



Chief Executive's Report

April 2018

1.Economic Development & Planning:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Chinese Ambassador to Ireland visits Co Wexford: On Friday 9th March 2018, Wexford County Council welcomed the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Yue Xiaoyong, on his first official visit to the County.

Accompanied by Mr. Pan Xiongwen Head of Political & Press Office and Mr. Jiang Yingbo, Attache to the Embassy, the Ambassador embarked on a full days itinerary that was kicked off by a private meet and greet with Chairman of Gorey District Joe Sullivan, hosted by Niamh Carolan at Wells House & Gardens. The Ambassador then visited with Kent Stainless, taking a tour of the factory floor, hosted by Mr Pat Kent, Anne O'Brien and Shane Curtin.

The Ambassador hosted lunch for a small group of business and political guests, including Chairman John Hegarty, Minister D'Arcy and president of Wexford Chamber Niall Reck at Ferrycarrig Hotel. Chairman John Hegarty welcomed the Ambassador to County Hall in the afternoon, where an official address was given by the Chairman and CE Tom Enright and a key note address from the Ambassador.

Invited guests ranged from across the political, business and Chinese communities of Wexford. The Ambassador concluded his day to Wexford with a site visit to Danone Nutrition Ireland. Hosted by Site Manager, Mr Liam Carmody, the Ambassador got a tour of the newest packaging line on the site and heard about the future opportunities the company sees in China.



‘The Lodgers’ Premier: The gothic horror film ‘The Lodgers’, shot in Loftus Hall in 2016, was premiered in Co Wexford over the last few weeks. Two special preview events, one in St Michaels Theatre, New Ross and one in the ARC Cinema Wexford were held to celebrate the launch of the film. Shot exclusively in a range of locations across the county, the film has won strong reviews at festivals across the world.

Wexford people of all ages were involved, from the school children of Clongeen as extras to local character Martin Waters, who died a short few weeks before, and who the film was dedicated in memory of.

Directed by Brian O'Malley, and produced by tailored Films, the locations were Loftus Hall, Johnstown Castle, Tintern and Clongeen Village. Pictured at the event in Wexford was Chairman Wexford County Council John Hegarty, author David Turpin, director Brian O'Malley, Aiden Quigley, owner Loftus Hall, economic Development Officer Carolyn Godkin and producer Julianne Forde.



Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce: Launch of Implementation Review 2017: Minister Denis Naughten and Minister of State Seán Kyne recently launched the *Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce Implementation Review 2017*. The Taskforce was established in July 2016 to identify immediate solutions to broadband and mobile phone coverage deficits and investigate how better services could be provided to consumers.

The Taskforce Implementation Group, meets quarterly to monitor progress on the implementation of 40 actions. This group was also tasked with comprehensively reviewing progress made after twelve months and identifying appropriate new actions. The *Implementation Review 2017* delivers on that task, outlining progress made on all measures during 2017, and setting out the 2018 Work Programme. Of the 40 actions for delivery in 2017, the following overall progress was made:

- No. of actions completed or substantially completed 29
- No. of ongoing actions carried into 2018 work programme for completion 11

In addition to the actions carried over from 2017, a number of new actions have been included in the work programme of the Implementation Group for 2018. The inclusion of these actions is a result of discussions held at bilateral meetings with action holders, in addition to feedback received from key stakeholders at the National Forum held in October 2017. There are a total of 34 actions, outlined in this report, for delivery in 2018. The report can be found at: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/communications/publications/Documents/80/Taskforce-Implementation-Review-2017.pdf>

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) TEAM

143 JOBS CREATED IN BUSINESSES SUPPORTED BY LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE WEXFORD IN 2017: 143 net new jobs were created by local companies in 2017, all backed by Local Enterprise Office Wexford. In addition, 1,112 local people took part in LEO Wexford-run training programmes last year and 216 mentor sessions for local entrepreneurs and businesses were facilitated and subsidised by LEO Wexford.

A further 20 business projects received direct financial assistance from LEO Wexford, such as business priming and expansion grants to help start and expand their operations.

Nationally, the results from the Annual Employment Survey, compiled by Enterprise Ireland, show that there are now 37,485 people employed by 7,182 small businesses and start-ups that have received support from the Local Enterprise Offices.

30,373 people participated in 1,891 different training programmes with the LEOs, including 'Start Your Own Business' and 'Management Development' courses.

8,393 mentoring assignments took place between small business owners and a panel of 713 business mentors in 2017. A total of 1,179 business projects were approved for direct financial assistance.

For more information on LEO Wexford's range of supports for local businesses, please visit www.localenterprise.ie/Wexford.

The jobs figures quoted come from the 2017 LEO Annual Employment Survey, which monitors employment performance amongst micro enterprises that have received direct financial assistance through the LEOs.

All other figures quoted were compiled by the Centre of Excellence in Enterprise Ireland, sourced from the 31 Local Enterprise Offices

COATEK WINS COUNTY ENTERPRISE AWARD FOR 2018: A manufacturing business from Gorey has won the County Enterprise Award for 2018.

The top prize of €2,500 went to Hugh Kenny, Owner of Coatek Ltd in Gorey, who will now represent Local Enterprise Office Wexford at the National Enterprise Awards, which celebrates its 20th anniversary on May 24th.

Coatek is a family run business which specialises in the supply and installation of Solar/Anti-Glare window film, Privacy, Energy Saving, Safety & UV Window Films and Privacy/Decorative films for both commercial and residential settings nationwide. They currently employ 10 full-time staff.

Judging is taking place in April and Coatek will be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area for a share of the €40,000 prize fund. The Mansion House in Dublin is the venue for awards ceremony in May and categories this year include 'Best Export Business,' 'Best Start Up Business' and 'Innovation,' in addition to eight regional awards.

THREE STUDENTS FROM WEXFORD SECURE SPOT AT STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME FINALS: Three budding teenage entrepreneurs have been selected to represent Wexford at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals in Croke Park. The young entrepreneurs will represent Local Enterprise Office Wexford at the Student Enterprise Programme showpiece on the 2nd May.

The students were all competing at the County Wexford Final on 23rd March 2018 which was held at the National Opera House, Wexford. An estimated 1,300 students from 20 participating schools took part in the annual programme locally. In the Junior Category, the students representing County Wexford at the National Finals are: Jack Barron from Tweet This at Colaiste Abbain, Adamstown, Co. Wexford.

