust.

The sixth quarterly project newsletter will be published at the end of September and circulated widely at local conveniences (service stations, shops etc.) as well as at local public buildings and in County Hall. The dedicated project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. A further short progress video will be released by Wexford County Council this week as part of a series recording progress on the project, and in particular the landmark Barrow Bridge. A 24 telephone hotline is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.



1. Temporary diversion and traffic management at N25 Glenmore for construction of roundabout and road underpass (underpass installation at bottom of photo).



2. Barrow Bridge – Deck falsework in place for approach spans 1 & 2 at Pink Rock to left of photo.



3. Barrow Bridge – Deck falsework to approach spans 1 & 2 at Pink Rock



4. Barrow Bridge – Steel fixing in deck box for approach spans 1 & 2.



5. Barrow Bridge - Pier 4 (river pier) in foreground.



6. Earthworks at Stokestown (rock blasting site).



7. Construction of retaining wall to accommodate road realignment at R733



8. Temporary diversion route at Ballymacar for construction of online roundabout.



9. Ryleen Road Underbridge – an example of local road temporary diversion and traffic management around a road bridge construction site.

10. N30 Corcoran's Cross roundabout in foreground, N30 tie-in towards Enniscorthy into



background

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

**1. M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update**

**Program**

The contractor has 81% of their certified design issued for construction and is on target in their overall program for construction. The Permit to Use date remains the same of July 2019.

**Construction to Date**

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	<b>Progress Reported in December</b>	<b>Progress Reported in April</b>	<b>Progress Reported in May</b>	<b>Progress Reported in June</b>	<b>Progress Reported in July</b>	<b>Progress Reported in August</b>
<b>Site Clearance</b>	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%
<b>Fencing</b>	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%
<b>Drainage &amp; Service Ducts</b>	7%	11%	12%	14%	15%	17%
<b>Earthworks</b>	23%	30%	35%	56%	62%	66%
<b>Structures – main Bridges</b>		15%	20%	29%	33%	38%
<b>Structures – Culverts</b>	29%	55%	65%	68%	71%	73%
<b>Structures – Access Structures</b>	12%	42%	50%	67%	72%	80%
<b>Accommodation Works</b>	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%

**Earthworks:-**

Bulk Cut to Fill was approx. 986,821m<sup>3</sup> to the end of the year for 2016 (6 month Work Period).  
Bulk Cut to Fill as reported this year to the end of August 2017 is 1,491,546m<sup>3</sup>

**Blasting**

The following program indicates the remaining duration for blasting for the project:

Area	Name	No of Blast remaining	Est. Completion date
M11, Cut 1	Frankfurt Junction	8-10	December 2017
M11, Cut 6	Crane Road	2	End September 2017
N30, Cut 1	Ballyorril	0	Complete
N30, Cut 4	Bessmount	6	End October 2017

Affected landowners are being notified by the contractor 14 days in advance of blasting commencing and 3 days by either text or a phone call in advance of the blast taking place. Results to date for Vibration and Noise Monitoring have returned below the maximum permitted levels for the contract.

**Ongoing repairs and monitoring of local roads**

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

- L1027, Ballygullen Road
- L2020, Crane Road
- L2021, Ballynabarny Road
- L2011, Tinnacross Road

**Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:**Road Closure Applications

WCC are progressing the following road closure applications

Road	Application Status	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Status	New Opening Date
L2020, Ballynabarny	Granted	September 2017	5 Nights	Withdrawn	
L5096, Rocksprings Road	Granted	Jan 2017	6 (8)	Reopened on the 28/8/17 under TTM. ST 3 RSA conducted and findings to be implemented	
L2021, Crane Road	Granted	March 2017	6	November 2017	
L2012, Killalligan Road	Granted	Feb 2017	6 (8)	August 2017	6/10/17

L6122, Templescoby	Granted	April 2017	6	October 2017	
L6125, Monart East	Granted	Feb 2017	6 (8)	August 2017	20/10/17
L6055, Drumgold Road	Submitted	October 2017	7	Statutory Process	
L2040, Knockrathkyle	Granted	Feb 2017	6 (7)	September 2017	
L6052, Scurlocks bush	Granted	March 2017	6 (7)	September 2017	13/10/17
L1027, Ballygullen Road	Withdrawn	April 2017	2		
L2024, Corbally Road	Submitted	August 2017	6	On hold until L2020 (Application pending) is reopened	
L5092, Ballyeden Road	Granted	August 2017	6	Closed 28/8/17	
L2014, Ballyorril Link	Submitted	August 2017	2	On hold until L2012, Killalligan Road is reopened	
L2015, Coolnahorna	Granted	August 2017	6	January 2018	
L6048, Glenteige Road	Granted	August 2017	7	February 2017	
L2030, Bessmount Rd	Submitted	August 2017	3	On hold until L6125 and L2012 is reopened	

#### Drumgold Road Closure

Wexford County Council Liaison Office are facilitating discussions between TII and the motorway contractor in an effort to come to a satisfactory conclusion to the issue raised by the local community in relation to the contractor's application for a road closure at Drumgold.

