



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**April 2020**

# 1.Economic Development & Planning:

Economic Development Unit

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## 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.

### New Business Continuity Voucher Local Enterprise Office Wexford:



The new **Business Continuity Voucher** is now available through Local Enterprise Office Wexford and is open to sole traders and companies across every business sector locally that employ up to 50 people.

The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs to develop short and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The goal is to help business owners make informed decisions about what immediate measures and actions should be taken to protect staff and sales.

The voucher will give companies access to contingency planning advice that will help them to continue trading through this crisis and to be ready for the recovery phase, when it comes. It will also help firms to prepare a business case so that they can apply for emergency financial interventions through the banks, the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland or Microfinance Ireland.

The kind of areas that the voucher will help will vary, depending on the needs of each local business, but it will include very important measures such as preparing a business case for application to emergency funding, developing a business continuity plan, reducing variable costs or implementing remote working procedures.

In the week of the announcement 29 businesses have applied to date for support and LEO is processing applications currently within a week of receipt at application.

### Micro Finance Ireland Covid 19 Loans

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 a business has less than 10 employees and impacted by Covid-19 and cannot secure bank finance, the MFI Covid-19 Business Loan may be an alternative funding solution. Where applications are with the Local Enterprise office there is a 1% discount on the interest rate at 6.8%. Under Covid 19 the first 6 months are interest free and a moratorium on repayments for 6 months.

## **Mentoring**

Clients work with an experienced mentor to identify solutions to areas of exposure within their business. With advice and guidance from their mentor, clients develop strategies that are more robust, which address issues and maximise potential opportunities around Covid-19 challenges.

## **Trading Online Voucher Scheme**

This scheme is a matched-funding opportunity with up to €2,500 available and funding can be used towards eligible costs such as digital marketing strategies, e-commerce websites or app development.

## **LEAN for Micro**

Scheme is available to LEO clients to help small businesses boost competitiveness, increase performance and profitability as well as building resilience within their companies.

## **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. Training to date includes:

- Digital training 31<sup>st</sup> March
- 1<sup>st</sup> April Regional food webinar hosted by Wexford LEO with 40 businesses in this sector
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April Leading your business through uncertain times

**Further details and bookings available online at [www.localenterprise.ie/wexford](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wexford) or Email [info@leo.wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.wexfordcoco.ie); Phone 053 9196620**

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## **PLANNING**

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### ***COVID 19 Response – Planning Department***

The Planning Department is open and operational. There is no public access to the Department so 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 and this remains on target. The timeframes have also been paused which will enable some flexibility in setting up of 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. New Planning Applications

are being received and validated but the further processing of applications to decision stage is effectively paused until the 20th April as per Ministers 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. Site inspections have ceased until the 20th April but all visits had been kept-up to date before the signing of the Ministerial Order on the 29th March. 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 has ceased until the 20th April. Again, normal timeframes for response on Commencement Notice and Certificates of Completion are paused until the 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> April.

### ***Planning Applications***

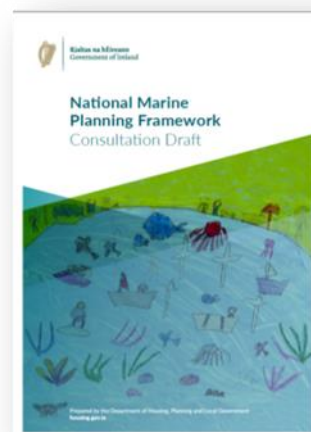
Numbers are those received up until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

No. of valid applications	354
No. of invalid applications	50
Extension of Duration	12
Exempted Development Declaration	12

### ***Forward Planning***

#### **National Marine Planning Framework**

The Draft *National Marine Planning Framework (NMFP)* - *Consultation Draft* has been published. **The period during which submissions may be made has been extended to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 at 3pm.** The scheduled consultation event in Wexford has been cancelled and a new date will be announced in due course.



### ***Biodiversity and Natural Heritage***

#### **Natural Wexford**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, saw the launch of the Geological Heritage of County Wexford, a collaboration between authors the Geological Survey Ireland and the Forward Planning

Section of Wexford County Council and also sponsored by the Heritage Council. The day started with members of the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI), giving Wexford County Council technical staff a talk on work the GSI is doing, focusing on County Wexford. It was well attended and very informative. The afternoon an event in the street was held and attended by invited guests from many different fields, Members of the Planning and Environmental SPCs and Wexford County Council staff to formally launch the publication.



The installation of the Natural Wexford sign at the Camaross Pingo site was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> March attended by Elected Members, local residents, Geological Survey Ireland staff and Wexford County Council staff. The panel installation completed a Forward Planning project that started a number of years ago, that firstly identified the importance of the Pingos at Camaross, secured fencing around a significant Pingo and kick started the development of Natural Wexford, a project that seeks to inform the general public, the importance of natural heritage around the County.

Scoping has been completed to determine the next best locations for Natural Wexford signs. Work has commenced on a Natural Wexford sign Forth Mountain/Shelmaliere Quarry, Bunclody and Enniscorthy and for Ballymoney Strand and Cahore. The sign at Lady's Island is in production and will be installed in due course. The signs will inform visitors to the area of the importance of the natural heritage in these areas.





### ***Building Control:***

#### **Commencement Notices**

A total of 94 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to and including the 2nd April, 2020 on the BCMS.

<b>Enniscorthy</b>	<b>Gorey</b>	<b>New Ross</b>	<b>Rosslare</b>	<b>Wexford</b>
13	31	18	10	22

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

Figures for Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures & Vacant Sites Notices issued in March 2020:

Notices issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	9
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	3
Notices issued under Section 7 Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015	0

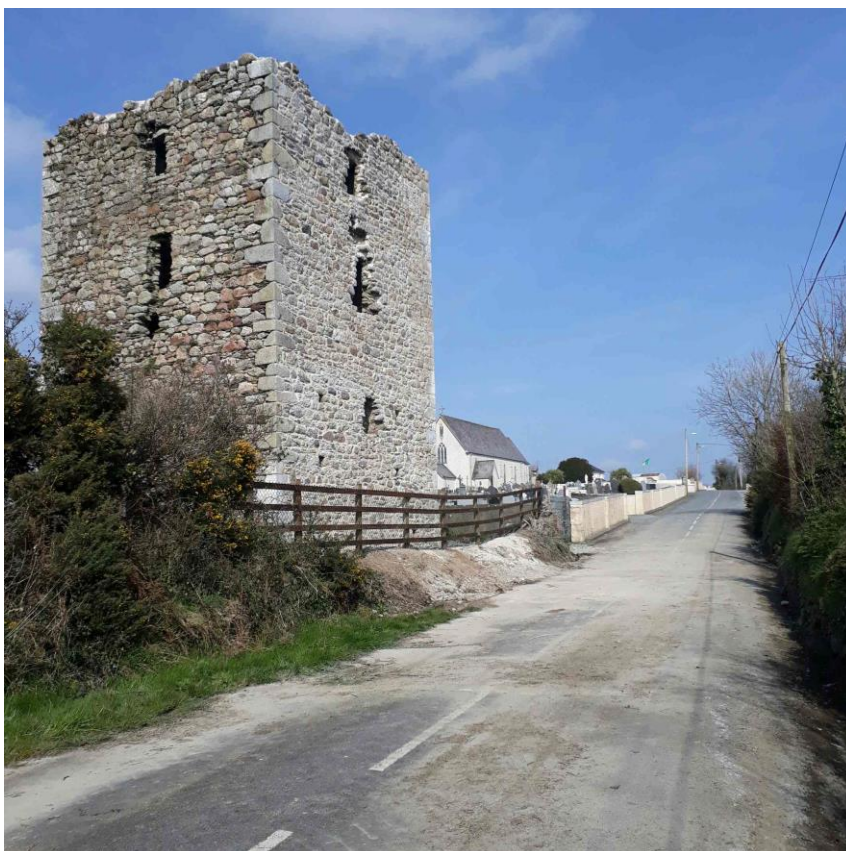
#### **Taking in Charge**

Cromwellsfort Grove, Mulgannon, Wexford and Edenwood (Phase 1), Wexford were Taken in Charge by Wexford County Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## Heritage