In the Intermediate Category, Sean Bennett, Picture Perfect Prints from Ramsgrange Community School will be representing the county in Croke Park. In the Senior Category of the competition Wexford will be represented on 2nd May by Ben Handrick from Little Elephant at Creagh College, Gorey.

The following companies sponsored the Awards; PwC, BNY Mellon and the EPA. The overall programme was delivered in association with Wexford Enterprise Centre. Further information around the Student Enterprise Programme is available from www.studententerprise.ie and by searching #studententerprise on social media.

BUCANIER (Building Clusters and Networks in Innovation Enterprise and Research): March has seen the official launch of the BUCANIER project in Ireland held at the Wexford County Council Offices on Friday the 23rd. The project was launched jointly with the Higher Diploma in Business in Aquabusiness a new qualification ran from IT Carlow Wexford Campus. The launch was attended by 100+ people from across the business world, it was officially launched by Councillor John Hegarty - Chairman of WCC, Dr Patricia Mulcahy - President of IT Carlow and Jim O'Toole - Chief Executive Officer of BIM. Guest speakers for the event were Entrepreneur and broadcaster Bobby Kerr and International seafood industry expert Sigurdur Gretar Bogason.

Key project milestones for March 2018:

- Mentors met with project partners on 23rd March
- BUCANIER workbook/toolkit in print
- Launch event successfully held in WCC on 23rd March
- Full Project Partner meeting held on the 22nd of March in WCC offices
- Meetings with catchment area councils/LEO's – Cork, Waterford, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary in March
- Meetings with Kerry and Kildare LEO scheduled for April
- Claim 2 sent to Lead project Partner – Pembrokeshire for processing

Wexford County Council (Project Administrator) has direct responsibility within the project for the BUCANIER Website, social media (Facebook & Twitter), promotional material design and the recruitment of 20+ SME's to the project.

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

<i>No. of valid applications received up to 23/03/2018</i>	<i>301</i>
<i>No. of pre planning requests up to 23/03/2018</i>	<i>190</i>

Forward Planning:

Review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 and the preparation of new County Development Plan: Having completed the consultation process, the Forward Planning team are now working on the preparation of the pre-draft Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025.

As part of the retail strategy, Future Analytics have carried out Phone Surveys, Shopper Surveys, Pedestrian Counts, Health Checks and Stakeholder meetings in the four main towns.

Ferns Village Renewal Design Statement: The process has been completed and presented to the Gorey Municipal District Committee. The final document will be finalised shortly.

Review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended): Work has commenced on the review of the Wexford Town and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 and the preparation of a new plan for the area.

Conservation and Built Heritage: Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018: A total of 18 applications were received. 8 applications have been short-listed and forwarded to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for consideration. Confirmation of these allocations are expected in the near future.

Structures At Risk Fund 2018: Four applications for the Structures at Risk Grant Scheme were short-listed and have been forwarded to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for consideration.

Building Control:

Commencement Notices: A total of 84 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 23rd March, 2018 on the BCMS.

Wexford	32	Gorey	21
Enniscorthy	19	New Ross	12

Taking in Charge: We have a number of estates that currently at different stages of the Taking in Charge process. Documents were prepared for four estates and sent to Irish Water.

These estates are:-

Maderia Oaks, The Moyne	Old Forest, Bunclody
Woodlands, Ballymurn	Seabury, Rosslare

Six estates are at the public consultation stage. The latest date for the receipt of written objections/representations is on Monday, 16th April, 2018.

These estates are:-

Woodside, Courtown	Whitecross, Hilltown
Hollyfield, Lake, Bridgetown	Cul Caislean, Taghmon
The Paddocks, Rosbercon	The Laurels & Laurel Court, Clonard

Churchwood Estate, Kilrane will be referred to the Wexford Municipal District meeting for the formal Taking in Charge in April.

Works Commenced:

Anvil Court, Ballymurn: A Contractor has been appointed to carry out works in this development to bring the estate up to Taking in Charge standard.

Works Completed:

Old Forest, Bunclody

Road surfacing has been completed. The estate is now ready to proceed to be Taken in Charge.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	4
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	2
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	0

Planning Enforcement:

The number of planning enforcement cases as at 23/03/2017 is as follows;

➤ Cases Opened	3
➤ Live Cases	383
➤ Cases Closed	5

Planning enforcement cases listed in the District and Circuit Courts in the month of March 2018 –

District Court Cases

Gorey: 2 cases listed for mention on 8th March, 2018 were adjourned to facilitate payment of outstanding Planning contributions (0159/2010), and submission of a new planning application (0070/2013)

Wexford: 2 cases listed for mention on 26th March, 2018

Circuit Court Cases: 1 Planning injunction case (0135/2014) listed for mention on 14th March, 2018, was adjourned pending the hearing of a Judicial review in the High Court of An Bord Pleanála decision's to refuse permission relating to a quarry at Balcarrighill, Ballycanew.

1 appeal case (0392/2009) listed for hearing on 9th March, 2018, relating to a converted bus at Kilbraney, Gusserane, was adjourned due to the unavailability of the solicitor for the defendant.

2. Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: The Park obtained Part VIII Planning in April, 2016 based on a preliminary design by Wexford County Council. Detailed design and contract documents have been completed and the tender for construction was advertised on Dec 19th 2017. The tenders are currently being assessed and an appointment of a contractor is planned for the end of March, 2018.

Wexford Quays: Architect firm Scott Tallon Walker (STW) has completed the implementation plan - Stage 2B report on the Economic Development and Spatial Implementation Plan for the Wexford Quay front. The report has been reviewed by Wexford Co. Council and issued to STW. A final report is to be completed by mid April 2018.

Trinity Wharf: The Trinity Wharf site was acquired by Wexford Co. Council to attract investment and stimulate economic development in Wexford. Architects, Scott Tallon Walker will prepare a master plan for the development of the lands. The master plan will be available in Qtr. 2, 2018 and will facilitate an application for the planning and development of the lands.

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

These works will enhance and upgrade the public realm around the Crescent / Waterfront areas and improve the pedestrian links from Main Street to the Quays and the water front. An application for Part VIII approval has commenced and will issue for public comment in May 2018.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: The strategy plan was presented to the members of the Enniscorthy District Committee at its January meeting and adopted.

