



Chief Executive's Report

MARCH 2019

1.Economic Development & Planning:

Johnstown Castle Gardens and Irish Agricultural Museum: This well-established visitor attraction welcomes over 50,000 paying visitors a year. In 2016 Teagasc secured a grant of €7.5 million to enable it to construct a new visitor centre with restaurant and retail facilities, purpose-built entrance into the site for coaches and a children's play area and funding to restore the Castle. However, there was still a significant under-development of assets on the estate that required investment.

Initially Breege Cosgrave was asked to look at the possibility of a food incubation unit on an area that was formerly the pottered sheds/walled garden area. To bring this area up to food standard would require significant investment and structural work and instead it was proposed that a scoping report be completed to look at potential opportunities for development. Working with the steering group supported by Yvonne Byrne, a report was completed in early September which was used to form the basis of an application submitted under the Rural Regeneration & Development Grant. Based on capital expenditure of €878,262 funding of €658,695 was awarded to support 7 key objectives including;

- renovation of the glasshouses
- collaboration with food producers to create branded artisan food products based on produce grown on the Estate
- renovation of existing structures and establishment of craft studios, enterprise units and a forge
- delivery of education and training programmes in horticulture, artisan foods, rural crafts, wildlife and ecology in collaboration with education providers
- improved accessibility through completion of lower lake walkways and purchase of electric vehicles.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR
**IRELAND'S BEST YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR!**

Visit www.ibye.ie to find out more



Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition is well underway and to date we have received 12 completed applications with a further 9 with an "incomplete status". These applications should be completed over the coming days. To increase applications, we are taking a regional approach by promoting directly with WIT and IT Carlow, speaking directly to students and lecturers. We are also conducting targeted Facebook advertising, a regional marketing campaign with BEAT FM, distribution of marketing materials and mailshots to key influencers. The closing date for this competition is March 15th.

Local Enterprise Week 2019: This is the 4th nationally co-ordinated week that will take place throughout the country from the 4th to the 8th March. The following is a listing of events:

Name of lead organisation	Title of Event	Location
BOI/The Hatch Lab/LEO Wexford	Start-up Weekend	The Hatch Lab
LEO Wexford	Be prepared for a hard Brexit	Wexford County Council
LEO Wexford	Tax & VAT for Start-Up Businesses	Wexford County Council
Gorey Library/LEO Wexford	Work Matters Start-ups Meet ups	Gorey Library
LEO Wexford	Judging of Student Enterprise Awards	Various schools throughout county
LEO Wexford	Deliver a Story to Win Sales & Investments	The Hatch Lab,
LEO Wexford	Pricing for Profit Clinic	Wexford County Council
BNY Mellon/LEO Wexford	International Women's Day Network Event	BNY Mellon
Wexford Library	Introduction to Entrepreneurship - Discovering Customer Segments	Wexford Library
LEO Wexford	Twitter for Business - Beginners	Wexford Library
LEO Wexford	Introduction to Tendering	Wexford County Council
LEO Wexford	Breakfast briefing for accountants/tax advisors	Wexford County Council
LEO Wexford	South East Radio Outside Broadcast at Harte Outdoor Lighting and formal announcement of county nominee for the National Enterprise Awards.	New Ross

Employment outputs 2018: The LEO Wexford currently has a portfolio of 227 grant aided companies with total jobs of 1,065.

National Enterprise Awards: The nominee representing Wexford at the National Enterprise Awards 2019 is Harte Outdoor Lighting. Following a judging process at regional and national level, the Awards will be presented at a Gala Dinner black tie event in Dublin on 29th May 2019.

TOURISM

Ireland's Ancient East: Wexford continues to lead the way in the implementation of Ireland's Ancient East proposition by Fáilte Ireland. Just three years since its launch Ireland's Ancient East is now a well-established brand and is making significant impact on tourism across the county. Support from Fáilte Ireland continues and some of the Visitor Experience plans for 2019 include the Viking Fire Festival which will take part in Wexford on 28th & 29th September 2019 which will take part at The Irish National Heritage Park and Wexford Town and will include the following:

- A Flotilla of Viking boats from the Irish National Heritage Park to Wexford Quay
- A Burning Boat Procession with torches, lamp lit boats, Viking long ship leads, music and
- drumming will leave the Heritage park and makes its way downstream to Wexford town
- Boat ignited by archers from Quayside
- Fire display

The Norman Way: The Norman Way Wexford, was shortlisted as a finalist in the 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA in the Best Heritage Project category and won the silver award at the awards ceremony which was held on Saturday 9th February 2019.