The contractor has submitted an outline proposal to TII for a diversionary route within the site and a meeting is to be arranged on Monday when all parties are available to discuss it further and to get a more detailed outline from the contractor.

TII have no objection in principle to the contractor's proposal but want additional information prior to committing to it especially under Health and Safety grounds as it will directly affect members of the local community.

#### Newsletter

The Newsletter for this quarter has been issued and circulated and is available on the M11 website at [WWW.m11gtoe.ie](http://WWW.m11gtoe.ie). This website is updated on a monthly bases 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.

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

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

### **N25 Ross By-Pass Residual Network**

#### **N30 from Irishtown to R700 junction.**

This contract is being completed in 2 phases.

Phase 1 from Irishtown to R700 junction was substantially completed on 26<sup>th</sup>. August 2016.

Phase 2 from Irishtown to New Ross swimming pool will be completed in 2018 following works to the sewer network by Irish Water.

### **N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Residual Network**

#### R702 Enniscorthy Killealy Road

This scheme was split into 2 contracts.

Contract 1 from Milehouse to Monart East was completed in April.

Contract 2 is from Milehouse Crossroads to Duffry Gate.

This includes installation of a 215mm watermain for Irish Water and a roundabout at Milehouse.

Works commenced on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>. July and is due to be completed by mid October.

#### N11 Scarawalsh to Ferns South

This contract involves the overlay of 5km of the N11 between Scarawalsh Bridge and Ferns. This scheme commenced on 24<sup>th</sup>. April and was substantially completed on the 9<sup>th</sup>. June. Works are ongoing on accommodation works which should be completed by the early October.

## **2017 National Pavement Schemes**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following scheme.

#### N11 Ferns Village

This scheme has been postponed and will be carried out once the Enniscorthy bypass scheme has been completed.

## **Additional Pavement Improvement Works**

The following 7 road pavement schemes were by TII & Wexford County Council as priority schemes.

- Ballynabola to Cushenstown Pavement Scheme (1.0km)
- Carrigadaggan to Ballynabola Pavement Scheme (2.3km)
- Kileen to Newtown Pavement Scheme (2.6km)
- Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme (1.1km)

- Tinnahask to Ballynaslaney Pavement Scheme (1.2km)
- Ballygillane Little Pavement Scheme (0.7km)
- Ballygoman to Knockeen Pavement Scheme (3.2km)

### **Scheme Updates:**

#### **Ballygillane Little Pavement Scheme**

This scheme was completed in June.

#### **Ballynabola to Cushenstown Pavement Scheme**

This scheme commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup>. June. It is due to be completed by early October.

#### **N25 Ballygoman to Knockeen Pavement Scheme**

This scheme was tendered on 17<sup>th</sup>. August with a tender return date of 31<sup>st</sup>. August.. Construction works will commence on 2<sup>nd</sup>. October with a 10 week construction programme.

#### **Tinnahask to Ballynaslaney Pavement Scheme**

This scheme was tendered in early September. Construction works should commence by mid October.

#### **Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme**

This scheme will be tendered in October. Construction works should commence in the first quarter of 2018.

#### **Killeen to Newtown Pavement Scheme**

Survey works were completed in August. There will be additional site investigation works required on the southern end of the scheme. It is hoped to have this scheme tendered in early 2018.

### **2017 HD28 Pavement Renewals**

The NRA allocated an additional €520,000 for the 2015 HD28 pavement renewals programme. Tenders will be invited in October and a contractor will be appointed by November.

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

### **Strengthening**

The strengthening (Clause 804) programme recommenced in the Wexford District on September 6.

Works completed within last month as follows: Ten Acre to Bargy; and Grotown to Crandonnel.

### **Surface Dressing**

Surface dressing programme commenced on Monday June 19 in the Wexford District and finished on September 4 in the New Ross District.

Works completed within the last month: Rathnure to Tomanine; Monksgrange to Carthy's Cross; Templeudigan to Curran; Poulpeasty to Donard; Clonroche to Cloughbawn; Maudlins; Newtowncommon to Lacken; Newbawn to Bryanstown; Coolerin to Ballykeerogue; and Coole to Curraghmore.

### **Improvement Works**

Works on New Ross Flood Relief Scheme ongoing.

Contract for Oaklands Roundabout (New Ross District) awarded to David Walsh Civil Engineering Ltd. Work will commence in January, 2018.

### **General Maintenance**

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

## **WATER SERVICES**

### **A. Irish Water – Asset Management**

#### **Irish Water Capital Schemes**

#### **IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme – Stage 3 (included in IW – CIP14-16 i.e. Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) 2014 to 2016)**

The WWTP is to be extended to cater for a PE of 26,000, an increase of 10,000 PE from the existing 16,000 PE. The DBO contract was signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. Ward & Burke are the contractors and have commenced on site. J.B. Barry are the Consulting Engineers.

#### **IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S. (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following elements of work on this Scheme:

- New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.
- New rising main from Clonhasten to Vinegar Hill WTP.
- Hydraulic model of the Enniscorthy and Sow Schemes.