### Tellerought Castle

*The works to stabilise Tellerought Castle were completed this month with the road reopened shortly after. The works undertaken have been funded by the County Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The works have been managed by the Planning Department in conjunction with the New Ross District Office.*



Further repairs to the castle will be required before we can allow the public access into the site. The County Council intends to carry out further works in the future and we have sought grant aid to assist in this process.

### **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 20/03/2020 is as follows:

Enforcement cases opened	59
Enforcement cases closed	25
Active enforcement cases	259

### ***Disability Access***

Week ending 31/3/20

#### **2020 DAC Applications Validated to date:**

The Total DAC Applications received up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> of March totals 43.

Awaiting Further Information Requests	17
Under Assessment	1
Awaiting Validation	3
DAC Applications Returned as Invalid	4
LAC /PLAC & General Planning Applications	21



## 2. Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** Works nearing completion on the majority of the site, with some landscaping works requiring dry weather to allow for enable completion. The official opening ceremony was proposed for 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Skatepark works contract was issued for tender on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. Works are expected to commence on site in June 2020.

**Covid 19 Update –** In accordance with government direction the site was closed on 30/03/2020. A revised opening date will be set following the Covid 19 emergency.

**Trinity Wharf:** The application for development approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 15/02/2019. WCC has responded to a request for further information issued by An Bord Pleanála in late July 2019. A decision from ABP is expected in early April 2020.

The related application for foreshore consent was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 01/03/2019 and the public consultation process for this application is now completed.

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

**CoVid 19 Update –** Decision from An Bord Pleanála on the application for development consent has been deferred in line with recent directions from government in relation to planning matters.

**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 commenced and are expected to be completed by May 2020. A draft bridge options report has been received and is being reviewed.

WCC presented revised options for the street and public realm works to the Members of the Enniscorthy MDC in December 2019. Following consultation with the members, a revised plan for progressing the planning application is being prepared.

**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:** An appointment for design services was completed in April 2019 and investigative and building surveys and inspections are substantially completed. The

preliminary design is complete and the Part VIII approval was obtained on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Detailed designs are progressing with tenders scheduled to be invited in May 2020.

**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 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 June/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. Detailed designs and tender documents have been completed and tenders for construction works have been received and are being assessed. Works on site are planned to commence in Q1 2020.

An RRDF application for funding for the scheme was submitted in August 2019 seeking support for the scheme, but was unsuccessful.

**Covid 19 Update - It is now planned to 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 are due to be completed by June 2020.

The playground equipment tender was issued on 31<sup>st</sup> January with tenders due in by end of February. Works are 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.

**Monck Street Enhancement Scheme:** Tender documents have been advertised inviting design and services tenders for this scheme. An appointment is expected in April / May, with works expected 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 currently being prepared and is expected to be advertised in April.

**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. RPS were appointed as consultants on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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. Tender proposals are due by the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The date for receipt of tenders has been extended from the 02<sup>nd</sup> April to the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. 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 is expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in April 2020 subject to Covid19 restrictions. .

##### **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 May 2020. Site investigation, vegetation clearance works & the topographical surveys have been completed.

Tenders for the Rail and Sleeper lifting contract are due to be received on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2020. 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 Slobbs 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**

WCC has undertaken a preliminary study to examine the potential for developing a greenway from Wexford town to Rosslare. Further route options assessment, studies and consultation are required to determine the feasibility of delivering this greenway and a brief for delivery of these services is currently being prepared.

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

#### Housing Section and Covid 19

Two critical services were identified in our Business Continuity Plan. These services are:-

- 1) Essential Repairs
- 2) Homeless Services.

Plans were drawn up to allow the Housing Section to deliver both services throughout the Covid 19 Emergency. The plans contain detailed procedures that protect both staff and the public against Covid 19. The Housing Staff have been split into two teams for the following reasons:-

- 1) Allow Social Distancing
- 2) Prevent any possible spread of infection throughout the entire Housing Staff

Staff in both HAP and Rents Sections has been given Laptops to allow the relevant service to continue operating remotely. 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 not essential. However where there is a specific urgent request it will be consider in accordance with Covid 19 Guidelines. The Grants Section continues to process applications. However in the absence of inspections actual activity is greatly reduced. Housing maintenance protocol and difficulties with payments for tenants has been addressed separately to the members. Up to 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 we processed 277 change of circumstances applications for Social Housing and HAP tenants.

#### Allocations

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 and the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 we offered 18 houses and signed 20 new tenancies including new houses in Ard Mhic Reamainn, Coolcotts and Ard Uiscé, Whiterock Hill.

#### 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 housing – 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	Tender March 2020
Rosetown, Rosslare	23(phase 1)	Rosslare	Stage 3	Stage 3 to DHPLG Q2 2020
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Propose CPO of land for access
Maudlintown	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2	Women's refuge, initial



				design review and costs Stage 2 Q1 2020
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Enniscorthy	Stage 2	Stage 2 to DHPLG Q1 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.
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Demolitions complete, Stage 2 Q3 2020 plus Framework competition
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 1	Stage 2 Q2 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>257</b>			

#### Pre-development Stage

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Single stage – DHPLG approved Sept 2019. Part VIII approved, tender Q2 2020
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey (Buy & Renew)
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 Part VIII approved. Tender Q2 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		

#### Longer Term Projects

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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 ongoing re upgrade
Tagoat	9	Rosslare	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q4 2020)
Daphne View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – discussions commenced

Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Feasibility for suitability of the site
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Demolition and enabling works Q2 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>		

#### Other Projects (early feasibility)

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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.
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 2 Q2 2020
Lacken (TAP)	1	New Ross	Single stage approved, Part VIII not required, partial funding required from WCC
Belvedere	6	Wexford	To go to next Municipal District meeting
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>		

#### Part V Acquisitions

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2020
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 Q2 2020, 8 units to be delivered Q2 2021.
Hunters Hill, Gorey	3	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	To be delivered Q2 2020.
Clonard	6	Wexford	To deliver by end Q4 2020
Clonhaston /Enniscorthy	18	Enniscorthy	To deliver 2020/2021
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>		