BUCANIER (Building Clusters and Networks in Innovation Enterprise and Research)

Project Actions - February

- Attended Pembrokeshire Supplier to Buyer Event and Networking event with Welsh BUCANIER companies with Irish 10 BUCANIER companies on the 6th/7th of February.
Gaelic Escargot – Carlow
Skibbereen Food Co – Cork
Dudes Foods – Kerry
Naturally Cordial – Wexford
BT Wines – Cork
Drew Fox – Wexford
Gluten Free Kitchen – Kerry
Fresh Fish Deli – Cork
Costello's Brewery – Kilkenny
Longways Cider Co – Tipperary
- BUCANIER Officer attended the Renewable Energy Summit Dublin 12th February
- BUCANIER Stand at the Bio Energy Future Ireland Conference 13th February
- Exporting Workshop for BUCANIER participants 27th February in Carlow
- 1 new Wexford Company signed up in February–Jackford Gin (40 Irish companies now signed up)
- BUCANIER Renewables Seminar agreed for 1st May
- Irish/Wales Project Officers Meeting held 20th February – Agreed to carry out an Innovation Analytic Tool on each BUCANIER company

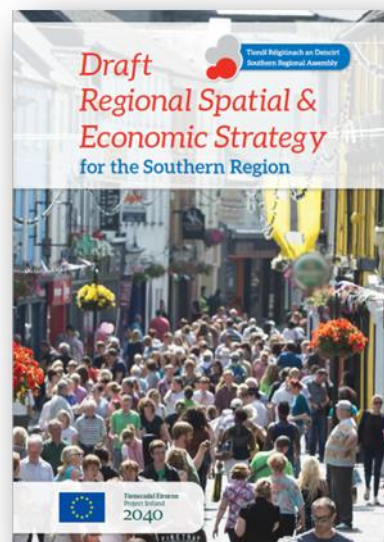
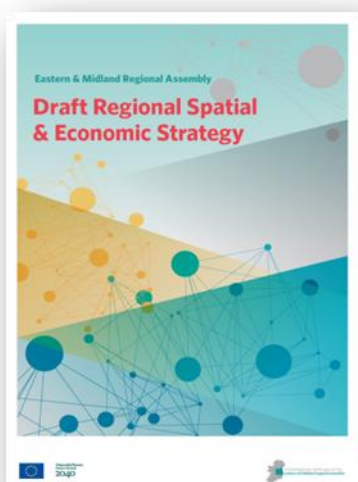
Planned Project Actions for March

- BUCANIER Stand at SEAI Energy Conference on 27th and 28th of March.
- Networking Event for BUCANIER participants 25th March in Waterford
- Push on the recruiting of Renewable and Life Science SME's
- Claim 4 Sep 18 – Feb 19 due
- Progress Report for period 4 Sep 18 – Feb 19 due
- 13 Irish companies have now had over 12hrs support and can be claimed as SME's receiving support (one of the project outputs) the target for project end is 60 companies

Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 15/02/2019	161
No. of pre planning requests up to 15/02/2019	38

Forward Planning: The **Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES)** is currently on display and the Regional Assembly are currently accepting submissions on the draft Strategy. The draft RSES provides a long-term, regional-level strategy for the physical, economic and social development of the Southern Region. It supports the implementation of the National Planning Framework. The RSES will set the framework for the Wexford County Development Plan, the Local Area Plans for our towns, the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan, funding applications and other plans and programmes of Wexford County Council.



The Southern Regional Assembly will consider all submissions made in writing:-

before 5.00pm Friday 08th March 2019 before adopting the RSES. Submissions or observations can be made via:

