



Chief Executive's Report

JULY 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

National Enterprise Awards: Harte Outdoor Lighting beat strong competition to win the South East Regional Award at the 21st National Enterprise Awards on Wednesday 29th May in the Mansion House in Dublin. Liz and Jack Harte were presented with their award by Pat Breen, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection.

This family business employs 10 staff and is Ireland's only producer of high quality cast iron outdoor lighting, post boxes and street bollards. The company has ambitions to dominate the Irish market, to gain an unrivalled reputation as a manufacturer of distinctive, robust, quality products in cast iron. They are also exploring export opportunities to the UK.



ECONOMIC

Engineering in South East: Some of the biggest names in industry across the south east have come together to form a cluster group to promote and advance engineering in the region.

Engineering the South East was launched in Wexford on Thursday 20th June with a mission to see companies working together to address skills needs, promote careers in engineering and advance the engineering capabilities of the region.



Martin Stapleton CDS Architectural Metalwork, Lily Holmes, Burnside Group, Michael Carbery, new chair of 'Engineering the South East' & Keenan Alltech, Edmond Connolly South East Regional Skills Forum, Carrie Rockett, Integer, Liam Hore, Waters Technologies

Michael Carbery, Head of Innovation & Development Programmes with Keenan (Alltech Farming Solutions Ltd) in Borris, Co. Carlow has been appointed Chair of **Engineering the South East**. He commented, "It is great to be involved with this industry led initiative.

This initiative has great potential to encourage, engage and support young people in pursuing their career within the engineering industry”.

The Burnside Group, Glanbia, Boston Scientific, Integer, Bausch & Lomb and CDS Architectural Metalwork are some of the indigenous and multinational engineering and manufacturing companies across the South East that have signed up to **Engineering the South East**. The new group intends to promote careers in engineering, a sector that currently employs almost 50,000 in the region, of which 35,000 are employed in manufacturing and 14,000 in construction. The group said it will address skills gaps by working closely with local education and training providers.

The cluster has the backing of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Engineers Ireland and will work with education providers in the region including WIT

TOURISM TEAM

Ports, Pasts and Present: Cultural Crossings between Ireland and Wales: A major joint Irish and Welsh project has been announced that will seek to unlock the cultural potential of the Irish ports of Dublin and Rosslare, and the Welsh ports of Holyhead, Fishguard and Pembroke Dock. The research will explore the cultures, traditions and histories of these ports, so that their cultural heritages can become a driver of economic growth.



The four-year project – ‘Ports, Pasts and Present: Cultural Crossings between Ireland and Wales’ - is a joint initiative with University College Cork (UCC) and Wexford County Council in Ireland, and in Wales with Aberystwyth University and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. The project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Cooperation programme. The project will work with tourism stakeholders and local communities to make tourists better aware of the deep history of these ports.

Michael Londra Home: Wexford Ambassador Michael Londra came home for a one off concert with his NOËL collaborator, Liam Bates at the National Opera House on 7th June 2019. This was Michael's first concert in Wexford in several years. The show at the National Opera House was filmed along with footage at various locations across the county as part of a documentary for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in the US and will be aired later in the year.

Project Actions – April/May/June

- BUCANIER attended the South East Business Expo in Waterford on the 3rd of April
- Full Irish Partners meeting at the Hatch Lab in Gorey on 4th April
- BUCANIER sponsored Seaweed Conference in Ennis on the 10th April
- Ongoing recruitment of companies
- Ongoing mentoring and support to companies on the project
- Continue to explore the Renewable Energy area including a visit to Valentia Island in Kerry to look at Community Renewable project
- BUCANIER Renewable Energy Seminar Kilkenny 10/5
- All partner project meeting 9/5
- Attended Taste the Island Failte Island Event in Carlow
- Digital Skills Clinics for BUCANIER companies' x 4 2 in Cork and 2 in Gorey
- Attended Ploughing Briefing in Carlow 18/5
- Sponsored the South East Digital Picnic at Wells House, attended by 12 BUCANIER Companies from Ireland and 4 from Wales
- 48 companies now recruited in Ireland

Planned Project Actions – July

- Learning Journey to Wales for 10 companies from the 1st of July to 3rd of July
- Planning for the Ploughing Championships where we will be taking BUCANIER companies to launch new products
- Arrange learning journey to Wales for a SME to Wales to 'From our Farm'

PLANNING

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 24/06/2019	696
No. of invalid applications received up to 19/04/2019	161

Forward Planning: Draft Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region

The Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) was placed on public display from the 18th December 2018 to the 8th March 2019. A detailed submission was prepared and submitted to the Regional Assembly to ensure that the objectives of the Strategy would optimise the development of County Wexford. The Regional Assembly have considered all submissions received and it is expected that the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Strategy will be placed on public display in the coming weeks. A further submission may be made by Wexford County Council at that stage.

Wexford County Development Plan 2020-2026: While the preparation of the new County Development Plan is subject to a statutory pause pending the making of the Regional Strategy, background work and writing of the pre-draft plan and associated strategies continues.

Building Control: Commencement Notices: A total of 233 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 24th June 2019 on the BCMS.

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990

22

Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964

12

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

0

Planning Enforcement: The number of planning enforcement cases as at 26/04/19 is as follows:

▪ Cases Opened	68
▪ Live Cases	233
▪ Cases Closed	84

District Court Cases:

- Enforcement case 0015/2018 relating to two unauthorised workshops at Main Street, Clonroche - for mention on 19th June 2019.
- Enforcement case 0003/2018 relating to unauthorised slurry lagoon and shed at Bannow - for mention on 24th June 2019,.
- Enforcement case 0141/2012 relating to unauthorised fencing at Newcastle, Newbawn for disposal / plea on 24th June 2019
- Enforcement case 0012/2018 relation to unauthorised sand quarry at Ballinra, Screen – hearing date to be fixed.
- Dangerous Structure relating to structure at Coolrainey, Ardcolm – for strike out with liberty to re-enter after High Court proceedings are finalised.

Disability Access: Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DAC Applications validated up to and including the 19th June, totals 30.

The number of DAC applications awaiting re-submission due to invalid status totals 10,1 of which remains outstanding and awaiting re-submission.

Update Second Quarter: Programme of Access Works

National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS): The new test method for annual reporting and monitoring, within each respective Directorate, on the actions of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy Plan is almost complete for the first half of 2019.

Accessible Website-electronic communications as per Action 16, 17, and 23 of NDIS: The following outlines progress on activities to date:

- an audit of our current website has been completed
- content co-ordinators have been identified for relevant training
- the installation of text to speech software on our Website and 16 URL's connected/supported by Wexford County Councils services is in progress. Following the procurement procedures it was found that the supplier Recite-Me was the most appropriate supplier of the Text to Speech software.
- details of the corporate style for written communications, as previously adopted in 2008 has been redistributed and informed on the intranet for all staff.

2. Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works recommenced on-site at the end of March 2019 and are progressing well, with all earthworks now substantially complete. The park is expected to open to the public in November 2019. WCC has secured €500,000 in grant aid for the project from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Trinity Wharf: The application for development approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 15/02/2019 and the period for submission of observations closed on 01/04/2019. A decision from the Board is due in August 2019.

The related application for foreshore consent was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 01/03/2019 and will be advertised by the Department later this month.

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

Crescent Quay: Works commenced in January, 2019 and are scheduled to be completed in August 2019. Works are progressing well with Henrietta Street and the Quayfront works substantially completed.

Ballast Office: Essential repair works are required for the Ballast Office to prevent it from falling into disrepair. Tenders for services were received in early February and an appointment for design services has been completed. Works are expected to commence in Q4 2019.

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 March 2020.

WCC is reviewing the options for the street and public realm works following the rejection of the Part VIII application in January 2019.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Works are expected to be substantially complete in July 2019. Wexford County Council has secured €200k in funding from the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme for walking trails connecting the town with Vinegar Hill through the technology park site.

Gorey Market House: A consultant has been appointed to prepare a revised design for the Market House in Gorey based on the 2012 Gorey Public Realm Plan. A revised planning application will be submitted in Q3/Q4 2019. RRDF funding for developing the project to shovel ready status has been approved.

Wexford Arts Centre: Tenders for services were received in early February and an appointment for design services has been completed with outline design now underway. The Part VIII process is expected to commence in Q3 2019, with works planned to commence on site in Q1 2020.

John Street Building Regeneration Project: The Council has received initial RRDF funding in the value of €328k 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 the Part VIII process is due to commence in Q3 2019, with construction completion planned for Q4 2020.

High Hill, New Ross: The High Hill site is a strategic urban site connecting John Street and the town centre to the 12th century St Mary's Church and Cemetery. The Part VIII process was advertised in May 2019 and it is planned that the CE's report will be presented at the July Council meeting. Tenders for consultancy services for detailed design and procurement of a contractor for the development are due by mid-July 2019.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: A tender for the access road, car parking and walking trail works was advertised on the 14th of June 2019 and is due to be returned by the 12th of July 2019. It is planned to commence construction in Q3 2019 and that the works will be completed by Q2 2020. An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018 has not been successful to date. A further application will be submitted for the RRDF funding in August 2019.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project:

Alan Sherwood & Associates has been appointed to prepare the feasibility study and an application to Failte Ireland for Capital Investment funding.

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

Housing Supply - Capital Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Oilgate	2	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Special Needs Housing
Cherry Orchard	8	Enniscorthy	Construction complete	Includes 4 special needs houses
Cois Mara, Rosslare	2	Wexford	Construction complete	Complete and occupied
Baile Eoghain	9	Gorey	Construction complete	All houses completed in December 2018
Ross Road	1	Enniscorthy	Under construction	Due to complete October 2019
Creagh	10	Gorey	Under construction	Due to complete in July 2019 (delay due to Irish Water)
Danescastle	10	New Ross	Under construction	Due to complete in July 2019
Coolcotts	7	Wexford	Under construction	Due to complete in Sept 2019
Slippery Green	10	Wexford	Under construction (picture below)	Due to complete in July 2019 (delay due to Irish Water)



Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing – due to complete in July
The Ballagh	7	Enniscorthy	Under construction	On site 5 th June 2019
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Stage 4	TAP house (too expensive not approved by DHPLG) currently looking at alternative for a scheme

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Taghmon	18	New Ross	Stage 4	To commence on site in July 2019
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues with owners not yet resolved
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Stage 3	Part VIII approved stage 3 Q3 2019

Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Consultants appointed, in discussions with neighbour for more land – propose CPO
Rosetown, Rosslare	36	Wexford	Stage 2 (with DHPLG since 25 th April)	Stage 3 August 2019
The Faythe	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2 (June 2019)	Women's refuge, initial design submitted to stakeholders for review
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 (stage 2 Q2 2019)	Part VIII approved March 2019 Consultants appointed
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 1 approved	Part VIII Q2 2019 (reviewing Knotweed)
Ballyhine, Barntown	6	Wexford	Stage 1 (with DHPLG 19/05/19)	Stage 2 - August 2019
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1 Q1 2019	Consultants appointment
Creagh East	4	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Consultants appointed, ESB cables – Stage 2 July 2019
Creagh West	8	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Stage 2 Sept 2019
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Stage 2 – Q4 2019
TOTAL	313			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Castlemoyle	15	New Ross	Land Aggregation Scheme Phase 1 – Feasibility – awaiting Housing Agency
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 13/05/19)
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey (Buy & Renew)
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 07/05/19)
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 – awaiting DHPLG approval (submitted 23/05/19)
Castlebridge	1	Wexford	TAP house, site ownership to WCC (sketch design) – Land to transfer, single stage application made
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – DHPLG will not fund as it is an insurance issue for WCC
TOTAL	22		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Park	10	Wexford	To review trees and knotweed
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site cleared March 2019 – inner relief road in design
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water ongoing re upgrade
Tagoat	9	Wexford	Site cleared, addressing boundaries (Stage 1 Q3 2019)
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	7	Gorey	Feasibility study, Stage 1 to DHPLG March 2019
Daphne View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – on hold
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Early feasibility
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Survey and recommendations Q2 2019
TOTAL	104		

Other Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Gorey	Survey June 2019
TOTAL	1		

Part V Acquisitions

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	11	Gorey	11 units to be delivered 2019
Estuary View, Crosstown	2	Wexford	Due to be delivered 2019
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	14	Wexford	14 units to be delivered 2019
Knockmullen	18	Gorey	Due to be delivered 2019
Mulgannon	6	Wexford	Delivery date awaited
Hunters Hill , Gorey	3	Gorey	Due to be delivered 2019
TOTAL	54		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin,	22	Gorey	18 units delivered, 4 to be delivered 2019
Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill	35	Wexford	25 units delivered, 10 to be delivered 2019
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	10	Gorey	4 units delivered. Remaining 6 units to be delivered 2019.
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	3 units to be delivered 2019. Remainder to deliver 2020.
Riverchapel Lane	4	Gorey	4 units to be delivered in 2019
Whitewater Estuary, Ballyhack	3	New Ross	3 units to be delivered 2019
TOTAL	84		

Wexford County Council has received a number of other turnkey proposals which are currently being assessed.

Approved Housing Bodies

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Cooperative Housing Ireland			
Arthurstown	9	New Ross	Delays due to legal and financial issues
Ballyboggan, Castlebridge	10	Wexford	Occupied
Meadowfields	28	Enniscorthy	14 units completed to be occupied in Q2 2019 and remainder to be occupied by Q3 2019
Fort Road, Gorey	11	Gorey	To be occupied 2019
27 Hunters Green	1	Gorey	Occupied
Clonard, Wexford	10	Wexford	To be delivered 2019

Oaklee			
Fearach an Cnoic, Greenville	46	Enniscorthy	All units delivered.
Station Court	2	Gorey	Occupied

Respond			
Rivergate (2 Bed Units)	20	New Ross	Occupied

Cluid			
The Grange, Ferns	10	Gorey	To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019

Tuath			
Glean an Ghairdin	18	Gorey	To be occupied by the end of Q4 2019
Ard Uisce	7	Wexford	Occupied
Ramstown	56	Gorey	In planning process
Rocksborough, Drinagh	85	Wexford	10 units to be occupied by Q3 2020 remainder to be occupied as completed
Old Forge Road, Milehouse	59	Enniscorthy	Funding approved by Department. To be occupied 2020.