The strategy was launched in Templeshannon on 19/02/2018 and is available in the Enniscorthy District Offices and on the WCC website. Design and the preparation of planning documents has commenced.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Reddy Architecture & Urbanism have been appointed to develop the master plan, prepare planning, detailed design and tender documents for the Enniscorthy Business Park at Killagoley. An application for Part VIII approval was advertised on 13/02/2018. The period for public comments will close on 10/04/2018.

New Ross Business Park: Pre-qualification of applicants is complete and qualified applicants will be invited to tender in April 2018 for the finance and build of an advanced technology unit in Butlersland, New Ross.

Gorey Market House: A Part VIII planning application for re-development of the Market House into a multi-purpose performance / exhibition / retail space was advertised on 13/02/2018. The period for public comments will close on 10/04/2018.

The procurement documents for development proposals from parties interested in partnering with the Council on the project will issue in the coming month.

Wexford Arts Centre: Funding of €1m has been approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht for an extension and renovation of the Wexford Arts Centre. Wexford County Council have committed to providing matching funding. Funding must be expended by March 2020.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Wexford County Council has issued a brief for services for the design and tender of infrastructural work at Carrigfoyle as the initial stage of a project to develop an activity centre on the lands. Construction of the infrastructural works is planned to commence in August 2018.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: A project has commenced to create a vision and opportunity plan to develop Enniscorthy town as a tourism destination. Wexford County Council is conducting an in-depth analysis of the current tourism situation and a feasibility study to develop and implement a major plan to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. The scope of the project has been agreed and procurement documents are currently being prepared for the appointment of consultants. This appointment is expected to be concluded by May 2018 and an application for funding to Failte Ireland is planned for December 2018.

Greenways:

Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.

The contract to review route options, prepare baseline environmental studies and prepare and submit planning applications was awarded to Roughan O'Donovan on Friday 19th January 2018 and the study has now commenced. The first stage deliverables – Feasibility, Route Selection and Economic Report are due in early May 2018. A framework has also been established from the top 5 applicants for use on future greenway and tourism projects for similar services thereby reducing time and complexity of procuring future services for similar projects.

New Ross Red Bridge Greenway and Walking Trail.

The development of a greenway around New Ross, linking with Kilkenny County Council's planned greenway from Rosbercon to Waterford City, is currently at the planning stage. A separate Part VIII application will be submitted in April 2018 for the section of Red bridge route located in Kilkenny and for a link from the Rosbercon Road to the County Boundary.

Greenway Regional Strategy

Wexford County Council, in its function as the lead authority for the regional greenway office is preparing a regional strategy for the development of an integrated network of greenways across the South East. A brief for services for the design and tender of the proposed regional greenway route has being completed and will be issued for tender in April.

It is planned that this network of Greenways would be developed as a major tourism resource that links with national greenways and opens up the South East region to the activity, leisure and recreational tourism market nationally.

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

HOUSING

Slippery Green Project: On 20th March, 2018 Wexford County Council officially launched the construction of 10 number residential dwelling units over 3 blocks at Slippery Green, Wexford. The Units comprise of the following:-

- 5 no. Two Storey 2 Bed Houses (Terrace)
- 3 no. Two Storey 3 Bed Houses (Terrace)
- 2 no. Two Storey 3 Bed (Semi Detached)

The development is an infill one utilising brownfield lands and is bound to the north and south by St. Aidan's Road and Whitemill Road. The units are organised in a terrace of five units, a terrace of three units accessed from a common entrance off St. Aidan's Road. There are a further two number semi-detached units on the



Whitemill Road at a higher level, with the site rising moderately from south to north.

Turnkey Projects: The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has approved the purchase by the Council of 57 houses in two social housing turnkey projects. Wexford County Council will purchase 35 units at Ard Uisce, Whiterock, Wexford Town at a total cost of €8,030,000. The houses are part of a larger scheme which recently commenced construction and the units are expected to be completed in 2018 and 2019.

The purchase by the Council of a further 22 units at Gleann an Ghairdin, Ballytegan Road, Gorey at a cost of €5,225,000 has also been approved and these units are also expected to be delivered over the next two years.

Refugee Resettlement Programme: The expected move of four families to New Ross on 6th March was delayed due to the adverse weather conditions but did take place on 14th March 2018. The programme commenced in Gorey on 20th March 2018 with the arrival of the first six families there. The WWETB will start the Language and Orientation Programme in Gorey in week commencing 9th April 2018. It will be delivered in Gorey Further Education and Training Centre, The Avenue, Gorey. The Drop in Centres which are open from 1pm to 5pm for the families are as detailed below:-

- Gorey – Mondays, Gorey Civic Buildings, The Avenue, Gorey
- New Ross – Tuesdays, Michael Street Centre, New Ross
- Wexford – Wednesdays, FDYS, Francis Street, Wexford
- Enniscorthy – Thursdays, ETB, Weafer Street, Enniscorthy

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

Construction Complete 2017

- **Francis Street, Wexford.**
- **No 41 St Martin's Park, Ballycullane.**
- **No 5 Mountain View in Rathnure.**

Under Construction

- **2 Special Needs Houses in Oilgate** – Kitchens, external pipework and paths complete. Project on programme for completion in May 2018
- **8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy** – Under construction. Roofs complete on programme to complete in September, 2018.
- **2 houses in Cois Mara, Rosslare** – under construction. Houses wired and plastered. On programme to complete in April, 2018.
- **9 houses in Baile Eoghain, Gorey** – Foundations complete, blockwork ongoing, on programme to complete in 2018.
- **1 house at Ross Road Enniscorthy** – Contracts signed, construction to begin, awaiting ESB to re-direct overhead powerline.

Stage 4

- **10 Houses in Creagh, Gorey** – Stage 4 approved March 2018. Construction to start in April 2018.
- **10 Houses at Slippery Green, Wexford** – Stage 4 approved 13th February, 2018. Construction to commence in April 2018.

Stage 3

- **10 Houses in Danescastle** – Tenders in, stage 4 to be lodged March 2018.
- **1 TAP house in Castlemoyle** - Stage 3 lodged 12th March, 2018.
- **7 Houses in Coolcotts** –Stage 3 lodged 13th March, 2018.