### Turnkeys

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Municipal District Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	3	Gorey/Kilmuckridge	Remaining 3 units to deliver Q2 2020 (7 units delivered 2019)
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	To deliver Q3 2020
Michael St, New Ross	3	New Ross	Delayed on site. To deliver Q2 2020
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	19	Wexford	1 unit to deliver Q1 2020. 18 units to deliver Q4 2020
Whitewater Estuary, Ballyhack	3	New Ross	To deliver Q2 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 Q3 2020
Ballynaglogh, Blackwater	16	Enniscorthy	DHPLG approval received Mar 2020. To deliver 2021.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>		

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

## Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be delivered Q2 2020
<b>Cluid</b>			
Greenville Lane	52	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020 & 2021
<b>Tuath</b>			
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	9 units delivered. 9 to deliver Q2 2020
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	10 units to be occupied by Q3 2020 remainder to be occupied as completed
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	To deliver on phased basis in 2020.
Gleann an Ghairdin	9	Gorey	To deliver Q4 2020
Gleann an Ghairdin	24	Gorey	To deliver 2020
<b>Peter McVerry Trust</b>			
Tuskar House , John's Gate St Wexford Town	12	Wexford	CAS Funding. To deliver Q2 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>261</b>		

As of 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 all Construction sites are to cease operations due to the Corona Virus – this will have an impact on the Housing Delivery Programme. However, the issue of housing supply is being reviewed by the department in the context of the pandemic.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Covid-19 Response - Community Resilience Forum**

Following on from its previous involvement in organising Community Resilience the Community Section continues to offer administration support to the Covid-19 Wexford Community Response Forum as recently set up in response to the current situation with Covid-19, with the LCDC being represented by the participation of the Chief Officer.

### *INTERREG – Celtic Routes*

The tender for the Video Contract was awarded to Orchard Media and Film Ltd. and contracts have been signed for the work envisaged.

Two very successful Learning Journeys were hosted in the National Heritage Park and at Johnstown Castle.

The Project Officer attended an enlightening networking meeting with Visit Wicklow at Delgany Golf Club, a Fáilte Ireland course in Waterford, and met with representative of the Dunbrody Famine Ship.

### **COVID 19 RESPONSE**

As of St. Patrick's Day, all OOH advertisement i.e. Airports, Ports and Motorway billboards, have been put on hold where no financial cost will be incurred. It has been agreed by the Partners to continue all social media advertisement. All Trade Shows and meetings have been either cancelled or postponed for the time being. It has been reported by a number of our stakeholders that online activity has increased considerably over a very short space of time.

### *LEADER*

Five claims received for Article 48 pre-payment check. 3 were checked (2 still to be checked) with 1 returned for minor queries to the implementing partner, Wexford Local Development. These were dealt with promptly and are moving through the process. A total of 3 claims to the value of €26,471.86 were paid out to projects.

The LAG Managers meeting scheduled to be held at Wexford County Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, will now take place on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 as a teleconference.

A Chief Officers Forum meeting has been scheduled to be held at Wexford County Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT EXPO- RESCHEDULE**

An information event for community, sports and voluntary groups highlighting services, schemes and supports that Wexford County Council and its partners provide was scheduled to take place on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March from 4.00pm to 8.00pm in The Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy but was deferred to a later date(still to be determined) due to Covid 19.

### **PLAYGROUNDS**

Playground repairs for the period 20<sup>th</sup> of February to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March:

1. Gorey Town Park; replacement of climbing wall rope, new bearing fitted to vertical rotator and supernova re-set to correct clearance distance from surface.
2. The Promenade, Enniscorthy; wetpour repair.
3. Clonattin Village; two new cradle swings fitted.
4. New Ross Town Park Outdoor Gym; bearing replaced on ski stepper.



5. New Ross Town Park; four posts replaced on square play panel.
6. Wolfe Tone; two new cradle seats fitted.

As directed by the Chief Executive on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 due to Covid 19 all playgrounds have closed to the public.



### **April Monthly Report (20<sup>th</sup> Feb- 20<sup>th</sup> March)**

The Healthy County Committee, chaired by John Hegarty, held its first meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February. The Committee objective is to oversee and co-ordinate the Healthy Ireland and Healthy County activity in Wexford, in collaboration with the LCDC, and to extend this activity to make Wexford a Healthy County for all. Annette Dupuy commenced the role of Healthy County Coordinator on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Work is currently underway to finalise the Healthy Wexford County Plan 2020-2022. This Plan forms part of Wexford's requirements to join the National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network. Joining the network Cities and Counties must meet WHO (World Health Organisation) criteria that are based on the European health policy framework, Health 2020. These criteria set an international quality standard.

The Healthy Cities project is a global WHO movement, set up in 1986. It involves local authorities working to improve health and wellbeing through political commitment, working in partnership with local stakeholders and supporting innovative projects.

A healthy city or a healthy county works to:

- improve health and wellbeing by creating and continually improving its physical and social environments
- develop community resources that help people to support each other and achieve their potential

There are national networks in 20 countries in the WHO European Region, bringing together more than 1,400 cities and towns. The aims of the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network are to:

- promote lifelong health and wellbeing,
- provide a means where local issues can influence national policy, and
- provide a voice for Ireland in the WHO Network of European National Healthy Cities Networks.

Service Level Agreements have been signed with most Action Partners for Round Three of Healthy Ireland Funding. Due to the current climate project schedules will be impacted. However, planning work continues for programme delivery.

### **Horeswood Community Gain Fund**

Following the public advice meeting held in the Horeswood Parochial Hall on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the closing date for Expressions of Interest (EOIs), set as the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 has passed and 15 EOIs have been received. A date will be set shortly for a meeting of the Community Gain Fund Committee. All of the members (community) previously elected have agreed to take up their position.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **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
- Payment of Outdoor Staff Wages
- Waste Enforcement

All tasks are being performed while respecting social distancing and following HSE guidance.

With the introduction of more stringent social distancing measures announced on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 until 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020:

- Enforcement work - unless the offence is a serious breach of the law or persistent offence. (All pending court cases are adjourned until the end of May).
- 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.

### **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 was submitted to the DAFM on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

A Project Officer was recently appointed to Ports, Past and Present project; an EU-funded three 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.

### **Beaches -**

Curracloe Beach won Ireland's Favourite Beach under the 2020 Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards.

### **Coast -**

Coastline inspection and report is being finalised to obtain up to date information on the areas at risk of coastal erosion.

## **C. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Minor refurbishment works to Curracloe Public Convenience and major refurbishment works to Carne Public Convenience have been completed. The day to day operation of Kilmore Quay Public Convenience has been handed over to the Development Association from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

Public conveniences will remain closed for the duration of the Covid-19 emergency measures.

## **D. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Enforcement:**

The Waste Enforcement Team carries out routine and non-routine inspections of Waste Facilities and problem sites in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) as required by the EPA. The 2020 inspection plan and 2019 return were submitted to the EPA on 15 February 2020. The RMCEI Plan allocates 1,578 route inspections by 25 Full Time Equivalent staff member. The inspection types cover the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations; ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations; Household and Commercial Food Waste Regulations; Batteries, Tyres, etc.

The national waste priorities for 2020 are;

1. Illegal Dumping/ unaccounted for waste, which includes scrap cars sites, unauthorised Man in Van collectors, etc.,
2. Construction & Demolition activities, includes management of waste on construction sites.
3. Use the waste presentation bye-laws to check household are dealing with their waste, including ensure collectors are continuing to roll out of the household brown bins.
4. Tracking the flow of waste data submitted on AER returns by collectors and facilities.