Circle			
Abbey Centre	10	Enniscorthy	Delivered Q2 2019
TOTAL	382		

ENVIRONMENT

An Taisce awarded 9 blue flags to Wexford County Council on 20th May. The blue flags are awarded for excellent water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and beach management. The list of Blue Flag Beaches are as follows:

Ballymoney, Courtown, Morriscastle, Ballinesker, Curracloe, Rosslare Strand and Carne

The following Marina's were awarded Blue Flags:

New Ross Marina and Kilmore Quay Marina

They awarded 8 Green Coast flags to Wexford County Council. Green Coast beaches are high environmental standard, excellent water quality and are managed in partnership with the local community. The list of Green Coast Beaches are as follows:

Cahore, Old Bawn, Culleton's Gap, St Helen's Bay, Ballyhealy, Cullenstown, Grange and Booley Bay

The Environment Department will be promoting environmental awareness and sustainability at the forthcoming Maritime Festival in Wexford and at the 70th Annual Bannow and Rathangan Show in Killag in early July.

Inspections under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws will commence during the month of July. The Bye-Laws are a mechanism for targeting areas where illegal dumping is prevalent, whereby householders are required under the bye-laws to produce evidence of disposing of waste in an authorised manner

COMMUNITY

Men's Sheds: Mr Michael Ring TD, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced the provision of €500,000 to continue to support the work of Men's Sheds groups throughout Ireland.

This capital funding will enable individual Men's Sheds to purchase equipment or to carry out minor works to improve their premises through the provision of small grants. In what is the second year of funding for these organisations.

Men's Sheds have become central to 15 communities in Wexford. They provide an invaluable service by helping to tackling social isolation which in turn strengthens local communities. To build on last years funding a further €23,000 has been allocated in recognition of the contribution these groups are making to life in Ireland.

Community Enhancement Scheme (CEP): Wexford LCDC was allocated €150,000 under the CEP Scheme 2019. The LCDC allocated €100,000 to Measure 1 small capital works up to €1,000 and 50,000 to Measure 2 which sought applications under the heading, Climate Mitigation Measures.

Measure	Budget	Number of Applications	Funding Sought	Funding Allocated
Measure 1 Small Works	100,000	84	116,523	150,000
Measure2 Climate Action	50,000	24	61,083	50,000
Totals	150,000	108	177,606	150,000

Celtic Routes: The Celtic Routes project is progressing well and is expected to launch in September 2019 at the National Ploughing Championship in Carlow. The project partners are meeting regularly and have the buy-in of the tourism stakeholders in all three Irish partners.

The Celtic Routes project aims to encourage visitors to explore new areas of Wales and Ireland en route to their final tourist destination. Led by Carmarthenshire County Council, the project will focus on the areas of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion in Wales and Waterford, Wicklow and Wexford in Ireland. It aims to transform less well known areas from transit zones to new touring sites, increasing the time visitors spend in these regions and capitalising on the opportunities to boost local economies. The project will be developed through customer research, trade events and workshops as well as cross border visits by businesses in Ireland and Wales to bring together expertise and ideas. Through a Marketing Campaign, the aim is to increase the visitor appeal of the targeted areas, including through the development of new trails linking local culture, heritage and the natural environment.

PPN: Work has commenced on the first stages of developing Wexford PPNs Community Wellbeing Vision. Five consultation sessions were held during May with a further opportunity for groups to participate through online consultation. The final Wellbeing Vision Statement is expected to be in place in late 2019.

2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme: 23 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were received and reduced to 12 Applications to be developed into full applications. A workshop has been held with representatives of the community groups and the EOIs are currently being developed into full applications to be lodged with the Department on or before Friday the 28th June 2019.

Healthy Ireland (HIF): HIF Round 3 will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021 and Wexford LCDC has been allocated €184,000 to implement a programme of work under HIF during the 2 year period. This consists of €107,000 in Year 1 and a further €77,000 in Year 2 subject to budget approval.

Article 48 Checks LEADER Programme: Wexford County Council has undertaken the Article 48 Checking on LEADER projects and claims since February 2019. The checking had previously been undertaken by Pobal. Claims and Projects continue to be processed in line with the LEADER Operation Rules under the requirements of the Article 48 regulations.

Age Friendly

Ferns Be-Friending Pilot: Work on setting up the Ferns Be-Friending pilot scheme is reaching a conclusion. Volunteers have received training from ALONE and have met with staff from the HSE to discuss referrals to the service. It is planned to launch the service in July 2019 with Ferns Community Centre serving as the location for this service. Funding for this project has been received from Healthy Ireland and the Wexford LCDC with Innovate sponsoring the mobile phones.

Older People's Council – Information event for the Wexford Area: The Older People's Council held an Information event for the Wexford Area on 12th June in Clonard Community Centre. Members of An Garda Síochána, Wexford County Council and Local Link attended the event and gave presentations on their services for older people. This was followed by a workshop with those present. The event was a great success with over 80 people in attendance. It is planned to hold similar events in Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding 1: 8 Courses have been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 113 participants. Safeguarding 2: 3 Course has been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 25 participants.

Launch of the Urban Adventure Hub Bunclody (Objective 3.3): The launch was held on the 3rd May, Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan and Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council Cllr Keith Doyle. We are delighted with the interagency Partnership with Sport Ireland, WWETB, Wexford County Council, Shiellbaggan Outdoor education centre, Bunclody Town team and Irish Water. The project secured funding from Sport Ireland Dormant accounts and WWETB.

The hub is now in place to begin working with local groups and schools to access Kayaking and other outdoor adventure activities based in the urban centre. A new Club will be formed with the initial taster day taking place on Saturday 25th May. With an Open day planned for Saturday July 20th.

Playmaker (Objective 1.2): Sports Active Wexford have delivered and organised the following Playmaker courses (Leadership Course) for fourth class students in National School: Total to date this year: 225 participants in 10 schools.

School	No. of children
Castlebridge NS	35
Adamstown NS	32
ST. Iberius NS	17
Newbawn NS	19
Curraclloe NS	26
Gusseraine NS	26
Rathnure NS	16
Ballindaggin NS	22
Rathgarogue NS	26
Monageer NS	20

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

CREATIVE IRELAND

Cruinniú na nÓg the National Day of Creativity for Children took place on 15 June 2019. An exciting and eclectic range of creative events for children and young people was hosted in County Wexford with over 30 events happening countywide. Workshops included contemporary dance, historical interpretation, music, literature, circus skills, STEM activities, sewing, origami, radio podcasting, painting, filmmaking and illustration. Events took place in libraries, arts centres and a range of public spaces both indoor and outdoor. All events were free, participation rates were high for all age groups and positive feedback was received.