Stage 2

- **1 House in Castlemoyle for Special Needs** –Stage 3 lodged 13th March, 2018.
- **1 house at Ballynaboola** - Stage 2 approved. Costs have been reduced and a new planning permission was lodged. Awaiting Planning Permission.
- **18 houses in Taghmon** – Consultants appointed. Stage 2 submitted to DHPLG on 19th February, 2018 awaiting DHPLG approval.

Stage 1

- **45 Housing Units at Whiterock Hill, Wexford** – Delay due to investigations of Attenuation system on site. Stage 2 lodged on 14th March 2018
- **3 Units at King Street, Wexford** – Project not proceeding.
- **14 Houses in Carricklawn** – Stage 1 in June 2017, on hold. Problems with title to be rectified by land owner before we finalise purchase. This will be a 2018 project to commence in 2019. Recommend to discontinue this project.
- **7 Units at Belvedere Road, Wexford** – Currently organising appointment of a design team and the first task will be to see how savings can be made. Stage 2 April 2018. Part VIII for apartments and car park March, 2018.
- **3 units in Ballyhine** – prepare Stage 2 in Q2 2018. Awaiting approval by members to proceed.
- **6 units at The Ballagh** – prepare Stage 2 in Q2 2018.
- **11 units in Ballywish** – Stage 1 approval. On hold until additional land is purchased to achieve 220m sightlines as requested by Roads, project delayed as a result.
- **34 units at Kileens, Wexford** – Stage 1 approved on 21st March, 2018.
- **43 units at Rosetown, Rosslare** – Stage 1 approved on 21st March, 2018.

The number of units with Capital Approval is 246. The following **3** projects for 41 units were submitted to DHPLG:-

- Enniscorthy 17
- Creagh 12
- Womens Refuge 12

Pre-development Stage: We are working on another **123** units preparing feasibility studies prior to the Stage 1 application. These include the following larger projects:-

• Park, Wexford	10
• Clonard, Wexford	26
• Francis Street, Wexford	1
• Daphne View, Enniscorthy	24
• Castlemoyle, New Ross (<i>Land Aggregation Scheme</i>)	40 (<i>phase 1</i>)
• Rosbercon, New Ross	22

ENVIRONMENT

Wexford to Curracloe Greenway: The Environment Department have submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the construction of a greenway from Wexford to Curracloe. The route has three distinct legs, Wexford to the Wexford Wildfowl Centre at Ardavan, the Wildfowl Centre to the Raven, the Raven to Culleton's Gap. Should planning be granted the middle leg Wildfowl Centre to the Raven will be closed during the winter and early spring to protect the wintering birds on the North Slob.

Courtown Harbour - Pier Refurbishment: The Courtown Pier Refurbishment Works was completed in December 2017

Dredging Contract: The Courtown basin dredging and repointing contract will be completed in early April 2018

Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Community Scheme: Wexford County Council are partners in a European innovation Project which will involve a collaborative project involving all stakeholders in the Duncannon area, to address water quality issues in the area and improve bathing water quality.

COMMUNITY

SICAP 2018-2022 Contract signing: On Monday 26th March 2018 the signing of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 contract between Wexford County Council, Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Wexford Local Development took place in County Hall. The contract was signed by Tom Enright, CEO Wexford County Council, Kathleen Codd-Nolan, Chairperson Wexford LCDC and by Michael Wall, Chairperson and Brian Kehoe, CEO of Wexford Local Development.



The purpose of SICAP is to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP 2018 – 2022 is the successor programme to SICAP 2015 - 2017. It is a national programme and following a public procurement process, a contract for the implementation of the new programme was awarded to Wexford Local Development.

Healthy Ireland Fund - €100,000 Grant: A further meeting of the LCDC Healthy Ireland Sub Group took place in County Hall on Tuesday the 20th March 2018 where progress on all 13 Actions was reported on. The Department of Health has agreed to an extension to grant agreement for a period of up to three months.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017: Village Health Checks have been commissioned in three villages in Co. Wexford under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme with the appointment of Consultants to undertake a Village Health Check, to establish a Village Team and to prepare a Village Area Action Plan. These villages are Foulksmills, Bridgetown and Rosslare Harbour.

Wicklow, Wexford & Waterford Blueway Co-Operation Project – Feasibility Study: The Consultant appointed to undertake this Feasibility Study has undertaken an initial “walk through” of most of the potential Blueway sites along the East Coast and has expressed his surprise at the volume and variety of opportunities presenting. He is currently evaluating Counties Wexford, Waterford and Wicklow under Coastal Tourism, Environmental Issues, Heritage and Outdoor (including non water based activities).

LEADER Funding: The first payments to promoters are being processed through our finance systems and should be paid out in the coming days. To date 2 grants have been processed to the value of €62,016.60.

Bridgtown Community Hub: Following significant renovation works, Bridgetown Community Hub is expected to commence activities early next month, providing a range of community support to local residents. This initiative is being delivered in partnership with FDYS and plans to respond to the needs of local residents using a highly effective whole of family approach model.

PPN Report: Wexford PPN held its County Membership meeting on 12th March 2018 at the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. Over 40 groups were represented at this membership meeting which included an Expo, Drop-In Information Sessions, and a keynote address from Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council in addition to the main Membership Meeting.

Wexford PPN are collaborating with Irish Environmental Network & Development Perspectives to bring a workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals to Wexford in late March. This workshop is ‘Bringing the Global Goals to Life’ and will involve sessions on 'localizing' the goals. Importantly the workshop will also cover how knowledge of these Sustainable Development Goals can be leveraged to the benefit of the community groups, whether it is through strengthening future funding applications, gaining marks in Tidy Towns, applying for sustainable community competitions or as a guide for future policy development within the area.

Age Friendly & Older People's Council: The inaugural meeting of the Older People's Council Executive Committee is scheduled to take place on 29th March 2018. This Committee represents the wider Older People's Council and this meeting will set out a plan for the year ahead in terms of the Age Friendly Action Plan and other local and national Age Friendly initiatives.