### **2. Mattress / Furniture Amnesty**

This year's initiative was a huge success. All four of the civic amenity centres were utilized to service the entire County and a total of 2064 vehicles passed through availing of the

opportunity to dispose of disused furniture. A total of 2715 mattresses and 2118 1/2/3 piece suites of furniture were received at the centres.

## E. LITTER MANAGEMENT

The Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018 came into effect from the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019. From this date, anyone contravening the bye-laws will be liable to a fixed penalty of €75.

Complaints regarding litter are now being handled through the Customer Service Unit. Environment is the first section to use this central system.

Any evidence collected from littering incidents is used in bringing action under the Litter Pollution legislation. The continuing use of CCTV and the dedicated Litter Warden for North Co. Wexford has enhanced enforcement. A significant number of offences captured on CCTV have been through the Courts and more are pending. The local press regularly reports on such cases. We will continue to target illegal dumping black-spots and the county's roads throughout the year.

LITTER FINES	TOTAL FOR 2019	TOTAL TO FEB. 2020
Fines Issued	341	57
Fines Paid in Full●	143	28
Fines Cancelled/Proceedings Discontinued/Struck Out*	140	13
Successful Prosecutions**	13	12
Legal Proceedings In Progress	28	30
Amount Collected in Fines (directly/following proceedings)	€26,728	4,175

\* Other fines may be paid prior to the hearing or withdrawn for evidential or legal reasons.

● A large number of fines are paid in instalments and these are not reflected in the statistics.

Most Court cases are successful, but it can take up to a year or more for a case to be heard in the District Court. There is currently a backlog of cases before the courts at the moment due to the number of adjournments over the last few months.

There was a marathon week at court in February 2020, the Council secured 11 good convictions (10 under the Litter Pollution Act and 1 under the Waste Management Act). Fines ranged from €150 to €1,000 depending on the severity of the offence with all claims for costs being granted.

All court activity has been suspended during the Covid-19 emergency for minor offences. However we continue to work with the Council's solicitors to ensure that offences are listed within the statutory timeframes.

## F.GENERAL

**Trees for Wexford Campaign:** 154 applications were received under the 2019 'Trees for Wexford Campaign'. In total 7,857 trees were distributed (trees and saplings). On average 6 trees / hedging



or saplings was given to each approved group. Trees were collected by groups on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**National Spring Clean/ Community Clean Ups:** The National Spring Clean Campaign have been suspended due to the Covid-19 social distancing measures. A number of clean-ups took place before the measures came into effect. Details to register for the campaign are available on the Council's website. Community clean ups are supported by the Environment Section all year round with the provision of bags, gloves, litter picker tool and the collection of waste. 770 number of community clean ups were supported in 2019.





**Marram Grass Planting Community Workshop:** Clean Coasts and Wexford County Council hosted a workshop for, and with local community groups to complete some restoration work on the sand dunes at Ballinesker Beach on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. A number of volunteers were shown how to replant sand dunes and were tasked with preparing a coordinated plan for the area going forward.

**Local Waste Prevention Grant:** The 2020 scheme will be advertised in early March. 15 applications were approved under the 2019 scheme. Projects funded included prevention of single use items, upcycling, food waste prevention workshops. €8,000 was funded across all projects in 2019.

#### Environment Services CEO Report April 2020

Service		Update
Piers and Harbours		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harbours functioning normally.</li> <li>2. Public offices at Wexford, Kilmore Quay closed to public.</li> </ol>
Coastline and beaches		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Normal beach inspections have ceased.</li> <li>2. Where Gardai require assistance in terms on checking on compliance with Government for people to stay at moment Environment staff assisting.</li> <li>3. A range of beach carparks have been closed to ensure compliance with Government Regulations</li> </ol>



Waste		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All enforcement activities have ceased barring investigations of any major incident.</li> <li>2. Civic Amenity Sites are open</li> <li>3. Environmental Clean Up Crews dealing only with urgent cases of illegal dumping but will continue to monitor in single occupancy vehicles</li> </ol>
Water Air Quality Monitoring		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All enforcement activities have ceased barring a major investigations of any major incident</li> </ol>
Public Conveniences		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All PC's have closed.</li> <li>2. APC's have also been closed</li> </ol>
General		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Animal control personnel available and will respond to emergencies</li> <li>2. Administration personnel working to monitor complaints, pay invoices and wages</li> </ol>

## LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

### Libraries and Archives Covid19 response

Following an announcement of the closure of schools and cultural institutions by An Taoiseach on 12<sup>th</sup> March all public libraries and the mobile and Archive service in County Wexford are closed to the public. The Library and Archive Service continues to provide telephone and email support to customers answering queries and providing online content.

## Joining the library

We have relaxed our membership rules during this time so that people can join the library, get a virtual library card and PIN and use the e-resources without visiting their local library. You can now join the library online at [www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library](http://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library).

## Online Services

We are encouraging members of the public to avail of our free online services to:

- ☐ Access thousands of e-books and e-audiobooks from home with the **BorrowBox app**.
- ☐ Download your favourite magazines and comics with **RB Digital Comics and Magazines**.
- ☐ Keep up to date with the latest news through our **PressReader app**. This includes free access to local and national papers.
- ☐ Want to learn a language? Choose from 110+ languages with **Transparent Language Online**.
- ☐ **Freegal Music** is new free music service which allows you to access over 15 million songs.
- ☐ Take an online course with **Universal Class**. Access over 500 courses with tutors who will oversee your learning.

## Services for Children during COVID 19

### Spring into Storytime

‘Spring into Storytime’ is the libraries’ annual celebration of families reading together. This year the festival will be delivered online with children being able to enjoy their usual library storytime in their own homes. Our Irish publisher partners and the Irish Writers Union have kindly agreed to temporarily waive licence fees for the reading of selected books and the posting or streaming of videos online. Library storytimes are a fun way for children to enjoy stories, especially those who may not have access to books in the home or do not have access to new books at this time.

Wexford Library Service has also commissioned 2 fun and engaging singing workshop videos for children aged from approx. 4-12 years. There will be actions to do and lots of fun and silly and interesting bits to accompany the songs that children can learn. They will be available next week on Face Book, Twitter, Instagram and the Wexford libraries website.

### Help for Children with Dyslexia

Wexford Library Service has made all of our TTRS (Touch, Type, Read and Spell) licences available to children to access from home. Library staff have been liaising directly with families and teachers and working to make sure that children with dyslexia are given the opportunities they need to progress with this important online dyslexia support while temporarily at home.

All Parenting Today Talks to April 19<sup>th</sup> have been postponed and we are exploring the possibility of delivering some of these valuable talks online.

Engagement with children and families continues with a library bookmark competition, book recommendations online, Summer Stars programme, a writing competition and a Rainbow art invitation.

### **Local Studies and Genealogy**

Online research queries have increased since the closure of the Library and Archive service. Work continues in promoting archive materials on social media for Decade of Commemorations. Online content from local papers highlighting this day 100 years ago is being developed. Online tutorials on how to use Vital Digital Asset Portal and Oral History collection are being provided.