As part of Wexford's 2019 **Creative Ireland** programme applications were invited for grants that develop bodies of work with a public interface/engagement. The nominal amount for any one project was between €1,000 and €5,000. A key aspect of the grant scheme was to foster new exciting and innovative projects that may not otherwise be realised. 37 applications were received from community organisations, creatives and practitioners and of these applications 12 were awarded funding totaling €28,000. These projects will engage in the following themes with communities of place or interest: Wellbeing; Sense of place; Heritage (which may include historical exploration and engagement); STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and the Irish language.

Training workshops for artists – Autumn 2019 in partnership Visual Arts Ireland and funded through Creative Ireland to deliver professional development/ business support workshops for Wexford artists and creatives. Due to the huge interest in the professional workshops held in spring 2019 a further series of workshops will be delivered in County Hall and Gorey School of Arts in the autumn beginning in October 2019.

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

To coincide with the **120th anniversary of local government** in Ireland this year, the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM) in conjunction with the Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government produced an exhibition, *Celebrating the history of Irish local government*. The exhibition comprising 7 double-sided panels covering the first local elections, elected members, women in local government and the range of functions undertaken by local authorities was on display in 'The Street', Carricklawn in mid-May. The first minute book of Wexford County Council (1899) and some locally generated items were displayed alongside the exhibition.

Summer Stars Reading Adventure

The Summer Stars Reading Adventure registration began on 15th June. The Summer Stars Reading Adventure runs during the summer in public libraries all over Ireland.

Summer Stars is a well established and highly successful free programme that aims to keep children reading in a non-formal way over the summer months. Children are invited to register for Summer Stars and be a part of the adventure by reading as many books as they can.

The programme is being heavily promoted by librarians in County Wexford who visit all primary schools in their locality in June and encourage the children to visit the library over the summer. Wexford Public Library Service has a target of 1,800 children to participate in this programme in Summer 2019.

Normans 850: Wexford County Council Public Library Service is hosting a range of interpretative events in 2019 as part of the **Norman 850** commemorations. Over 80 people attended ***Town and county: the archaeology of medieval Wexford with Emmett Stafford – Stafford and McLoughlin Archaeology*** in Wexford Library. This talk explored the life and times of Wexford's twelfth and thirteenth century population by examining the medieval sites and artefacts which are still scattered across our modern landscape.

Two events in New Ross Library for adults ***The 800th Anniversary of William Marshal*** in with Seamus Kiely, Jack Stacey and Mick Conway and ***Norman Wexford: echoes on the landscape*** with Dr. Linda Doran were attended by over 100 people. Workshops for children in New Ross Library also brought the period to life using storytelling and craft.

Parenting Talks: Wexford County Council Public Library Service, in partnership with Wexford Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC), has developed a year-long programme of educational talks to inform many aspects of parenting. During May and June talks included:

- Fidelma Brady, National Education Officer with Down Syndrome Ireland, gave a talk on **Down Syndrome and Post Primary Education**
- **Positive Parenting** Sinéad Cronin Daly & Sinéad Joyce
- **LGBT+ Advice & Support** Wendy Kearney from Gorey Youth Needs offered information, support and advice to parents and carers whose child identifies as LGBT+.
- **The Dyslexia Paradox: Gift & Burden** Mary Bolger, psychologist, gave an overview of dyslexia and current best practice.

HERE/there' Exhibition, a group exhibition of artists working in Ireland and Germany will open on Friday 21st June at 5.00pm in county hall followed by a performance piece by Office for Joint Administrative Intelligence. Curated by Anya von Gosseln and Jürgen Grölle and in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre and Kamera 8, this exhibition explores and reinforces the cultural exchange that existed between the Rhineland and South East Ireland throughout our shared history. In this shared project, installations compete for space with performance and paintings feature fragments of structures that comment on traditional approaches to history, landscape, the built environment and materials we use in our daily lives. The exhibition will run from 24th June to 16th August 2019. Public tours of the exhibition will be arranged.

Living Arts in Schools 2019/2020, this programme sees four primary schools around the county being selected for a 15 week visual art residency with a lead and assistant artist. The selection panel met in May and the schools selected were Danescastle NS, Donard NS, Enniscorthy, Killealy NS, Enniscorthy and Gorey Educate Together. The lead artists consist of David Begley, Deirdre Buttimer, Mary Claire Kehoe and John Busher while the assistant artists include Hanneke van Ryswyk, Jeni Roddy, Anne Martin Walsh and Sonya Weston. They will begin the new residency in schools during October 2019.

'An Urgent Enquiry' - Art & Biodiversity Residency. Wexford Arts Office in partnership with Fingal and Dublin City Council was awarded Arts Council's grant under the Arts Council's 'Invitation to Collaboration Scheme' for 3 artist residencies to explore art & biodiversity along our common eastern shorelines.

Artist Mark Clare was awarded the Wexford residency and is based in Carrig on Bannow for 3 months. (May- July 2019) His residency involves researching the solitary bee common to south eastern shorelines and other unique marine and plant life. As part of this residency the artist is running free workshops by invited experts for the general public in Kilmore Quay, Tintern Gardens and Baginbun beach in June and July- exploring Wexford marine and plant life. His residency is supported by Environment Dept in Dublin City Council and Biodiversity officer and local experts in biodiversity. The artists will present public outcomes of his research and residency in Wexford in Autumn 2019. www.urgentenquiry.ie

Music Generation is a partnership between WCC, WWETB, and the national agency Music Generation. An instrumental programme for primary schools was launched in May with Oylegate and Glenbrien selected for an 8 week ukulele programme with musician Peter McCamley.

Following an open call to all primary school in May 2019 13 schools selected for Instrumental programme commencing Autumn 2019 Also during May a series of school performances were held around the county. Children's opera singing workshops were held in the National Opera House and recruitment of musician tutors for both Wexford and Waterford were held in June. Music Generation hosted 2 free workshops as part of Crunniu Na N'Og on 15 June 2019 in Kids signing for opera (National Opera House) and Music Production (Enniscorthy)

Per Cent for Art Commissions, M11 Enniscorthy & Gorey, Three awarded art commissions valued at €20,000 each are underway. One commission by artists Collective **Ciara Roche, Astrid Newman and Becks Butler**, has completed. DisPatch was a pop-up post office that was installed in 11 Castle Street, Enniscorthy from 31st May to the 3rd of June, 11am – 6pm daily to coincide with the annual Strawberry Festival. This public-facing art installation saw the collective work in close collaboration with Enniscorthy based community groups and the Men's Shed in collecting objects that were displaced on a conveyor belt and were photographed and printed onto postcards another part of the project saw stories compiled into audio pieces that were also displayed in the 'post-office'.