Cultural Companions: Plans are underway on a joint initiative between the Arts Department and the Age Friendly Co-Ordinator to set up a cultural network for older people in Co. Wexford. This initiative is called "Cultural Companions" and essentially brings together older people who want to go to arts and cultural events but don't have anyone to go with. It provides the opportunity for older people to meet new people, get out more and enjoy all that Irish arts and culture has to offer. It is planned to have this in place by Summer 2018.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Courses (Child Protection): Safeguarding 1: 2 Courses have been completed: 88 total attendance for 2018: participants. Safeguarding 2: 1 Course has been completed: 34 total attendance for 2018 participants

Healthy Ireland funding under the LCDC: Sports Club for Children with a Physical Disability: Action 1: Four sports chairs have been purchased and will be based in Astro Active in Enniscorthy for use by the Slaneyside Super Stars and other programmes organised for people with a physical disability. This has also been supported by the CYPSC Fund and we have purchased 3 further chairs.

Total 7 chairs

Playground Markings: Action2: Playground markings are a programme we have used to support active play in primary schools. We have purchased paint and a set of Stencils for schools at present 8 national schools have been supported. Allocation € 6,341.89

Get Ireland Swimming Programme: Action 3: Sports Active Wexford have been supporting the Get Ireland swimming programme set up by Swim Ireland, their own funding supported Deis schools who were swimming from January to March in the three centres who had agreed to be a part of the programme; Wexford Swimming Pool, The Waterfront Enniscorthy and The Apex New Ross. Staff received training for the New Schools Programme and training on Teaching People with a disability. 45 swimming teachers attended the training.

The specific funding of €6000 from the Healthy Ireland Fund from Sports Active Wexford supported

The partnership between Swim Ireland and Sports active Wexford is one of three local authority areas being targeted Dublin, Cork and Wexford.

Swim Ireland supported schools in Wexford with a total of €26,365. under their Healthy Ireland funding. The Programme has run since January:

- Dublin: 495 students participating
- Cork: 225 students participating
- Wexford: 1368 students participating from a total of 23 schools

Men's Sheds Scooch Programme: Action 4: Sports Active Wexford with the funding of from Healthy Ireland delivered a physical activity programme for targeting men in County Wexford.

On Monday March 12th a tournament was organised in Oylegate Community Centre. This was a great success with 26 Men from 8 Sheds around Wexford turning up and enjoying a morning tournament followed by Lunch. The feedback from the tournament was very positive and various Men's Sheds are already discussing and organising their own tournaments in their own areas.

EXPERIENCING SUCCESS: A Gymnastics Group Partnership Programme for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

As a partner with CAMHS, Sports Active Wexford supported the programme and Wexford Gymnastics club with Gymnastics Ireland who funded the training

Sports Hall Athletics: Over 120 students took in the Annual Sports Hall athletics event held in Astro Active Enniscorthy, the winners of the County Round Travelled to Athlone to take part in the National finals. Crossabeg NS and Adamstown were successful in representing County Wexford at the National Finals on 21st March.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Michael Ring TD, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, officially launched the new state-of-the-art **mobile library** in Duncannon, County Wexford on 8th March. The mobile library was provided following an investment of €250,000 by under the Library Capital Investment Programme 2016-2021. This new mobile library will provide an invaluable service to over 2,000 library users living in rural areas of south County Wexford. It will service 51 locations in the far corners of the county from Duncannon in the West to Rosslare in the East and up as far as Donard.

It serves community locations like nursing homes, day care centres and crèches, as well as 21 schools. This new mobile library has a full range of lending materials and has a stock of over 4,000 books. It offers residents a link to wider library services as staff can check availability of books in other libraries throughout the country, giving members access to any book from any library in the country.

Under the Creative Ireland programme 2018 Saturday June 23rd has been designated **Cruinniú na nÓg**. This countrywide festival will celebrate creativity in children and young people. Events will be organized at local level in the County to celebrate the Cruinniú.

The Centenary of the death of John Redmond occurred on 6th March. Unfortunately the Seminar and launch of the exhibition and Talking History project which had been scheduled for the previous weekend had to be postponed due to Storm Emma. The seminar and official commemoration will now take place on Sunday 15th April. The panel of speakers includes Redmond's biographer Dermot Meleady, historian and journalist Ronan McGreevy and Martin O'Donoghue, National University of Ireland.

Two important collections were deposited in the county archive during March

- a National Foresters' uniform worn by three generations of the one family from Wexford town
- the design specification drawn up by stonemason Johnny Leonard for the plinth of the Major Willie Redmond monument in Redmond Memorial Park, Wexford

James Wilson from Mintel gave a talk and presentation aimed at small businesses on 'Brexit - An Irish Perspective' on Tuesday 6 March in Gorey and Wexford libraries. With the UK set to leave the EU in March 2019 the talk considered what this means from an Irish perspective, focusing on trade on the island of Ireland and how Brexit has impacted Irish consumers' confidence. Specific areas discussed include tourism, food and drink and finance.

ARTS

County Wexford Arts Plan, 'Advancing the Arts' (2018-2022) was launched by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms Josepha Madigan, T.D. on Monday the 12th March in County Hall. This Plan is available online on WCC Arts Department website and on PDF and hardcopy on request.

Music Generation, the New Music Generation coordinator for Wexford, Katherine Atkinson started in her post on 12th March 2018 in WWETB Ardavan.

Small Arts Festival/Experimental Event Grants, The selection panel for this new arts festival fund meet in March. Over 30 applications were assessed, many of high quality. Funding is limited, 12 small arts festivals were funded in the county. The total fund is €21,000, awards of €1,000 to €3,000 were made. Festivals awarded are: GAP arts (north Wexford); Gorey Writers group; New Ross Piano Festival ; Wexford documentary Film festival (Kilmore Quay); Lon Dubh productions – Foulksmills; Wex Worlds SciFi festival (Wexford town); Write by the Sea (Kilmore Quay); Eugene O' Neill drama festival (New Ross); Streams of Bunclody festival (Bunclody); May Bush festival (4 Municipal Districts) Sun and Moon art book symposium, (Kilmore Quay).

Bullring Mall, space for Artists, Creatives and Craft, Wexford County Council has agreed a 3 years lease for 8 units in the Bullring Mall in Wexford Town. This will provide subsidised work, display and retail space for artists, craft workers and other creatives. Wexford Arts Centre is contracted to manage this space, overseen by the Arts Office. Applications to lease were opened in March.