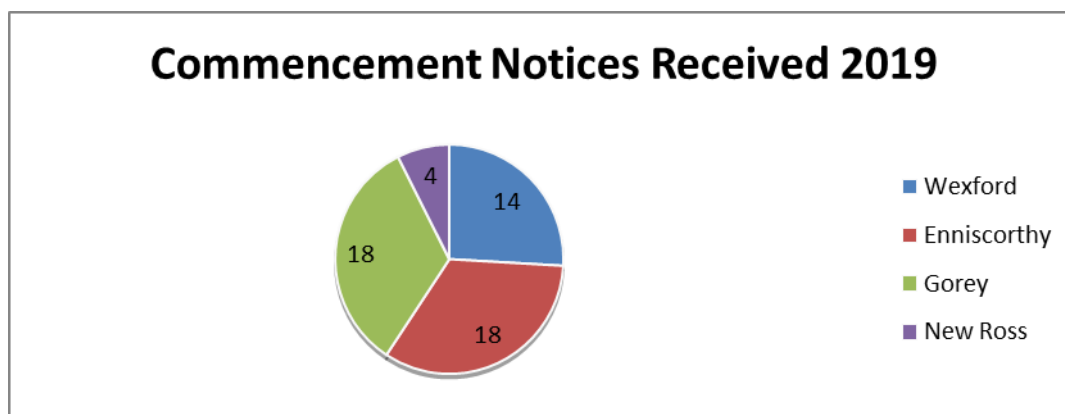
- Online: www.southernassembly.ie (see below)
- Email: rses@southernassembly.ie
- Mail: RSES Submissions, Southern Regional Assembly, Assembly House, O'Connell Street, Waterford X91F8PC

Eastern Midlands Regional Authority Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy: The Eastern Midlands Regional Authority are also preparing their Regional Spatial and Economic and Spatial Strategy. The Forward Planning section prepared a submission which seeks the inclusion of Eastern Economic Corridor (Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare Harbour) in that Strategy.

Wexford County Development Plan: Wexford County Council has been directed to suspend the statutory process for preparing its County Development Plan until the RSES is adopted. Notwithstanding background work on the plan and its strategies is continuing.

Building Control:

Commencement Notices: A total of 54 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 20th February 2019 on the BCMS.



Taking in Charge: Rosehill Heights Estate, Rosslare was taken in charge at a meeting of Wexford Municipal District on the 18th February 2019.

The total number of estates Taken in Charge this year to date: 2

Derelict Sites, Dangerous Structures and Vacant Sites: Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990	2
Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964	1
Notices issued under Section 7 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	0

Planning Enforcement: The number of planning enforcement cases as at 19/02/2019 is as follows;

- Cases Opened 8
- Live Cases 304
- Cases Closed 5

Circuit Court Case: Planning Enforcement case Byrne's Garage, Ballywilliam.

Planning Enforcement case 0167/2016 - End of Life Vehicle processing facility at Byrne's Garage, Ballywilliam.

The Defendants appealed the severity of the €4,000 fine imposed in the District Court on 24th September 2018. On 15th February 2019 at Wexford Circuit Court, the Judge upheld the District Court fine and made an Order that the End of Life Vehicles in excess of the permitted number be removed from the site by 1st June 2019.

ACCESS SECTION:

Disability Access Certificates (DACs): The number of DACs Applications validated up to and including the 22nd February, totals 10. This presents as 4 less than received for the same period in 2018.

Update First Quarter: Programme of Access Works

Accessible Public Conveniences: As part of the 2019 continuation of the accessible Public Convenience (PC) Programme investigations into the possibility of providing for an accessible WC at Ballinesker Beach are underway. Once again the Environment Department are the lead on this project.

National Disability Inclusion Strategy: On-going consultation and review of the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan incorporating the New National Disability Inclusion Strategy will continue into the first two months of 2019. A presentation from the Access Section will be given to the Executive Team on their meeting of the 27th February.

Countywide accessible parking: The Irish Wheelchair Association has requested that representatives of Wexford County Council participate in discussions regarding the issues of accessible parking within the County. The Access Section propose to attend with a view to informing of the WCC Parking App, and the Text Alert Pilot rolled out in Gorey in 2017 and the consideration to roll this out in other towns (currently investigating the practicability of same).

Built Heritage: Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019: The Built Heritage Investment Scheme was developed by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to assist with the repair and conservation of protected structures. Wexford County Council has been allocated a total of €79,000.00 under the 2019 Scheme. A total of 15 applications were received.

These applications have been assessed and we are currently waiting on approval from the Department. The minimum funding for successful projects will be €2,500.00 up to a maximum of €15,000.00.

Historic Structures Fund: The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are currently running a Historic Structures Fund 2019. The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is on caring for and restoring historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. A total of 8 applications were received.

These applications have been assessed and we are currently waiting on approval from the Department.