Visitors were invited to drop in, enjoy a cuppa and select a postcard, write it and pop it in a post box where it was sent for free anywhere in the world.

The decision to develop a 'pop-up post office' was informed by an awareness of the important role post offices have played in rural life, often considered to be the beating heart of a community. DisPatch aims to bring people together to take a moment to connect and to enjoy the simple act of writing and sending a postcard.

New Leitrim Sculpture Residency award is a new partnership between Wexford County Council and The Leitrim Sculpture Centre (LSC) in Manorhamilton Co Leitrim. It offers a residency to a Wexford based visual artist, with the space, time and comprehensive technical facilities for practice and research towards the development of new work. In May 2019 artist Lar O'Toole was successfully selected for this residency.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary enables two artists in all art forms who are resident in County Wexford to spend two weeks at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artists' workplace in County Monaghan. In May 2019 writers Cat Hogan and Eoghan Rua Finn were successfully selected for these residencies.

Drama League of Ireland, in partnership with Drama League of Ireland this provides two scholarships to Wexford applicants for the Drama League's 54th Residential Summer School in University of Limerick (27th July – 3rd August 2019) 2019. Local amateur participants and members of drama societies were invited to apply for this scholarship. In May 2019 Elaine Jordan and Margo O'Brien were selected for this residency.

FIRE SERVICE

News: The Fire Service was represented on the Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation National Steering Committee with regard to the update of the Dangerous Substances Regulations 1979 by the Chief Fire Officer. It is envisaged that there will be a move from the current prescriptive legislation to a risk based solution.

Fire Operations: There were 78 incidents in May as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls May 2019	Calls to date 2019	Calls to this period 2018
Chimney fire	2	78	90
Domestic fire	5	30	44
Road Traffic Accident	11	46	45
Industrial fire	1	5	6
Commercial fire	0	4	2
Assembly fire	0	0	2
Agricultural fire	0	1	3
Motor Vehicles	4	15	22
Forest/bog/grass etc	14	30	28
Rubbish	9	30	22
Non-fire rescues	2	9	13
False alarms – good intent	21	105	108
Malicious false alarms	0	0	3
Miscellaneous	9	34	33
Total	78	387	421

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

Applications Received	Year to date	May
Fire Safety Certificates	51	10
Planning Referrals	367	103

Number of Inspections	Year to date	May
FSA Inspections	87	17

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties:

We had nine duties for May 2019

- 3rd May, Wexford Athletics Sinnottstown Lane
- 4th May, Norman Landing Festival, Carrig on Bannow
- 5th May, Norman Landing Festival, Carrig on Bannow
- 10th May, Wexford Athletics Kilmore, Road Race
- 11th May, Darkness into Light New Ross
- 12th May, Kennedy Park School, 5K Run / Walk
- 12th May, Wexford Athletics, Sports Hub Enniscorthy
- 31st May, Strawberry Fair, Enniscorthy

Joint Exercise: Wexford Civil Defence took part in a joint exercise in Curracloe run by the Coast Guard. The exercise simulated a Round Ireland Yacht Race, two boats got into difficulty in bad weather, and survivors made it ashore. 14 Volunteers took part in the exercise to include first aid, casualty evacuation, and casualty triage. The day proved to be a great inter agency exercise and will enhance both services working together in the future.

Weekly Training: Training continues on a weekly basis in Wexford – Monday Night Welfare, Wednesday Night Rescue, New Ross Monday Night, First Aid, Enniscorthy First Aid and Gorey Gorey Friday Nights first aid training.

Instructor Graduation Civil Defence College

10th May 2019: We had 4 new Instructors graduate from the Civil Defence College in Roscrea on Friday 10th May 2019. The following instructors graduated on the day

Liam Buckley, Search Skills Instructor
Sinead Furlong, Search Skills Instructor and
Swift Water Flood Responder Instructor
Emer Doyle, Swift Water Flood Responder
Instructor
Matt Crispin, FAR (Far Aid Responder)
Instructor.



Two of the Instructors Liam Buckley and Matt Crispin are currently running the new class in Enniscorthy, Sinead Furlong and Emer Doyle will continue with the Wexford Town unit.

Training Courses: We held a Swift Water Responders course on Saturday 11th May and Sunday 12th May. The practical element of the course was on the River Boro in Enniscorthy. The course was attended by 8 new recruits.

New Headquarters – Wexford Town: We continue to look for a suitable premises for a training Headquarters in Wexford Town.

4. Transportation, Water Services:

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme Update June 2019

The M11 motorway will be opening mid-July 2019 with substantial completion of the M11 mainline and a Taking Over Certificate issued in relation to the N30 Enniscorthy by-pass. The M11 Enniscorthy Joint Venture will be completing all outstanding works prior to the end of the contract in November 2019.

N25 New Ross By-Pass:

Progress Update June 2019

The overall design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is currently scheduled to be complete in quarter 4 of 2019.

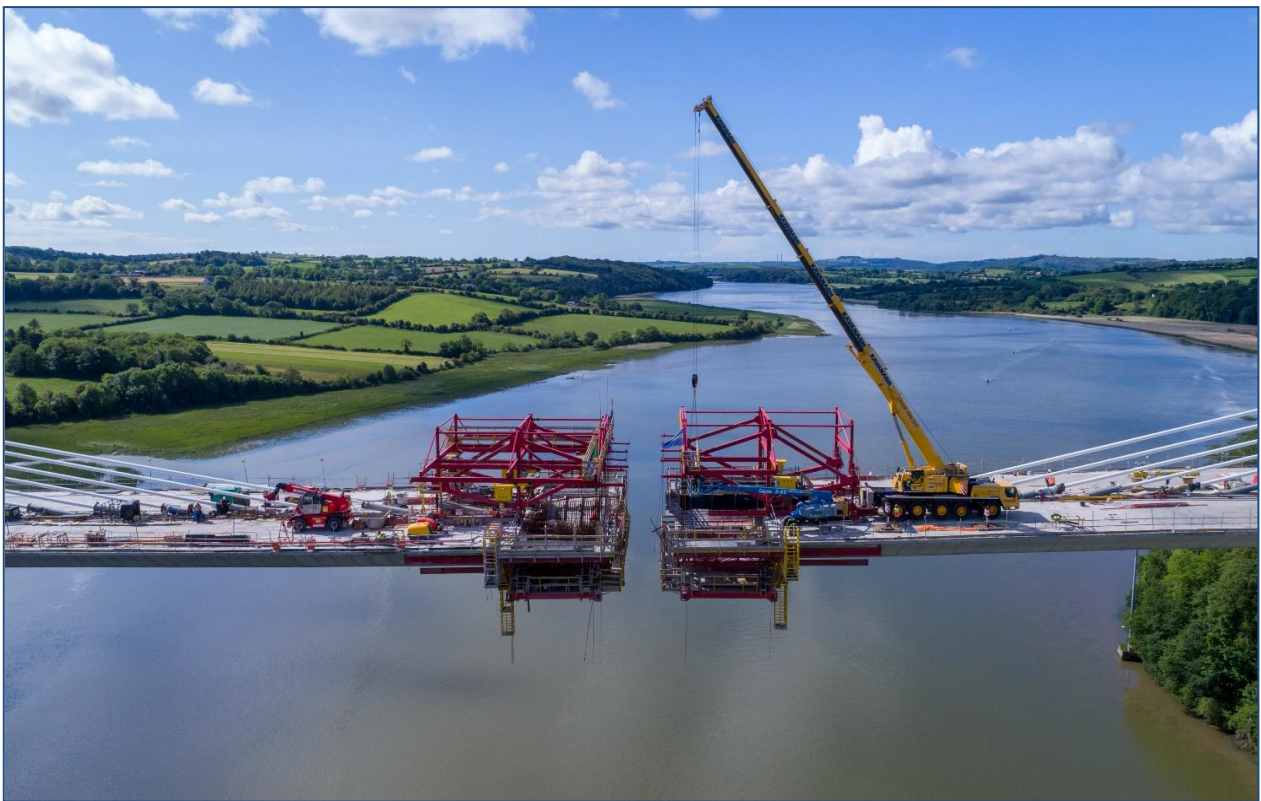
The construction of the River Barrow Bridge is advancing towards a significant milestone with the separate bridge decks anticipated to meet in the coming weeks. Three deck segments remain to be completed on the main river spans before the final deck connection piece is closed. All three pylon towers are complete and just three cables remain to be installed from the pylon tower at pier 4. Following the connection of the decks and completion of cables, there is a significant programme of finishing works, testing and commissioning before the bridge is complete and ready for the opening of the bypass.