Creative Community programme, Artists Panel, 20 artists were selected for this panel across visual arts, literature, music, dance and puppetry/circus skills. Applications from community groups within PPN network to avail of these art forms opened from 1st March 2018. Artists attended a PPN event on Monday 12th March and Liz Burns, Arts Officer presented two information clinics to community groups on the scheme.

The **Terra Nostra exhibition**, in County Hall opened on Friday 2nd March. This exhibition explores landscape and the relationship we have to the land. Curated by Karla Sanchez, it highlights work from the Wexford County Art Collection and from six renowned artists whose practice is heavily influenced by landscape, Frank Abruzzese, Karl Burke, Laura Fitzgerald, Paul Gaffney, Hanneke van Ryswyl and Gerda Teljeur. It runs to 27th April 2018. A public talks & tours programme is included.

Wexford EVAA award Review/ Evaluation, Independent curator, arts consultant and reviewer, Val Connor has been selected to undertake an independent review & evaluation of the Wexford Emerging Visual Artists Award for Wexford County Council in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre. The award has been running for 10 years and the review will assess its impact on artist's careers and point new ways for this award to connect locally, nationally and internationally.

Public Art, the New Ross bypass, Per Cent for Art Commission, The Public Art Working Group, art subcommittee of Remco de Fouw, (Artist) Aileen Lambert (Artist) Ruairi O Cuív (Dublin City Public Art officer) and Liz Burns Wexford Arts officer shortlisted six artists to develop detailed proposal for the site. Artists are Eileen Mc Donagh, James Hayes, Cleary Connolly, Mark Joyce, Caoimhe Kilfeather and Locky Morris.

All six artists are of significant national reputé with excellent experience of delivering high quality public art commissions. All artists visited on Fri 16th March with road engineer, Sean Dobbs and staff from the Arts office. The Artist's proposals are due on 12th April, the selection panel will meet in April.

Applications were requested for the **Drama league of Ireland and Tyrone Guthrie Residencies** in March 2018. The closing date is April 2018.

Wexford Arts & Biodiversity Urgent Enquiry took place on Thursday 22nd March in Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. This day long Research event lead by Wexford Arts office in partnership p with Dublin City and Fingal public Art offices explored how artists, scientists & biodiversity officers can potentially work together on future public art commissions. This event was supported by the Arts Council funding through the 'Invitation to Collaboration scheme' for local authorities. In total 15 people took part, local, national and international artists, scientists, marine biologist and ecologists.

FIRE SERVICE

News: The last week of the month was noted for the crisis management preparations in expectation of Storm Emma.

The two replacement spare Class B were finally purchased and the monies recouped the department.

Fire Operations: In February there were 86 incidents including 25 chimney fires, 19 false alarms, 8 domestic fires, and 11 road traffic accidents.

Incident type	Year to date	February
Fires	47	31
Special Services	29	11
Chimney Fires	43	25
False Alarms	40	19

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

Applications Received	Year to date	February
Fire Safety Certificates	20	15
Planning Referrals	104	78

Number of Inspections	Year to date	February
FSA Inspections	33	21

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties: We covered 4 community duties for March 2018

1. St. Patricks Day Parade, Wexford Town, Ambulance Cover, took part in parade
2. St. Patricks Day Parade, New Ross, Ambulance Cover
3. St. Patricks Day Parade, Gorey, Ambulance Cover
4. 24th March, WAMA Fight Night Talbot Hotel

Training Courses:

- EFR Training Course: We have the last 8 volunteers attending for OSCE's Exams on Saturday 24th March.
- FAR – Wexford County Council Staff
- Two instructors from Wexford Civil Defence are currently running a FAR (First Aid Responder) course for Wexford County Council Staff. This course replaces the old OFA (Occupational First Aid) course and is run over three days.
- Training continues on a weekly basis in Gorey, New Ross and Wexford.
- Induction night to be held on Tuesday 27th March for possible new recruits.

Storm Emma: Wexford Civil Defence provided transport for Council and HSE staff using 5 of our 4 x 4 vehicles. We had deployed a 4 x 4 to each town prior to the arrival of Storm Emma.

During the storm we transported patients for dialysis, patients to Wexford General and carried out welfare checks on vulnerable people.

We provided volunteers to help with efforts from Wednesday 28th Feb to Tuesday 6th March. We were also supported by volunteers from Tipperary and Laois. Details of volunteers active as below

Wexford

Wednesday	10	Volunteers
Thursday	6	Volunteers
Friday	5	Volunteers

Saturday	11	Volunteers
Sunday	19	Volunteers
Monday	9	Volunteers
Tuesday	4	Volunteers

Tipperary & Laois

Sunday	12	Volunteers
Monday	3	Volunteers

Search Carrick on Suir: Missing girl search in Carrick on Suir, drone team deployed on Wednesday 21st, drone team boat crew and Swift Water Responders deployed on Saturday 24th March 2018. Boat boat crews and Swift Water Responders on Sunday 25th March.

4. Transportation, Water Services:

COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

N25 New Ross By-Pass

Progress Update March 2018

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

On the Kilkenny side of the Barrow Bridge, the edge sections of the deck have been constructed on span 1 and the wing traveller system has progressed onto span 2 (see photo 4 below). The construction of the central deck section on span 3 is well progressed with the edge sections to follow (see photo 3 below). On the Wexford side the form traveller system is installed on pier 4 to allow the bridge deck to be launched incrementally from the each side of the pier (see photo 5 below). Support falsework continues to be erected on the approach spans on the Wexford side and deck formwork is being installed for steel fixing and concrete pours.

The construction of lower pavement layers continues to progress in the vicinity of the R733 junction at Landscape and Camlin, and pavement works will develop significantly in the coming months (see photo 6 below). Works are continuing on Glenmore Roundabout and should be substantially complete by May. Temporary traffic management measures through the roundabout will continue in the meantime (see photo 1 below). The L-7513 Ballyverneen Road remains closed and the new realigned road is also anticipated to open in May. Also on the Kilkenny side, the Ballyverneen Overbridge and Glenmore Underbridge are well progressed (see photos 1 & 2) and the overbridge to carry the disused Waterford to New Ross rail line has commenced.