### **Creative Ireland**

Many Creative Ireland projects have been postponed due to the current situation. A full review of planned events is happening in order to defer or amend the format of these events. A decision is expected to issue nationally regarding the format for Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children due to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

<b>ARTS COVID Response</b>
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In response to the current COVID -19 crisis all arts office programmes as well as artists, festivals, community groups etc. in receipt of Arts Office funding for 2020 have been asked to consider the impact of COVID 19 on their planned activities and where necessary revise details on how they will successfully deliver activities in 2020 and / or postpone them.

Examples of this to date include alternative timelines of activities or postponement of events, as well as the initiation of online workshop activities, or posted workshop activities on a weekly basis to centres. In addition online rehearsals, virtual exhibitions, tutorials or remote group participation activities are being developed by artists/ groups if and when applicable. Technology enabling tools are currently being adopted by artists, facilitators and groups as well as other innovative and collaborative methods.

### **Art Ability/ Arts & health programme with HSE Centres**

This ongoing programme supporting people with mental health / intellectual and physical disabilities across nine HSE centres countywide has adapted the programme due to COVID 19 with the support of HSE staff and Occupational Therapists. Due to closure of all HSE centres to the public, 4 of the artists team (John Blusher, WRIDS, Poonah Latchford KTAC, Joe Brennan KTAC and Declan Kennedy CUMAS) have prepared art & writing packs for their workshops participants, and posted them out to all residential homes. In addition the occupational therapy staff in the HSE are distributing these art packs to people via post and delivering to their doors. Participants will be given weekly exercises and a worksheet to complete. In addition some of the artists are doing weekly follow up phone calls and online conversations with some of the participants who require it.

For those in residential homes and participants in private homes who have access to the internet - Creative writing visual art and music workshops/ tutorials have also being prepared and gone online. Participants will be given weekly exercises and a worksheet to complete via online as well.

These online workshop tutorials are being shared to all residential homes / centres in HSE at the request of OT staff

## **The Login in Sessions, Bealtaine Programme**

A New Virtual Music, Song and Story Programme to connect and combat social isolation. To help people through the current social distancing, artists Aileen Lambert and Michael Fortune have been commissioned by Wexford Arts Office to produce a five week programme of online weekly sessions during April and May as part of the 2020 Bealtaine Festival programme. Considering how we are isolated and resigned to our homes, these online sessions will help us connect while also allowing you to be an active participation with the help of your laptop, phone or tablet.

A selection of artists will be invited to participate in each curated session, encompassing Trad music, storytelling, singing, poetry. As this project has been commissioned for the Bealtaine Programme we are particularly interested in celebrating older age and creativity and ask people to encourage older people to get involved and help overcome any technical barriers if needed

**Music Generation** is a partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation promoting access to high quality performance music education for young people in County Wexford working in preschool, primary school and youth work/ community settings. 32 schools in total are participating in the Music Generation Wexford Programme in Vocal and instrumental programmes as well as in out of school, / youth music programmes. The schools programme has ceased due to COVID 19 and tutorials are now taking place online with the teams of Music Generation Wexford Tutors and participating schools where it is possible. Other programmes, e.g. Easter music camps etc. are being adapted and offered as online music camps, online tutorial programmes.

## **Creative Hub**

Thirty artists are currently in residence in the Creative Hub across 9 studio/ units combining individual groups studios and retails units as well as a dance studio. The Creative hub studios are now officially closed in keeping with government COVID guidelines and artists are not being charged rent for month of April, this is subject ongoing review. Carlow IT 3<sup>rd</sup> year student exhibition due to open in March 2020 was cancelled and they have shared the exhibition and new work online.

**Living Arts In schools programme** Living Arts exhibition of works by schoolchildren from the 4 schools in Wexford Art Centre, due to open 28 March in Wexford Art Centre was cancelled and is going virtual, all work being scanned and made into a video, which will circulate in early April to all school and the public via Wexford Art Centre. The open call for the living Arts Schools programme, Sept 2020 – May 2021 is being prepared and will be advertised in April 2020 in partnership with Wexford Art Centre.

**Youth Film** Weekly film workshops in St Michaels Theatre in New Ross have ceased and All weekly Saturday classes have gone online, 15 teenagers are given weekly online classes by film maker Therese Dalton and assigned exercises, they work on via their smart phones and video editing programmes.

## **County Wexford Youth Theatre**

New tender for the delivery of County Wexford Youth Theatre was advertised in February 2020 and closing date for applications in 6 April 2020. Currently County Wexford Youth Theatre have ceased to meet twice weekly in their new space on Trinity street. They were

due to finish at the end of May 2020 for the summer. Until then weekly online tutorials are taking place and students are given weekly drama exercises which they are documenting via short films that are circulated via the group and tutors, Tony McCleane Fay and Monika McFarlane .

## **LIBRARY ACTIVITIES DURING MARCH 2020**

### **Microbits, Digital literacy afterschool programming for children in Wexford libraries**

Four libraries in Wexford now have 7 trained staff who can introduce children living in their local area to the basics of programming using BBC Microbits. In the two sessions run in March the children learned how to program and how to use the accelerometer to allow the microbit to sense movement. These STEM coding programmes will be completed when libraries reopen, and will run again in the summer and for Science Week.

### **Decade of Commemoration**

**War of Independence radio programmes,** During the month of March four radio programmes were recorded and broadcast on South East Radio on the War of Independence in County Wexford. These were produced and presented by Jarlath Glynn, Executive Librarian Enniscorthy Library. The topics covered were:

- A general overview of the War of Independence.
- An interview with the granddaughter of one of the leaders of the IRA.
- An interview about the De Lacy family from Oulart on the revolutionary period.
- An interview with the great grandnephew of Martin Doyle V.C.
- An interview with the grandson of an RIC sergeant
- The final programme looked at the sources available for researching the War of Independence

### **Launch of Southend Oral History CDs**

A new series of 18 recordings from the Southend area in Wexford give an insight into the life of Wexford in the past, World War II, eel fishing and the joys of childhood are just some of the topics that were recorded. 32 people attended the launch.

### **Seachtain Na Gaeilge**

- **Thug an file Máire Ní Bhriain ó Loch Garman léamh filíochta chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh.**
- **Ceol Mo Chroí Macaronic & Sean Nós workshop.** Traditional singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin facilitated a fun workshop of Macaronic and Sean Nós song for children to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge on 7 March.
- **On the Trail of Norse and Anglo-Norman in the Townland Names of Wexford: A Tale of Gaelicisation and English Isolation'** with Dr Conchubhar Ó Cruaíoch place name officer Dr Conchubhar Ó Cruaíoch from the Department of Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht. This lecture focused on the place names of Wexford, the gaelicisation of Norse settlers and the gaelicisation of many Anglo-Norman place-names. It explored the isolation of southeast Wexford from the rest of the English-speaking world led to the fossilisation of their English which is generally described as Yola. 43 attendees



## **International Women's Day**

To mark International Women's Day, Wexford Library hosted a selection of readings from the women in Wexford's Red Books Write Club. The women read from pieces written under the theme 'an event that changed my life as a woman'. 45 attendees

### **ARCHIVES**

#### **Acquisition**

An important personal collection documenting the life of local historian Joe Doran was deposited in the Archive. Originally from Gorey, Joe was part of the wave of emigration to the UK in the 1950s and his experiences during the TB epidemic and of Ireland's economic development in the 1960s are highlighted. The collection includes photograph albums from 1947 depicting his time in the Irish Army and the RAF; diaries of his daily life in the 1970s and 1980s; his research notes and drawings for a publication on the history of St. Mary's Abbey, New Ross; and his research notes and photographs for an unfinished book recording the water mills around New Ross. Photographs provide an insight into industrial life in New Ross including images of the Albatros factory in the town.