Works to the mainline road are significantly advanced with final elements such as signage, road markings and landscaping nearing completion. Final elements of accommodation works including any remaining fencing, gates or access tracks are also currently being closed out.

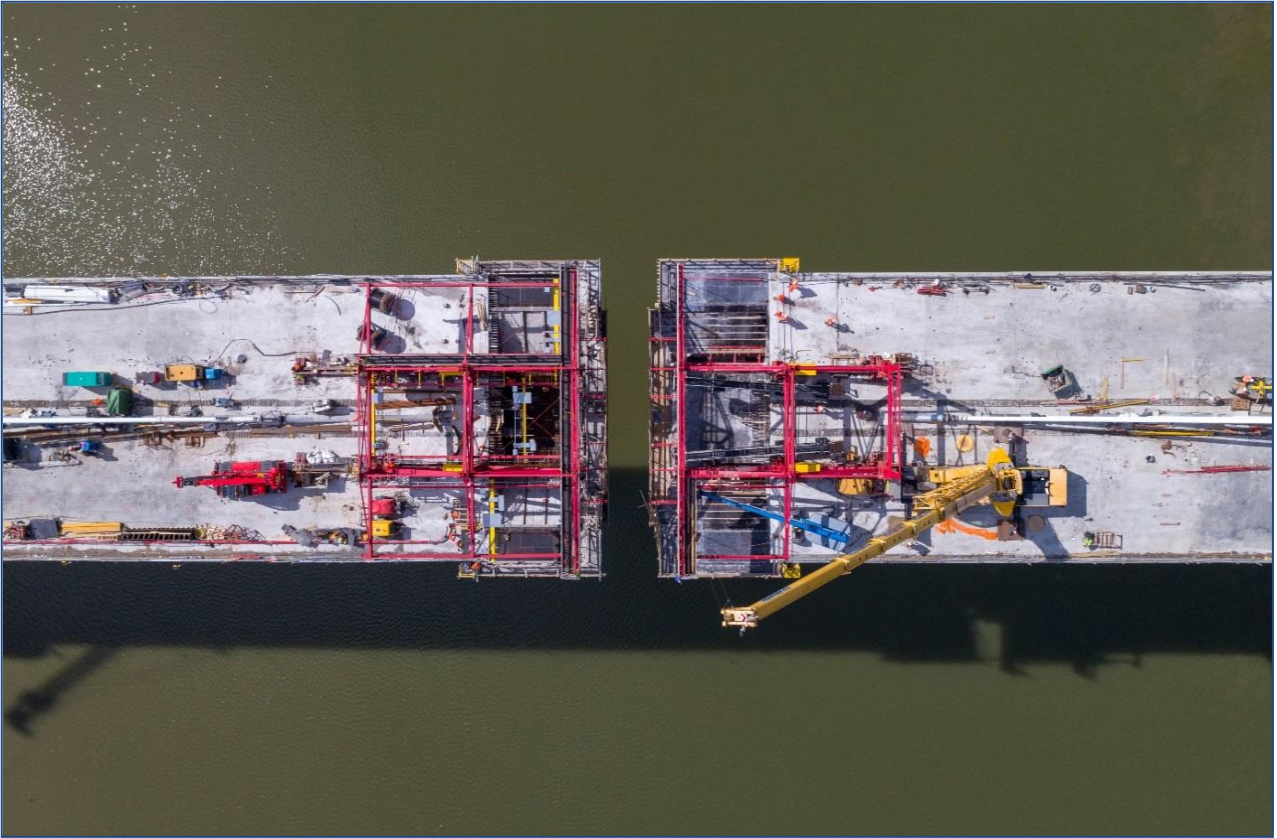
There has been a lot of positive public interest and engagement with the project and Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils are engaging with the other major project stakeholders; TII, PPP Co. & NRJV (Construction Contractor), about arrangements for possible community/charity events associated with the opening of the project.



1. River Barrow Bridge – Aerial view from Kilkenny side



2. River Barrow Bridge – close up view of Bridge decks over river from side.



3. Barrow Bridge – close up view of bridge decks over river from above.



4 View of River Barrow Bridge from Glenmore Side

NATIONAL ROADS

The 2019 TII pavement improvement allocation has been received. The following schemes have been approved:

- N30 Clonroche (Ballymackessy to Tomfarney).
- N11 Maldron Roundabout to Ferrycarrig bridge (Killeen to Newtown Phase 2) (This scheme has now been moved to 2020 due to problems resolving some design Issues).
- N11 Ballynaslaney to Kyle Upper. (This scheme has replaced the above scheme).
- N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne.

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.

The design for this scheme has been completed. This scheme will be tendered before the end of June. Construction is expected to commence in early August.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2

Site investigation works completed.

This scheme will now be pushed back to 2020 due to design resolution complications following recent site investigations. Tendering may be possible in the 4th quarter of 2019.

N11 Ballynaslaney to Kyle Upper

Scheme designs are currently being prepared. We expect to go to tender in late June, with construction expected to commence in August.

N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

Scheme designs are currently being prepared. Delays encountered due to request from TII to carry out a structural analysis of the old Mountelliott Rail Bridge. We expect to go to tender in early August.

PUBLIC LIGHTING LED UPGRADE

Works have commenced on the 2019 upgrade which will involve the replacement of up to 3,400 lanterns in Gorey, Courtown, Riverchapel, Ferns and Enniscorthy. 2,000 lanterns have been designed and delivered. Over 1,500 lanterns have been installed to date.