THE NORMAN WAY FLY'S THE FLAG FOR WEXFORD: Wexford Heritage Project Announced as Silver winner for the All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2019

Presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA



The 2019 All-Ireland Community & Council Awards *presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA* were held in Croke Park on Saturday 9th February 2019. Hosted by RTE's national treasure, sports commentator, Marty Morrissey, the finalists represented their counties following an in-depth judging process over 100 projects nationwide from 22 counties were shortlisted across 25 categories.

The Norman Way, Heritage project was selected as a finalist and on the night we were delighted to be given the Silver Award for Best Heritage Project.

The Norman Way trail runs along the south Wexford coast. It starts at Rosslare Europort, a significant entrance point to Ireland from

both UK and mainland Europe and concludes at New Ross Town, and trail takes in 'off the beaten track' coastal county lanes, smaller villages and largely unexplored areas of South Wexford coastline with direct access to beaches, local amenities and local businesses. The Norman Way trail consist of 11 heritage site's (further sites are being developed).

Each site has either a medieval structure or a significant tourist historical attraction and provides an interpretive experience consisting of a free standing illustrated panel, audio tour and directional signage which informs and encourages the public to engage with Wexford's rich medieval heritage.



2. Special Projects:

Min Ryan Park, Wexford: Works commenced on site in October 2018 but have been impacted by severe wet weather. Works have paused until March. The park is expected to open to the public in September 2019. WCC has secured €500,000 in grant aid for the project from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Trinity Wharf: The master plan is now complete. The application for development approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 15th February 2019. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured for the scheme under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) to date.

Crescent Quay: Works commenced on site on the 14th January, 2019 and are scheduled to be completed in July.

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 is imminent. Works are expected to commence in Q3 2019.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy: At the January 2019 Council meeting the members voted to reject the Part VIII application for the street works. The procurement of consultants for the preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge is underway with tenders now being assessed. An appointment for design services will be in place by early March.

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley: Roadworks and site services are significantly advanced. Works are expected to be substantially complete in Q1 2019. Wexford County Council has secured €200k in funding from the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme for walking trails connecting the town with Vinegar Hill which will use the technology park site.

Gorey Market House: Currently €2.0m of WCC resources is available to fund the project and the outstanding capital funding will have to be secured through WCC's Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) application.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018 and grant funding of €430k was allocated on the 15th February 2019 to advance the project through detailed design and tendering.

Wexford Arts Centre: Tenders for design, planning and construction management services have been received and an appointment is imminent. The Part VIII process is expected to commence in Q2 2019, with works planned to commence on site in Q4 2019.

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. Tenders for design, planning and construction management services have been received and an appointment is imminent. The Part VIII process is due to commence in Q2 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. A preliminary design, drawings and reports to support an application for development consent are currently being prepared. The Part VIII process is expected to commence in early Q2 2019.

Carrigfoyle Activity Centre: Construction of infrastructural works such as access road, car parking and activity trails is planned to commence in Q2 2019. It is envisaged that works will be completed by Q1 2020.

An application for funding for the scheme was submitted under the RRDF scheme in September 2018 has not been successful to date.

Enniscorthy Tourism Project: Wexford County Council has procured services to prepare a feasibility study to develop Enniscorthy as a long term, sustainable tourism destination. Alan Sherwood & Associates has been appointed to prepare the feasibility study and an application to Fáilte Ireland for Capital Investment funding. It is expected that Fáilte Ireland will be open for applications in June 2019. The baseline research is substantially completed and was presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting. The next phase will investigate suitable tourism options for development of the area.

GREENWAYS:

Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway.

Draft route selection reports and environmental screening documents are now complete. A presentation to the Members on the feasibility study took place on 30th October on the route options examined for the Greenway and the findings of the feasibility study, including the preferred option identified.

The preparation of the EIAR & NATURA Impact reports for the proposed development is underway.

An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 28/11/2018.

New Ross to Waterford Greenway:

Section 85 agreements and funding agreements has been signed by Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council & Waterford City & County Council to enable Wexford County Council to act as the lead authority for this project.

Tenders were received for detailed design, tendering and construction management services and a contract for consultancy services was signed in January 2019.

An application for funding for the project was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018.

Curracloe to Wexford Greenway:

Permission for the development was refused by the Board in a decision issued on 17/10/2018 citing, in particular, concerns in relation to the potential impact of the development on the Raven Point Nature Reserve Special Area of Conservation and Wexford Harbour and Slobbs Special Protection Area.