The L-8142 Arnestown Road is due to re-open shortly after Easter following completion of the Arnestown Road Overbridge (see photo 7 below). The road diversion on the L-8144 Lacken South is due to fully re-open in June following the completion of the associated overbridge. It is anticipated that R733 Campile Road will require temporary traffic management for a few weeks later this summer for realignment and junction works and the completion of the tie-in from Corcoran's Cross Roundabout to the existing N30 will also require temporary traffic management and/or diversion works on the national route for a period later this year. The current temporary diversion and statutory 60km/h speed limit will continue to operate on the N25 Wexford Road at Ballymacar until October.

At that stage the roundabout will be fully complete and opened to the current traffic network (i.e. both Bypass arms will remain closed). Accommodation works for landowners continue to be developed throughout the site.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that road surfaces, temporary management systems etc. continue to operate as required.

The eight quarterly project newsletter was published at Easter, and the project website www.n25newross.ie continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. A further project video will be released by Wexford County Council in April. Further videos will be released periodically in 2018. The 24 telephone hotline continues to operate to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.



1. Temporary traffic management through Glenmore Roundabout. Works continuing on opposite side of roundabout in preparation for full opening in May. Construction of new Ballyverneen Road Overbridge and realignment visible to right of photo.



2. Construction of new Glenmore Road Access Underpass underneath existing N25 to the west of Glenmore Roundabout.



3. Barrow Bridge – Span 3 (near side) progressing to pier 3 with falsework partially still in place, pier 4 visible on far side.



4. Barrow Bridge – wing traveller system set up on span 2, completed deck edge section visible on span 1 behind.



5. Barrow Bridge – Form traveller system assembled on top of pier 4 deck section in preparation for construction of deck on main spans. Temporary support pier visible immediately behind pier 4. Piers 5, 6, 7 & 8 in background.



6. R733 Junction – Pavement works progressing on mainline and slip roads, R733 continuing to operate under mainline. Camlin Road Overbridge and realignment visible in background



7. L-8142 Arnestown Road closed in foreground for construction of overbridge. Temporary diversion route via newly constructed L-8045 Road visible to the right. Road due to re-open after Easter. Newly constructed entrance walls (accommodation works) visible to the right of the diversion route.



8. N30 Corcoran's Cross Roundabout under construction. Note farm underpass to the left of the roundabout and three further underpasses in the distance heading towards the N30 Enniscorthy.

	Total No of Landowners	Settled to date
M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy	201	197

1. M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update

Program

As of March 2018 the program is on target and the M11, N30 and N80 will be opened to traffic in July 2019 with minor works taking place up to the contract end date of November 2019

Construction to Date

The following table indicates site work progression to date.

	Progress Reported in December 2016	Progress Reported in December 2017	Progress Reported in January 2018	Progress Reported in February 2018	Progress Reported in March 2018
Site Clearance	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Fencing	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	30%	32%	35%	38%
Earthworks	23%	75%	75%	76%	80%
Structures – Main Bridges		56%	58%	60%	62%
Structures – Culverts	29%	96%	97%	98%	98%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	84%	85%	86%	87%
Accommodation Works	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Kerbs Footways & Paved Areas			4%	4%	4%
Safety Barrier				3%	3%

EARTHWORKS

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

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

Bulk Cut to Fill for to date for 2018 was 112,411m3 (total).

Blasting

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

Area	Name	No of Blast remaining	Est. Completion date
M11, Cut 1	Frankfurt Junction	2	Early April*

* It was previously reported that blasting was completed in this area. Additional material was identified and is being extracted for construction purposes.

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

Ongoing repairs and monitoring of local roads

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

- L1027, Ballygullen Road
- R702, Milehouse Road
- L6048, Glenteige Road
- L2011, Tinnacross Road

Newsletter

The Newsletter for Q1 of 2018 has been issued and uploaded on to the PPP Co. website. This website is updated on a monthly basis providing information on blasting and road closures and traffic management.

A 24 hour emergency telephone is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815701, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.

Drone Survey

The drone survey for 2018 has been completed and has been uploaded on to Wexford County Councils Web Site.

Applications submitted to WCC from the PPP:

Road Closure Applications

The following road closures have been enacted:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (months)	Opening Date
M11-S11, L5092, Corbally Road	05/02/18	7	07/09/18
M11-S13, L6055, Drumgold Road	31/10/17	7	11/5/18
M11-S15, L6048, Glenteige Road	31/10/17	5	6/4/18
N30-S5, L2030, Bessmount Road	16/1/18	3.5	27/4/18
N30-S8, L2049, Dunsinane Road	05/02/18	8	05/10/18

2018 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has provided funding for the following schemes.

N25 New Ross By-Pass Residual Network

N25 Oaklands Roundabout

Works commenced on 3rd. January and are due to be completed by early June.

N30/ R700 Roundabout

Tramore House Regional Design Office is working on the contract documents. This scheme should be tendered in May/June.

N11 Kyle Upper Pavement Scheme

The tender return date was 15th. February. The tender assessment was carried out in February. This scheme is due to commence on 16th. April and be completed by 22nd June.

N11 Ferrycarrig Bridge to Kyle Upper

This scheme should be tendered in May. Construction should commence in July/August.

N30 Enniscorthy Southern Approach

Fwd testing was carried out last week. Topographical survey works to be carried out in April/May. This scheme should be tendered in June.

N11 Killeen to Newtown

Site investigation works are ongoing on this scheme at present.

The timeline for construction works are dependent on the outcome of the site investigation works.

N30 Mountelliot

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

2018 HD28 Pavement Works

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

2017/2018 Barrier Repair Contract

The contractor has completed repairs on the N25 at Drinagh, N11 at Ballinastraw and Ballynalough, N25 Ring Road, Clonard, Wexford.

Further works are planned at N80 Bunclody, N80 Clohamon and N25 Begerin.

2017 HD28 Pavement Works – Contract 1

This contract is substantially completed. The remainder of the contract will be completed in April subject to suitable weather conditions.

N11 Glentigue
N11 Edermine
N11 Baylands

2017 HD28 Pavement Works – Contract 2

Works will commence in April subject to suitable weather conditions.