Installation of the lanterns should be completed by September.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District) is complete.

Resurfacing/Strengthening

The strengthening programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 13 February.

Roads completed in the last 2 months were: Shannon Cross to Kiltealy; Esmonde Road; Greenville Lane (all in Enniscorthy District); Ballyteige to Ballinclare; Avenue Rbt. to Knockmullen; Ballykilty Upper to Plattinstown; Island Cross to Island Lower; Kilcaysan to Milshoge; Cluainin, Gorey (all in Gorey District); Tagoat Village; Artramon; Kitestown; Redshire Road to Stapelstown; Knocktown to Robinstown (Wexford District).

Surface Dressing Works

The surface dressing programme commenced in the Enniscorthy District on 10 June.

Roads completed were: Rahale; Glenbrien to Ballinkeel; Castlequarter to Ballyrankin; Corah; Ballincash; Doran's Bridge to Effernoge; Knockmarshall; Dunsinane; Newtown; Tombrick (all in Enniscorthy District); Ballyeaton to Bulgan; Shelmaliere Commons to Ballygoman; Kilcorral; Monroe to Laken; Scar to Knocktown; Newtown to Ballygrangans; Rathangan to Redmoor; Rickardstown Lane (all in Wexford District); The Leap to Kellystown; Dunganstown; Whitechurch; Rourke's Cross to Deerpark; Carnagh to Cushionstown (New Ross District)

General Maintenance

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

WATER SERVICES

A. Irish Water – Asset Delivery

Irish Water Capital Schemes

IW Asset Delivery: Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme

The successful commissioning certificate and handover of the plant was completed at the end of March, 2019, some four months ahead of programme.

Enniscorthy Network Upgrade

Surveying works have commenced in the Enniscorthy area to enable a hydraulic model of the sewer network to be completed. Once the model is complete, design works on areas requiring rehabilitation / upgrade will commence.

IW Asset Management: Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water S.S.

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following elements of work on this Scheme:
New intake and pumping station at Clonhasten.

Site Investigation Works were completed in November, 2018. Planning consent has been given by the landowner for planning permission to proceed. Planning permission was submitted by Irish Water Consultant, Nicholas O'Dwyer in April, 2019.

Wexford Drainage Area Plan

This project will produce a complete drainage model of the Wexford Town foul drainage system.

A full detailed hydraulic model will be produced identifying all pipelines and infrastructure and deficiencies in the network. Nicholas O'Dwyers have been appointed as Consultants by IW. Drainage infrastructure survey works have commenced in Wexford Town and Castlebridge. Survey works are due to be completed by December, 2019.

IW Asset Delivery: Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme

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. Irish Water is changing the form of contract for this project, which has led to a delay in progressing the final design, however this is now being resolved and progress has resumed on the project. We are working on a revised programme for completion, which should be completed shortly.

IW Asset Delivery: Gorey Regional Water Supply – South Wellfield

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.

The CPO is completed as objections were withdrawn before scheduled oral hearing. Tenders were received from two contractor and the contract award is waiting on Irish Water Board approval.

IW Asset Delivery: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Arthurstown, Ballyhack and Duncannon:

The project has been tendered and a preferred contractor has been selected. Planning will be lodged in May, 2019, with works due to commence in Q4 2019. The plant is expected to be fully operational in 2021.

Kilmore Quay:

The scheme design is complete and ready to tender. A pre-planning meeting will be held in early May, 2019. The plant is expected to be fully operational in 2021.

IW Asset Delivery: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

A preferred contractor has been selected after the tender process. Works are expected to commence in late Summer 2019 and last for 18 months.

Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew

The crew has commenced a major 2.5km rationalisation programme to link the village of Kilmyshall to the Bunclody Water Supply Scheme.

Ferns Upgrade – Capital Investment Plan

IW Asset Strategy has approved the following for a feasibility study on this Scheme.

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

Surveying works are currently underway to enable the detailed design of the plant.

There have been a number of smaller studies commenced lately on Gorey waste water, Enniscorthy waste water and Wexford waste water capacities.

B. IRISH WATER MINOR SCHEMES & SPECIAL SCHEMES

IW Asset Management: Murntown P.S. - operational 14th February 2019

1. Backfilling Redwood Park pump sump and installing new D400 cover next to No. 1 John Paul Park completed.
2. Proposed decommissioning works at Redwood Park WWTP (providing IW with schedule of works and quotation, meeting with Irish Water to be set up).
3. WWPS remedial works (snag list) and landscaping works ongoing.

Somer's Way Rising Main, Ballycullane

1. Contractor in place for rising main, currently scheduled to begin on site end of June.
2. Road opening licence application submitted.
3. Issue with private access to plant addressed by Property Management and Wayleave signed by landowner Wednesday 24th April.

Somer's Way WWTP, Ballycullane

1. Following recent survey of existing infrastructure – feasibility to use existing sump and emergency store tank proven.
2. Pumps and associated equipment to go for pricing (greater than €25,000 approximate) – formal tender by procurement required.
3. Civils works to go for pricing – formal tender by procurement required.

Fairgreen WWTP, Ballycullane

1. Corrected issues with flooding of estate and brought plant back into operation (eliminated costs for tankage and public health risks).
2. Gathering data on operational costs to build case for spend to save application (Irish Water) for rising main to Ballycullane WWTP main plant.

Ravenswood WWTP, Glynn

1. Site fencing and entrance gate works completed – remedial works on gate cladded with pressure treated timber vertical boards, now complete.
2. Percolation area and concrete works practically complete (construction of 3 No. 10m x 600mm x 1m trenches with perforated pipe and stone surround with teram cover / Lay service ducting, lay concrete plinths around RBC, pump chamber, kiosk and blower) – snagging to be carried out.
3. MEICA upgrade works shall commence end of June (stainless steel foul pump, new blower, new electrical controls for blower and pump etc.).

Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station

1. Repair of the 4th number Storm Pump now complete.
2. Contractor due on site in June to re-commission odour filter, and removing redundant RBI.
3. Generator defective switch-gear, fuel line and engine heater (identified by scheduled service) replacement works required. With contractor for quotation, procurement via single source supplier to be pursued with IW, as specialist critical infrastructure.

Sinnottstown Lane Wastewater Pumping Station

1. New pump design and review completed, however cost and pump design indicate a new rising main will be required, utilising the existing non-utilised 150 dia. rising main for foul, and the proposed new 250 dia. rising main for storm.
2. Interim works are recommended comprising upgrading the foul pumps and connecting them to the currently non-utilised 150 dia. rising main.

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

Works complete at Edenvale and Newtown.

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

Project is at substantial completion and now in the defects period. Staff training has been completed and works are at snagging.

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

Commissioning at Creagh complete and operating in automatic mode since mid January. Newtown WTW in automatic mode with manual override since May 17th. Vinegar Hill in automatic mode since early November.