The Council has reviewed in detail the decision of An Bord Pleanála and is currently examining other route options for delivering this important element of greenway Infrastructure.

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 April 2019 <i>(delay due to Irish Water)</i>
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	Due to complete in May 2019 <i>(delay due to Irish Water)</i>
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Stage 4	TAP house (too expensive not approved by DHPLG)
Taghmon	18	New Ross	Preparing Stage 4	Tenders due March 2019
The Ballagh	6	Enniscorthy	Preparing Stage 4	Out to tender in December 2018
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues with owners not yet resolved
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Preparing Stage 3	Part VIII approved December 2018
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Consultants appointed, in discussions with neighbour for more land
Rosetown, Rosslare	39	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2	Part VIII approved
The Faythe	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2	Women's refuge, initial design submitted to stakeholders for review
Carley's Bridge	17	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 (stage 2 Feb 2019)	Consultants appointment
Rosbercon	28	New Ross	Stage 1 approved	Part VIII Q2 2019
Ballyhine, Barntown	6	Wexford	Stage 1	Stage 1 March 2019
Kileens	40	Wexford	Stage 1 Q1 2019	Consultants appointment
Creagh	12	Gorey	Stage 1 approved	Consultants appointed, ESB cables
TOTAL	295			

Pre-development Stage

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Castlemoyle	40	New Ross	Land Aggregation Scheme Phase 1 - Feasibility
Marconi Park	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 December 2018 – review drainage
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey
Wexford Street	20	Gorey	Stage 1 December 2018, awaiting DHPLG approval
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Special Needs Housing, Stage 1 application March 2019
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 December 2018, survey complete
Castlebridge	1	Wexford	TAP house, site ownership to WCC (sketch design)
TOTAL	66		

Longer Term Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Park	10	Wexford	
Clonard	26	Wexford	Site will be cleared by March 2019
Adamstown	16	New Ross	No services capacity presently, discussion with Irish Water ongoing re upgrade
Tagoat	12	Wexford	Site cleared, addressing boundaries
Rosemary Heights, Ferns	8	Gorey	Feasibility study, preparing Stage 1 Q2 2019
Daphne View	24	Enniscorthy	Access issues – on hold
Thomastown Road, Rosbercon	10	New Ross	Early feasibility
Bride Street	2	Wexford	Survey and recommendations Q1 2019
TOTAL	108		

Other Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – rebuild, surveyed by Structural Engineer
Newtown, Ferns	1	Gorey	Housing for demolition and rebuild
TOTAL	2		

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	14	Wexford	14 units to be delivered 2019
Knockmullen	18	Gorey	Due to be delivered 2019
Mulgannon	6	Wexford	Delivery date awaited
TOTAL	51		

Turnkeys

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Gleann an Ghairdin	22	Gorey	12 units occupied, 10 to be occupied 2019
Ard Uisce	35	Wexford	12 units occupied, 23 to be occupied 2019
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	10	Gorey	4 units completed, all 10 units to be occupied in 2019
TOTAL	70		

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			
Hunters Hill	36	Gorey	To be occupied 2019
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 by end of March 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	Approval received. Construction underway to be delivered by end of 2019
Oaklee			
Fearach an Cnoic	46	Enniscorthy	24 units to be occupied by the end of March balance to be occupied by Q3 2019
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	Approval awaited from Department
TOTAL	408		

ENVIRONMENT

Illegal Dumping Blackspots: The expanded Environmental Clean Up Crews have already started to investigate illegal dumping blackspots throughout the County. Work in these areas has been intensified since January with the Environmental Clean Up Crews, working with the Environmental Wardens and other Waste Teams from the Environment Department.

All of these teams will be targeting these blackspots locations through investigative work including the use of the recently passed Waste Presentation Bye-Laws which gives the authority to our staff to request evidence of a bin collection contract or alternative approved methods for residual waste disposal

Coastal Erosion Study: Following on from other previous coastal studies in particular areas including the Rosslare and Courtown area Environmental coastal staff have commenced a detailed examination of the coastline to examine recent impacts on the entire coastline highlighting public infrastructure and dwelling houses throughout the county that may be at risk from severe storms. The updated study will compare the current coastline with predicted erosion levels from previous studies

Public Convenience Network: A current review of all County Council owned Public Conveniences throughout the County is currently underway. The purpose of the review is to update the capital programme for new and enhanced facilities, to assess the adequacy of the APC's (Automatic Public Conveniences) in particular in Enniscorthy and Gorey. The review will also look at enhancement of caretaking operations throughout the county

COMMUNITY

Collaborative Working: The LCDC is proposing to hold a workshop on Collaborative Working between the relevant agencies in the New Ross and Enniscorthy Municipal Districts. The suggested date for this workshop will be mid April 2019. Further details of the proposed event will be presented to the members at the March meeting of the LCDC. This event will assist in the development of the Community Action Plans for both towns.