### **ARTS DEPARTMENT REPORT MARCH 2020**

#### **Small Arts Festival and Experimental Events Grant Scheme 2020**

11 small arts festivals awarded funding for 2020 have been paid and are currently in planning. The majority of festivals are due to take place in late summer, Autumn, 2020 and hope to take place as planned, subject to ongoing review with Arts Office and national guidelines around COVID 19. The Springmoves Dance festival scheduled for April 2020 has been rescheduled to Dec 2020 in Wexford Opera House and The May Bush festival will go online with a series of concerts.

With a total award fund of €23,000 each festival received between €1,000 - €3,000.

Successful applications were Wexford Documentary Film Festival (Kilmore Quay), Write by the Sea (Kilmore Quay), New Ross Piano Festival, Eugene O'Neill Festival New Ross, The Gap Arts Festival (Ballythomas), Open Gorey, North Wexford Trad Festival (Gorey), Spring Moves Dance Festival (Wexford town), Wexford Literary Festival Enniscorthy, The Streams of Bunclody Festival, The May Bush Festival.

#### **Artlinks**

Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region and is a partnership between Wexford, Carlow, and Kilkenny and Waterford Art offices. Closing date for applications was 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020 and a panel assessment took place 26 February 2020. Total fund of €23,000 for Artlinks in Wexford and 15 artists were awarded grants ranging between €800 - €3,000 max across art forms of visual arts, music, literature and drama. In addition a new €10,000 Artlinks Collaborative award was advertised and deadline was 30 March, 2020. To be eligible to apply a minimum of 2 artists from Artlinks partner counties must apply and collaborate on the creation of new art work which they will showcase in both counties in 2020-21. Total of 10 artist's teams applied

across the 4 counties and assessment will take place in April 2020 and award winners will be announced May 2020.

### **PLASTICS exhibition, County hall**

Wexford County Council in partnership with Science Gallery Dublin presented PLASTIC, a touring exhibition that interrogates our current and future relationship with plastic. It was opened in County Hall on Friday 28 February by Patrick Prendergast, Provost of Trinity College Dublin. The exhibition which was scheduled to run until 17 April features the work of over 30 national and international artists, designers and scientists, as well as a newly commissioned work by Wexford artist Ed Devane. In the opening 2 weeks there was high interest in this exhibition from schools in Wexford county with 12 schools booked in for tours over March and April with a team of trained artists/ invigilators via the 'Living Arts' and 'Creative Schools' programme in Wexford and in partnership with The Environment Dept in WCC. 3 schools visited in March along with two Youthreach groups. The exhibition while still in situ is now closed to the public. Talks are ongoing with the Science Gallery in Dublin.

### **Public Art, Wexford – Wales's Ancient Connections Artist Residency**

Wexford County Council Ireland Per Cent for Art has committed €24,000 in match funding for an artists' residency programme across Wexford and Wales, as part of the Ancient Connections programme led by Pembrokeshire County Council in Wales.

Open call went out in February and closing date for applications was early March 2020. 4 artists were shortlisted by Wexford Public Art working group for the Wexford Residency and four for Wales Residency. The timelines for this residency have been revised and extended due to the COVID 19 crisis. Closing date for submission of residency proposals by the artists is extended to the end of May 2020. One artist from Wexford and Wales will be selected in June 2020. Residencies aim to commence July/ August 2020 ( subject to COVID guidelines) and run over 18-20 to Feb 2022. During the 18 month residency period (2020–2022) both artists will connect across Wexford (Ferns region) and Wales around the residency theme of 'Exploring a Shared Past' and work with local communities in both countries. Final outcomes will be new artworks presented publicly in Wexford and Wales in 2022.

## **SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

With the present Covid 19 crisis, we suspended all programmes and activities on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The staff have been given specific planning tasks related to programmes and evaluation related to our work.

We are continuing to support the Communities during this time with information and ideas to continue as far as possible to be active to enhance the wellbeing of our communities through our social media platforms

Men on the Move (1.1)

Men on the Move was due to start for 8 weeks on the 31st of March. There will be two tutors delivering physical activity to 16 men twice a week.

This programme will be postponed and rescheduled due to COVID-19.

Swim for a mile.(1.1)

The training programme has continued in the Apex with 12 participants attending on a regular basis. The national event is due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, but is likely to be postponed with the support of the Apex to reschedule.

Bunclody Adventure Initiative (1.1)

Plans for the programme of development for the hub are as follows:

<b>Saturday Club</b>	
Skill Themed Sessions each week centring around each paddle sport – SUPs SOTs Kayak Canoes Water Safety (RSR – River Safety Rescue) First Aid.	
3 Age Group Sessions	10-13 yrs.
14-17 yrs.	Adults
<b>Camps</b>	Camp 1 – Introduction to the Hub and to paddling
Camp 2 – Experienced paddlers progressing to achieve SOT Flat water Skills	Summer Camps - 4 camps – 4 days each
<p>Aim – to have all paddlers certified up to SOT Flat water skills</p> <p>Aim – to have as many as possible people paddling certified up to SOT River skills</p> <p>How – to run an extra session on a Saturday afternoon which is primarily focused on paddling skills with the aim of achieving certified canoeing qualifications.</p>	
<b>Progression</b>	
<p>Aim – to have 12 paddlers certified up to L2 Kayak skills (closed Cockpit)</p> <p>How - 6-week Saturday afternoon course to upskill from SOTs to Closed Cockpit Kayaks</p> <p>6-week weekday evening course to upskill from SOTs to Closed Cockpit Kayaks</p>	
<b>Women in Paddling</b>	
<p>In association with Canoeing Ireland – Bridge the Gap project – to encourage more females to start paddling and to keep paddling</p> <p>A 6-week evening course to build; skill, fitness, and mental wellbeing, culminate with a Canoeing Ireland event on the 15th August. The aim is to have 101 female paddlers on the water throughout the day able to paddle a distance from 1km – 10km.</p> <p>In association with Canoeing Ireland – Bridge the Gap project – to mentor 2 female paddlers</p>	
<b>Education</b>	
<p>Bunclody Vocational is running a 6 day water sports and cycling programme through the Hub and FCJ are planning to use it for TY programmes next year.</p> <p>National Schools will begin in September</p> <p>FDYS have used the centre and are proposing linking in with a level 4 QQI Award hopefully with the Level 5 award there will be</p> <p>Level 5 Outdoor Education Instructor Course to be run from the Hub.</p> <p>There will be a number of short courses from Skills to Advanced. Some of these will run partially in Bunclody and some completely.</p>	
<b>Phase 2; Capital Works</b>	
<p>These should commence in the in the spring and are aimed at providing improved disabled access along with better water egress and access from 3 places in the site.</p> <p>Construction of changing facilities will also commence</p>	

### **Sports Active Wexford Covid -19 Response.**

- All programmes and activities cancelled on 12<sup>th</sup> March
- Supplying information to the public re exercise and physical activity via social media channels and tags to WCC links.
- Contacting Soccer clubs – Re Community Action Response

- Supported Healthy Ireland coordinator and PPN Coordinator on structuring information.
- Set out a work plan for the team and set up alternative remote working.
- Reporting To Pobal and Healthy Ireland on plans and programmes in light of the Covid-19 situation.
- Advertised to Groups and clubs the Physical activity Grant 2020.( responses to be returned via email or post)

## **FIRE SERVICE**

New Fire Station at New Ross. Wexford County Council awaits approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to proceed with the appointment of the successful building contractor following the completion of the tendering process.