N11 Clogh Roundabout
N25 Ashfield Cross Roundabout
N25 Whitford Roundabout

Winter Maintenance

The 2017/2018 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 16th. October. There have been 78 no. call outs up to 26th. March 2018.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

Works on New Ross Flood Relief Scheme almost complete.
Construction work on Oaklands Roundabout (New Ross District) ongoing.

Storm Emma

Major snow clearance operations throughout the county as a result of Storm Emma, the worst snow storm to hit Wexford in the last 70 years. There were also major clean-up operations afterwards. Operations involved a combination of County Council staff and plant as well over 100 items of hired-in plant, most of it of substantial size.

Strengthening

Strengthening programme commenced in the Gorey District on February 19.
Programme was severely disrupted by Storm Emma and its aftermath.
Programme recommenced on March 19.
Roads completed in the last month: Cahore (Gorey District).

General Maintenance

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

WATER SERVICES

A. Irish Water – Asset Management

Irish Water Capital Schemes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Site Investigations have been completed along the proposed outfall route. Foreshore application was lodged. The land acquisition by CPO has also commenced for the selected WWTP site and Pumping Station site. Revised terms of reference and new appointment for the Consulting Engineer, is complete. The design of the scheme is in progress and preparation of tender documents. A detailed design report was prepared and workshop held to review report.

IW Asset Management: Gorey Sewerage Scheme – Stage 2 (included in IW - CIP14-16)

The DBO contract with AECOM/SIAC Construction to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in Courtown was completed in 2016. The plant is now operated by the contractor. (Aecom is now Murphy Process Engineering).

The 75% OPW-funded flood relief works minor scheme for Gorey Town is underway.

IW Asset Management: Gorey Regional Water Supply – South Wellfield (included in IW - CIP14-16)

The Gorey RWSS will be upgraded and a new 8 Ml/day WTP and 7,500m³ reservoir provided at Ballyminaun. Planning permission was granted by WCC to upgrade the borehole sites and build a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun. The hydrogeological investigations show that remedial works will be required to most of the boreholes and the contract documents are being revised accordingly. Negotiations for wayleaves ongoing with landowners. The CPO was advertised in February, 2018. Draft tender documents are ready and currently under review.

IW Asset Management: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment plant for the villages of Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon. These designs are currently underway.

A Scheme for Kilmore Quay is also currently being designed. These have progressed from the Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS) to identify areas of the highest priority requiring treatment. Detailed design works are underway. Land owner engagement has started and site investigation works are due to commence in March, 2018. The treatment standard for the schemes has been increased to both primary and secondary treatment.

IW Asset Management: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

Site Investigation works are complete for gas and water main installation around Wexford town. There are two areas of common gas / water mains to be laid. Design works are currently underway for the remaining water main and gas mains, as well as design to eliminate back yard services around Wexford. A new hydraulic model for Wexford town is being updated to allow for the design works to progress. Landowner engagement has started.

New Ross Sewerage Scheme – Irishtown to Nunnery Lane Sewers

The majority of the works are now complete, with the new sewers tested and live. Reinstatement works are still to be completed.

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

Works to the Gorey section are 75% complete. Bridgetown will commence in early Summer 2018. IW are funding this project for €2m for 9KM of pipeline rehabilitation.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan

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

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

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

EPS to be appointed for contract. Purchase Order raised.

Flow Monitoring & Sampling Programme

Snagging 98% complete. 4 Additional sites added, Camolin North and South, Campile and Ballycanew.

Sewer network pump station maintenance contract

2nd round now in progress.

WWTP pre-planned Maintenance Contract

Works progressing on site.

Bawnmore PS, New Ross.

Fully upgraded.

Rosslare Strand WWTP

Tenders approved for the upgrade of final effluent pumpstation at Rosslare Strand.

Our Lady's Island WWTP

Process optimisation complete.

Campile Waste Water Pumping Station

Health & Safety Works 90% complete.

Trinity Street Waste Water Pumping Station

Works in progress for the upgrade of the controls for the Generator.

Generator Change Over Switches

Generator Change Over Switches added to 15 Waste Water Treatment Plants in the County.

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

Installation of one new raw water pump at Edenvale complete. Second pump installation scheduled for first week of April. Works delayed due to recent snow and very wet weather.

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

Filter sand replacement complete in Kilmallock and underway in Taylorstown. Chemical dosing replacement is complete in Kilmallock. Commissioning is ongoing in Taylorstown. Additional works for acid dosing in Kilmallock have been approved to improve the proposed operability of automatic coagulant dosing.

IW Asset Management: pH Emergency (Automated dosing control)

Coolgreany caustic pumps serviced mid January. Waiting for Veolia to commission pumps.

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

Coagulation automation equipment installed at Vinegar Hill and Newtown WTW. Equipment commissioned at Newtown. Commissioning at Vinegar Hill to be done first week of April.

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Chestnut Grove: Installation of Disinfection Master control centre completed.

Vinegar Hill: Static mixer installed on treated water at Vinegar Hill.

Newtown: Kiosk for chloros controls delivered to site.

Water Network Program

Coffey Water have been appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. They have work orders for public side lead replacement works in Enniscorthy and Backyard Service replacement in Wexford and Taghmon. This work will be ongoing throughout the year and new work orders issued for other identified works.

Capital Maintenance Budget

Budget for 2018 is yet to be notified. It is expected to be available next month.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Blackstairs Group Water Scheme – Contract No. 11 Pollpeasty

Contract approximately 35% complete.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

An assessment to be carried out on the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme to ascertain whether funding will be made available.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Takeover Process ongoing.

5. Finance:

Audit Committee

The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 6th June 2018. The Audit Committee are currently preparing their statutory report for the council which will set out

- The opinion of the Audit Committee on the contents of the 2016 Accounts and audit findings
- Provide an update to members on the work programme completed by the audit committee in 2017
- Set out the Audit Committee's proposed work programme for 2018

Annual Financial Statement 2017

Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2017 Accounts. This work will take a number of months but it is expected that the Council will meet the submission deadline of the end of March. The unaudited accounts together with a full report outlining the contents will be submitted to the May meeting of the Council. It is expected that the annual audit of accounts by the Local Government Audit Service will progress once the accounts are published.

Borrowing Programme 2018

The borrowing programme for 2018 as approved by members at the February meeting has now been submitted to the DHPLG for ministerial sanction and a response is awaited

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m will expire on 31st December, 2018.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**