Wexford Prepares for the Unexpected: A guide designed to help individuals and community groups prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies in their local areas was launched on Monday 11 February by Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Councillor Keith Doyle.

Preparing for the Unexpected is a written guide to help prepare for emergencies such as severe weather events. The guide will not replace the emergency services – rather it will support those services, helping you to make sensible preparations now so that people and communities can be more self-sufficient during an emergency.

Preparing for the Unexpected is a joint initiative of Wexford Emergency Services, including Wexford County Council, the HSE, an Garda Síochána, National Ambulance Service, Order of Malta, Red Cross, Wexford Civil Defence and Wexford PPN (Public Participation Network) in partnership with Wexford GAA, Wexford IFA, Society of Vincent De Paul, Muintir na Tíre, Wexford Marine Watch and Meals on Wheels. The document is based around the concept of enabling well-established clubs and groups to work with their members and wider community to prepare effectively for emergency weather events that may occur in their locality.

In addition to helping their local community prepare for such emergencies, these groups and clubs have also agreed to assist the Emergency Services during the response to the event by assisting in the provision of emergency food, water or heating supplies, transport, basic medical assistance, or simply some help to those affected by the emergency event.

The *Preparing for the Unexpected* guide will be delivered to every home and business in County Wexford within the coming weeks. All households are urged to read the document carefully, to note the contents, to make the recommended preparations and to store this useful guide in a safe place for reference during any period of sustained severe weather.

National Community Event (4-6 May 2019): Last September, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring, TD, announced the launch of a National Community Event, to be held for the first time over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 2019. Local communities are asked to come up with ideas for events in their areas. Events could be centred round food, sport, the environment or health and culture. Events will take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend (4-6 May) 2019. The days will be getting longer and the summer will be just upon us.

The event is a chance for people to foster a sense of helping each other by coming together, not just on that day, but all year round. It's the chance for everyone to get know all members of their community, to reconnect with neighbours and have a celebration together that is open, inclusive and local.

It is proposed to advertise the NCE immediately and invite applications. The funding allocation for County Wexford is €10,000. The allocation will be divided between the four Municipal Districts and In accordance with the Guidelines the maximum grant allocation will be €300.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Courses (Child Protection) (Objective 3.2): Safeguarding 1: 2 Courses have been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 25 participants. Safeguarding 2: 1 Course has been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 6 participants.

Staff Exercise Classes (Objective 1.3): Staff exercise classes continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Circuits take place every week at lunchtimes.

FAI Intercultural programmes: Sports Active Wexford attended a meeting with FAI officers Des Tomlinson and James Toner, about organising FAI Intercultural programmes in Co. Wexford. The meeting was also attended by William Doyle, FAI Development officer for Wexford and Hannah Culkin, Doras Lumni. Plans are now being put in place for a Futsal league to begin in the county and a teaching English through soccer programme

Men's Shed Scooch: 32 men from around the County took part in the first Men's Shed Scooch Blitz of 2019. The venue was Rosslare Sports and Recreation Centre and the day kicked off with a game of Walking football led by Wexford FAI Development Officer, William Doyle, followed by a Scooch Blitz. It was great to see some new faces at this event. The next Intercounty Skirmish is due to take place in Co. Wexford in March.

Refugee Fit for 2019 programme: Sports Active Wexford organised for the refugee groups in Wexford and Enniscorthy to avail of gym/exercise class passes. The groups will begin the exercise program on Monday 25th in Astro Active, Enniscorthy and Kinetic Fitness, New Ross.

Bunclody Urban Adventure Hub: On Tuesday 26th February, Colin Gibbon on behalf of Sports Active Wexford has organised for the cabins to be lifted into the site next to the river at Bunclody Urban Adventure Hub.

LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

Acquisition: The archive of the late historian and author, Billy Colfer, was deposited in the County Archive in late February 2019. Comprising research notes, draft manuscripts, publications, slides, photographs and maps, this valuable collection will be prioritised for cataloguing later this year.