Ray Murphy was appointed Acting Chief Fire Officer beginning 9<sup>th</sup> march 2020. Jim Foley was appointed Station Officer for Enniscorthy fire station.

## **COVID-19**

The Major Emergency development Committee (MEDC) convened on 27<sup>th</sup> February to develop the foundation for each sections COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan - 20 section plans were developed in total by early March. These plans continue to be updated by each section.

The Fire Service continues to train and develop emergency response procedures to militate against the hazards associated with responding to incidents that may be Covid related. Further training is being delivered to the Housing and Water sections to ensure consistent safe work practices are developed and implemented throughout the organisation.

## **Fire Operations**

There were 73 incidents in February as detailed below.

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Calls February 2020</b>	<b>Calls to date 2020</b>	<b>Calls to this period 2019</b>
<b>Chimney fire (WCC / Private)</b>	<b>12 / 10 (22)</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Domestic fire (WCC / Private)</b>	<b>0 / 6 (6)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Road Traffic Accident</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Industrial fire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Commercial fire</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Assembly fire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Agricultural fire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Forest/bog/grass etc.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rubbish</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Non-fire rescues</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>False alarms – good intent</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Malicious false alarms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>160</b>

### **Fire Safety**

The number of applications for fire safety certificates and Fire Services Acts inspections for the month of January were as follows:-

<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>February</b>
Fire Safety Certificates	27	12

<b>Number of Inspections</b>	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>February</b>
FSA Inspections	40	21

## 4. Transportation, Water Services:

### 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**

- All construction work on Irish Water sites has ceased from 30 March 2020 in line with government restrictions.
- Water Services is an essential service and will continue to provide the services outlined below;
  - 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)

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

<b>Enniscorthy Network Upgrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Surveying work continuing in Enniscorthy to enable hydraulic model of the sewer network be completed.</li> <li>➤ Design work for rehabilitation/upgrade works will follow in Q3 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Enniscorthy Intake Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New water intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.</li> <li>➤ Planning permission was granted in September 2019.</li> <li>➤ Tender documents are now complete and with Irish Water to issue a tender.</li> <li>➤ New infrastructure expected to be operational in 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Wexford Drainage Area Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.</li> <li>➤ A full detailed hydraulic model identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network.</li> <li>➤ Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer appointed by IW.</li> <li>➤ Drainage infrastructure survey works commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge.</li> <li>➤ Deferred survey works to ongoing, due for completion May 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preliminary Design for the project now complete for issue to contractor for design and build.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Gorey Regional Water Supply</b>	<p>Gorey RWSS To be upgrade and new 8 ml/day WTP and 7,500m3 reservoir provided at Ballyminaun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Planning granted to upgrade borehole sites and build new WTP at Ballyminaun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CPO completed</li> <li>○ Contract awarded to Glan Agua</li> <li>○ Works expected Oct/Nov 2019.</li> <li>○ Operational date early 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ New Treatment plant and storage site at Ballyminaun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction began October 2019.</li> <li>○ First reservoir completed, second reservoir 60%</li> <li>○ Borehole work ready to proceed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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

## 2. Minor Capital



<b>IW Minor Water Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Disinfection Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disinfection upgrade project at 95% complete county wide excluding snagging.</li> <li>○ Works completed at Creagh WTP. Works at Glynn WTP suspended due to covid 19. Snagging suspended.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Treated Water storage programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 sites in Wexford – Kilmallock bridge, Camolin and Kiltealy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Kilmallock Bridge to be submitted for planning by summer 2020</li> </ul>
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<b>IW Minor Wastewater Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Trinity Street</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Generator Upgrade works expected to take place Q4 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Fairgreen Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Works to decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP to commence in Q2 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Sinnottstown Lane Pumping Station</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade works nearing completion</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Iona Pumping Station, Rosslare</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade works scheduled for May 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Carcur Pumping Station</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upgrade completed to inlet works Q1 2020</li> <li>○ Replacement pump scheduled for May 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IW Capital Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fixed budget of 720K for 2020 for Capital maintenance upgrades county wide.</li> <li>➤ 130K committed to the end of March- within budget</li> </ul>
<b>New Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>March</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 12 applications received for Water Connections</li> <li>○ 10 applications received for Wastewater Connections</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Installation of new connections on hold with COVID-19 restrictions except for emergencies</p>
<b>Non Irish Water Small Capital Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Somer's Way Pumping Station, Ballycullane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decommission WWTP, construct PS and rising main to connect to Ballycullane WWTP.</li> <li>○ Expected completion Q3 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>O'Rahilly View WWTP(TIC), Gusserane</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow in Q3.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Ballinamorrhagh WWTP (TIC), Curracloe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site improvement works completed during Q1 2020, more to follow in Q3.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ New risk assessments were introduced in March around working during COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>➤ Water Services staff have been assigned to work from home where possible during COVID-19.</li> <li>➤ Kilmyshal Water Supply Zone is now supplied from Carrigduff WTP, Bunclody.</li> <li>➤ Adamstown Fairfields Close is now supplied from Adamstown Woodview Drive BH.</li> <li>➤ Horeswoods BH is now decommissioned, the areas is now supplied from Taylorstown WTP</li> </ul>
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### 3. Rural Water Programme



<b>Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mullawn GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Turbidity Meter to be installed by end of April.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Killaneran GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting quotations the engagement of a Hydrogeologist.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Blackstairs GWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting revised Fee Proposal from TJ O’ Connor &amp; Associates, Client Representative, for the By-pass infrastructure required for the treated water tank at the treatment plant in Corrageen, Rathnure.</li> <li>○ Investigative works carried out for relocation and replacement of Caim reservoir.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bing GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agreement to be reached in regard to Road Re-instatement before Site Investigation quotations can be sought.</li> <li>○ Part XI application on hold until Ecological Report complete</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Measure 6 – Community Connection Networks (Water)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Battlestown CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussions ongoing with residents</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Ballinahask, Kilmuckridge CWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussions ongoing with residents</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Crosstown GSS Scheme/Orchard Lane GSS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting confirmation from Irish Water on takeover of both schemes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 4. Water Conservation



<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Countywide consumption for March was on average 43.08MLD, an increase of 2.79MLD from February. Annual average target for the year is 41.84MLD.</li> <li>➤ 1.26MLD can be assigned to commercial consumers. The remaining usage is due to leakage and increase in consumption.</li> </ul>
<b>Leak Detection &amp; Repair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 44nr leaks were detected and repaired in March 2020, including New Ross, Enniscorthy, Wexford, Hook, Kilmore and Ballyhogue, achieving network savings of over 0.30MLD (300m<sup>3</sup>/day).</li> <li>➤ Since March 30<sup>th</sup> Leak detection operations are remote working and responding only to emergency callouts.</li> <li>➤ Planned Leak detection is focused on Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, Blackwater, Killag, Wellongtonbridge and Fethard, which may cause some supply interruptions when standard operations resume.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Network Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Enniscorthy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coffey Northumberland have completed public side works in Bellfield. 70nr private side connection works still outstanding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Find &amp; Fix</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Areas have been selected for intensive leak detection works under the find and fix scheme. Find Crews are focusing on Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy and the South Regional Supply scheme.</li> </ul>

# **Roads and 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, remaining minor works on site have been suspended and the project site offices are closed. The PPP Company will continue 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 will be closed out once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. These works include the completion of minor works on side roads, landscaping and accommodation works. Upon completion of outstanding works, all side roads will be handed back to the Councils for operation and maintenance. Wexford County Council's Project Liaison Officer remains available for consultation until the completion of the outstanding works.