IW Asset Management: Disinfection and pH Control Programme

Disinfection works at Chestnut Grove, Ballinellard, Clonroche, Bree, Kilmuckridge Coolgreaney, Camolin, Castledockrell and Ballindaggin commissioned but require process proving.

Works complete at Vinegar hill and ready for commissioning. Works complete at Newtown and ready for commissioning pending control work at Edenvale pump station.

ESB to attend site at Killagoley and instrumentation required.

Works partially complete at Creagh, Edermine, Carrigbyrne and Ballindaggin boreholes. Woodview Drive, Raheen and Tellarought mechanical works commenced.

The following sites were prioritised due to Boil Water notices: Davidstown and Adamstown –UV installed and functioning, Monagear and Ballycrystal -sites are ready for commissioning by early next week.

IW Asset Planning: Treated Water Storage

Additional reservoir storage to bring schemes up to the required 24 hours of storage of treated water has been approved for Camolin, Killealy and Kilmallock. Currently at site selection phase.

Water Network Program

Coffey Water (CNL) have been appointed as regional contractor for the Water Network Programme for the South East. CNL have work orders for public side lead replacement works in Enniscorthy and Backyard Service replacement in Enniscorthy, Wexford, Gorey and Taghmon. Major BYS replacement currently underway in Enniscorthy town. This work will be ongoing throughout the year and new work orders issued for other identified works. First fix leak repairs are ongoing on a daily basis around the county. 1400 non-domestic meters are due to be replaced in bulk with drive-by meters.

GMC Sierra have been awarded a separate contract for WNP in Wexford town which includes the decommissioning of 8km of old back yard mains , installation of 7.5km of new watermain in the public road and 836 service connections. Public meetings are to be arranged by Irish Water and GMC in due course.

Capital Maintenance Budget

CM is operating on a rolling budget since 2017. Current approved spend from IW is 2,841,107. Total commitments to end of April was €2,311,706. Level of budget increase for 2019 has yet to be announced.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

Awaiting Response from DHPLG to submissions forwarded on 13th March, 2019.

Blackstairs Group Water Scheme

Design Documents ongoing for upgrade of 4km of network from the water treatment plant to the Poulpeasty storage tank. Site Investigation tender documents being prepared.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Irish Water Connection offer accepted and returned by group to Irish Water. Awaiting confirmation on allocations from the DHPLG.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Taking in charge applications forwarded to Irish Water.

WATER CONSERVATION

Leak Detection and Repair:

- 34nr leaks were detected and repaired in May 2019. Repairs in May reduced the countywide consumption to 42.33MLD, a saving of 0.622MLD, compared to April '19.

Water Network Programme with Coffey Northumberland:

- First Fix scheme:
 - There is currently 3,048nr properties identified as receiving disproportionate volumes of water, equating to approx. 3.2MLD.
 - Coffey Northumberland are working throughout the county with customers to repair customer side leaks.
- Gorey:
 - Grattin St. and McCurtain St. work completed 24/05/2019. Main to be decommissioned June '19, a road closure is required to complete works.
 - Coffey Northumberland will commence mains rehab on the Main st in Ferns in July '19, a road closure will be in place.
 - Cahore main rehab is scheduled for late autumn '19.
- New Ross:
 - Charlton Hill has outstanding reinstatement works. Footpath will be completed by Coffey Northumberland in conjunction with Old Charlton Hill BYS works in 2019.
 - Some survey works have commenced on Bewley Street.

- Wexford:
 - Backyard main to a terrace on the east side of Wolf Tone Villas has been decommissioned. Approval received to connect up remaining houses, surveys underway.
 - A section of backyard main to the rear of Hantoon rd has been decommissioned.
 - GMC have commenced BYS and mains rehab survey works in Wexford town.

- Enniscorthy:
 - Private side lead replacement works in St Aidan's commenced in 15/02/2019. Works include connections to mains at front of houses and decommissioning BYS.
 - Belfield Road BYS works commenced March '19. 1300.0m of new main have been installed.
 - Detailed design for St Johns Villas has been received.
 - Rectory road main rehab is currently being designed by Coffey Northumberland.
 - Ballindaggin main rehab scheduled for autumn '19 by Coffey Northumberland.

Find and Fix Scheme:

- 2nr Find and Fix Leak detection operatives have commenced works, based in Mayglass.
- 7nr DMA's have been selected for intensive leak detection works under the Find and Fix scheme, including areas in New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey.

Pressure Management:

- Water Network Program pressure management works of new PRV's, chambers and kiosks will commence in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross areas in August 2019.

SCADA-Telemetry:

- Works to the SCADA system are ongoing.

Global Information System:

- Corrections to system are continuously being surveyed and digitised on the Arc GIS.

5. Finance:

Annual Financial Statement 2018 - Audit

The 2018 Accounts are currently the subject of Audit by the Local Government Audit Service and this is expected to be concluded in the coming months. The statutory Audit Report will be brought to members and the Audit Committee once the audit is complete.

Audit Committee

The process for nominating external members for the new Audit Committee is underway and is expected to be concluded shortly to facilitate the first meeting to be scheduled in July. A date will be agreed with the incoming members.

Rates Revaluation

The Rates Revaluation progress continues to be progressed by the Commissioner of Valuation, with final certificates to be issued to rated occupiers in September. The Council awaits the outcome of this process to determine the final ARV (Annual Rate on Valuation) to be applied in the county for 2020. One of the principles associated with the process is that the local authority cannot increase the total Rates Value in the year immediately following the Revaluation as determined by the Rates Limitation Order associated with the Valuation Acts governing the process. Therefore, once the final ARV is determined the Rates Limitation Order does not allow the Council to increase/decrease the ARV as part of the Budget process.

The Valuation Office website contains a specific element focused on the Wexford Revaluation Exercise which is being updated as the process progresses. Wexford County Council also has information on the Revaluation Process published on the Council's website including the indicative ARV which has been determined at 0.257. This ARV rate may or may not have to be adjusted once the final revaluation data is determined.

On receipt of the final certificates all rated occupiers in the county will, at that point, have 28 days to lodge an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.

The result of the Revaluation Exercise i.e. revised valuations and ARV will be applicable for rating purposes from 1st January 2020.

Local Property Tax

In line with the regulations governing the annual budget process the public consultation to seek submission in advance of the members decision on the local variation factor will commence in early July. This process will include advertisements being placed in all local papers seeking submissions during the months of July and August and an online submission site will also be placed on the Council's website to facilitate the submission process. All submissions received will be included in the Budget Strategy report to be prepared and submitted to members in early September during the initial discussions/meetings on Budget 2020 and the setting of the local LPT variation factor for 2020. The LPT variation factor must be decided before the end of September to meet DHPLG and Revenue timelines.

Cash Flow/Overdraft

The Council continues to operate in overdraft, Ministerial Sanction is in place for borrowing by way of overdraft in the amount of €13m for the period to the 31st December, 2019.

**Tom Enright,
Chif Executive.**