Terms of Reference are being agreed with Irish Water in order to appoint Consultants to progress the above work.

Preparation of budget application for Concept Design is underway; this includes for Strategic Report and review of options for the entire scheme.

#### **IW Asset Management: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme (included in IW - CIP14-16)**

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Foreshore application was lodged. The land acquisition 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 7,500m<sup>3</sup> reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. A DWSP and catchment yield review is to be done. Consultants have been engaged by IW to review the design and revise the contract documents. 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. Negotiations for wayleaves ongoing with landowners. Tender documents are in preparation.

### **IW Asset Management: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)**

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment plant 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. Options reports on potential sites for the schemes are currently under review.

### **IW Asset Management: Water Conservation – Pipeline Rehabilitation Phase 2**

Ballylucas – Screen is 90% complete under construction by WCC Direct Labour Crew. The next phase will start in Mill Lands, Gorey in late October. IW are funding this project for €2m for 9KM of pipeline rehabilitation.

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

Site Investigation works are complete for gas and water main installation around Wexford town. There are two areas of common gas / water mains to be laid. Rocklands (approximately 500m) is complete and awaiting commissioning while Newtown Road has 850m complete of the 1000m. A new hydraulic model for Wexford town is being updated to allow for the design works to progress;

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

Committed funding is awaited from Irish Water before commencement of the Project. Tenders have been analysed and contract award is subject to Irish Water funding. Awaiting PO from Irish Water to proceed with the works.

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

Ballylucas – Screen is 85% complete under construction by WCC Direct Labour Crew. The next phase will start in Mill Lands, Gorey in late October. IW are funding this project for €2m for 9KM of pipeline rehabilitation.

## **B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES**

### **IW Asset Management: Murrintown P.S.(Wastewater to Wexford WWTW)**

Tender assessment is complete and contractor is to be appointed in next two weeks.

### **Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme**

Snagging 98% complete.

**Sewer network pump station maintenance contract**  
1<sup>st</sup> round of servicing is complete. 2<sup>nd</sup> round is approved.

**WWTP pre-planned Maintenance Contract**

Contractor appointed and works progressing on site.

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

Works commenced at Newtown August 22<sup>nd</sup>. New air blowers in operation. New electrical panel installed. Contract to be completed by mid December. New compressors installed in August.

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

M&E fitout largely complete with replacement pumps and valve arrangements at both plants.

**IW Asset Management: pH Emergency (Automated dosing control)**

Coolgreaney wayleave agreement to be resolved.

**IW Asset Management: Vinegar Hill Air Blowers replacement**

Contractor on site. Air blowers in position. Electrical cabling works ongoing. Works to be completed by early October.

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

Commissioning Services Ltd. (CSL) has been appointed as Contractors. CSL received PO from IW. CSL visited sites on September 20<sup>th</sup> and will finalise designs. Works to be completed by January.

**IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme**

Value Engineering workshop meeting to be held September 28<sup>th</sup>. Works on initial block of sites to commence November.

**Suppressed Capital Maintenance scheme**

A capital maintenance budget of €930,000 has been allocated by Irish Water for Wexford for 2017. Our present approval from Irish Water is at 117% of budget at €1.089 million. Committed expenditure at present is €436,358.

## **C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

**Blackstairs Group Water Scheme – Contract No. 11 Pollpeasty**

€150,000 allocation received for 2017. Tender Documents to be forwarded to three Tenderers on Framework. It is hoped that prices will be received mid October.

**Oilgate Group Sewerage Scheme**

Irish Water have submitted an estimate of €533,990 for the upgrade of the waste water treatment plant in Oilgate. This has been referred to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

**Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme**

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

Takeover of these schemes is being followed up with Irish Water.

Irish Water have approved the filling of the water conservation engineer position until the end of 2018.

**Small Mains Replacement**

Wexford Small Mains Replacement Contract 1 – (ShareRidge Ltd.)

Small mains replacement in Ballymitty, Wellingtonbridge and Ferns is now substantially completed. Temporary road reinstatement is in place with permanent reinstatement to follow.

## **4. Finance:**

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

The LGAS audit of the 2016 financial records is ongoing and is expected to be completed shortly.

### **Audit Committee**

The next Audit Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Budget 2018**

The Budget Strategy Cross Party Meeting was held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and the core funding items/issues for 2018 were outlined for members in attendance. The Budget Strategy Report for 2018 was circulated to members for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council to formally agree the LPT variation rate for 2018 scheduled for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Further meetings agreed for the Budget 2018 process are

- GMA Meetings in Municipal Districts – scheduled to be included on the agenda of October MD meetings
- Statutory Budget Meeting – schedule for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.

In the meantime work is progress on compiling details of the spending programmes to be funded through the Budget process.

### **Cash Flow/Overdraft**

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m for the period up to 31st December, 2017. It is now necessary to seek ministerial sanction to secure a similar facility for 2018 and this is included on the agenda for formal approval of the Council.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**