Works for the installation of the project art piece have also been suspended in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions. The scheduled unveiling will not now take place until after the restrictions are lifted. The Project Liaison Officer is consulting with the Councils' project team for the South East Greenway on the interfaces between the two projects, particularly on the new rail overbridge where the greenway will cross over the bypass, and also on proposals for local links and parking.

### **N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour – Progress Update April 2020**

The first phase of the project has been completed and has confirmed the project's strategic fit with current policies and programmes and has also identified the need for the scheme and its objectives. A study area for the project has also been identified, and a broad range of constraints and features have been identified which could influence the identification and assessment of viable scheme options.

The project is now in a position to engage with the public on the finding of the constraints study. However in accordance with the current Covid-19 restrictions and advice, all direct project consultations and meetings have been postponed until further notice. Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted public consultation events will be arranged to present the findings of the constraints study and scheme options, and to seek the public's feedback. Prior notice of these 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 will continue to address any project queries by phone or email via the contact details provided on the project website.

The project team will continue to perform their duties in line with Covid-19 restrictions and government advice, but the scheme will not progress beyond any phases that require public consultation (as outlined in national guidelines for infrastructure schemes) until the project is in a position to engage directly with the public.

## **N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare and Rosslare Europort Access Road**

The project aims to improve transport connectivity to Rosslare Europort and secure sustainable access to the Port while also improving accessibility, safety and the local environment in Rosslare Harbour. The project is consulting closely with Rosslare Europort to ensure that any developing proposals are consistent with future plans for the Port and associated customs facilities. The project is also being developed in close co-ordination with the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour project.

The first phase of the project has been completed and has confirmed the project's strategic fit with current policies and programmes and has also identified the need for the scheme and its objectives. A study area for the project has also been identified, and a broad range of constraints and features have been identified which could influence the identification and assessment of viable scheme options.

The project is now in a position to engage with the public on the finding of the constraints study. However in accordance with the current Covid-19 restrictions and advice, all direct project consultations and meetings have been postponed until further notice. Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted a public consultation event will be arranged to present the findings of the constraints study and the scheme options, and to seek the public's feedback. A dedicated project website (<http://rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie/>) has been launched to keep the public informed and up to date with progress on the project. Prior notice of consultation events will be advertised on the project website and on local media. Relevant information will also be uploaded to the project website in advance. In the meantime the project team will continue to address any project queries by phone or email via the contact details provided on the 'Contact Us' page of the project website.

The project team will continue to perform their duties in line with Covid-19 restrictions and government advice, but the scheme will not progress beyond any phases that require public consultation (as outlined in national guidelines for infrastructure schemes) until the project is in a position to engage directly with the public.

## **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 commenced on 30 September 2019. Works recommenced on 20 January 2020 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.

## **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 it is hoped to tender this scheme no later than 10 April. 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 late April or early 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 will most likely be replaced by a pavement scheme on the N25 from Holmestown to Tomcool. A request has been sent to TII to allow this change be made to this year's programme.

Survey works have commenced and will be completed in February.

It is expected to tender this scheme in June.

### **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.

### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2019/2020 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday, 14 October 2019. There have 48 no. call outs up to Sunday, 30 March 2020.

### **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. It is hoped to carry out design works in April. The programme for delivery and installation is unclear and is dependent on when the current working restrictions are lifted under the Covid-19 emergency.

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 has not indicated how many schemes it intends to fund in 2020 but we had expected to have the 8 locations funded over the next 2 to 3 years.

The may be affected by the Covid-19 emergency,

## 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.

Roads completed (**macadam surfacing**) in the last month were: Church Road Bunclody (Enniscorthy District); Ballyduff Village; Ballyeden to Ballyoughter; Island Bridge to Banntown; Bolaney to Middletown; Monamolin to Ballinstraw; Glenbrien Village (all in Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Corish Cross to Bargy (Rosslare District); Kevin Barry Street; Faythe Lane; John Street Lower; Trinity Street; Curracloe Beach; Ballyregan/Poulsac; Newtown/Deeps (all in Wexford Borough District).

Roads completed (**clause 804**) in the last month were: Ballyorrl to Moyne; Coolteige (both in Enniscorthy District).

All works ceased from 27 March, in line with the new Covid-19 restrictions.

### Community Involvement Schemes

Roads completed in the last month were: Boolabaun Lane (Enniscorthy District) and Rathrolan to Coldblow (Rosslare District).

### Local Improvement Schemes

Roads completed in the last month were: Ballina lane; (Gorey-Kilmuckridge District); Assaly Lane; Lughunnen (both in Rosslare District).

### General Maintenance

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

## **5. Finance:**

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 has been deferred until further notice due to the emerging COVID-19 situation. This in turn impacts on the arrangements for the committee to meet the LG auditor to discuss the 2018 Accounts and associated Audit Report.

### **Annual Financial Statement 2019**

The Annual Financial Statement for 2019 has been completed and will be brought to members at the next available meeting. In the meantime the 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.

### **COVID -19**

The impact of COVID 19 on the finances of Wexford County Council will be significant across all income sources and will be disruptive to the delivery of the budgeted expenditure for 2020 both in terms of Operational and Capital expenditure. At this point the extent of this impact will not be fully known until we emerge from the crisis. In the meantime we will continue to pay our local suppliers and efforts are being made to secure as much income as possible to facilitate this and to maintain what services we can.

As members have been advised specific arrangements/advice have been put in place for Housing Rent, Loan and Rates customers and all debt collection and enforcement actions have been suspended until further notice. Following a government decision on 20<sup>th</sup> March to defer all rates payments for 3 months a dedicated section was added of our website to allow ratepayers that are directly affected by the COVID 19 situation to register their position. We will continue to promote this and Credit Control are actively contacting ratepayers to advise them of this option. We will continue to actively pursue rates income from businesses that continue to trade and are unaffected to ensure some level of cash flow is maintained.

The focus at the moment is on cash flow and financial management through the crisis while also trying to assist our customers in as far as we can. The ever changing situation is making this difficult to predict and manage but we will continue to monitor the situation carefully and plan towards our financial recovery once we have some indication that there is a stabilisation in the situation.

### **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 meeting of the council to complete this process.

**Tom Enright,  
Chief Executive.**