My Open Library Gorey: Gorey Library will join the growing number of My Open Library pilots around the country in March 2019. Under **My Open Library** registered members can access the library using their library card and pin for two and a half hours before regular opening every morning and from regular closing time until 10pm daily. The library will also be accessible to **My Open Library** members on Sundays from 8am until 10pm without any reduction in staffed hours. **My Open Library** gives users and communities better choice in when they can visit their library and is a key action under the Our Public Libraries 2022 national strategy.

Parenting Today, the second series of these free talks on parenting will be held in all libraries in County Wexford during 2019. The programme is a joint initiative by Wexford County Council Public Library Service and Wexford CYPSC. It was launched in Wexford Library on 28th February. Dr Mary O'Kane, lecturer in Psychology and Early Childhood Education, gave the keynote talk on 'Building Self- esteem and Resilience in Young Children'.

This year, over 35 talks will be given in libraries by practitioners working in community care, education and health sectors. They cover many aspects of parenting from the importance of play to speech and language development and paediatric first aid. For parents with babies and young children, there are talks on breastfeeding, early year's education and storytelling. The talks will also address parenting a child with special needs and explore difference. They will provide guidance on transitioning from primary to secondary school, dyslexia, family finance and childcare. The brochure is available at <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/more-library-services/children-and-young-people/parenting-today>

Work Matters at your Library: The business and employment support service **Work Matters** continued to develop in libraries around Wexford in February. The service, which was recently shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Award, included a series of four talks by Catherine Duggan on Entrepreneurship, Lean Start Up Principle and Identifying and Creating a Value Proposition. Digital marketing workshops with Sarah Jane Vincent were also provided in February. **Wexford Breakfast Network** held service information exchange sessions for library staff, giving information on the services from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in order to aid signposting to services by library staff.

Fighting Words: On 7th February, Fighting Words Wexford, a new writing and story making programme for children was launched in Wexford Library. **Fighting Words** was established in Dublin by Sean Love and Roddy Doyle. The programme aims to help children and young people to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. **Fighting Words** will offer creative writing workshops to all primary schools in County Wexford from Wexford Library with the support of library staff and a team of adult mentors.

TTRS Library Pilot, A new touch typing course to support children with specific learning difficulties by teaching keyboard skills began in Bunclody library this February. The program aims to build literacy and numeracy skills and increase confidence and self-esteem in users as they master the art of keyboarding. Because it takes a multi-sensory approach to tuition, TTRS is suitable for users who struggle with physical impairments and specific learning difficulties, like dyslexia.

The course will be run for one hour per week on Monday and Wednesday and will run for 1 year approx. until the child completes the programme. Parents attend with each session. 10 children and their parents will attend weekly. TTRS will be rolled out in all five branch libraries in March.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Funding by Creative Ireland for 2019 of €96,744 for County Wexford has been allocated. A Service Level Agreement between Creative Ireland and each local authority has been drafted and outlines how the use of funds must support the implementation of the Strategic Priorities in the Culture and Creativity Strategy and align with the broader priorities of Creative Ireland.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2019 will take place on 15 June 2019. A sum of up to **€15,000** is being made available to Wexford County Council to support the delivery of a specific programme of events. Planning has already begun for events in each district that encourage engagement and creativity for children and young people.

On 28th February **"Feeding the Soul" - "The Diversity of Cultural Heritage in County Wexford"** a short film documentary by Wexford based filmmaker Terence White and supported by funding from the Creative Ireland Cultural Heritage and Bliain na Gaeilge Scheme 2018 was launched in Wexford Arts Centre. This short film captures the diversity of multi-cultural heritage in Wexford today. We get an insight into varied cultural backgrounds of participants and how traditions are passed on or memories preserved for future generations. A copy will be held within the Local History Collections of Wexford County Council Public libraries. The documentary features interviews with: Ned Wall - Wexford Piper; Bridget Connors - Traveller Community; Catherine Kielthy Dempsey - Mary's Bar; Karla Sanchez O'Connell - originally from Mexico with interest in curating cultural participation events; Benny Mythen originally from Ghana; Pádraig Grant - Wexford photographer; Billy Doyle - Rosslare Lifeboat memorial for the Mexico ship tragedy; Mirona Mara - visual artist originally from Romania.

ARTS

'Artlinks' Awards for artists: Artlinks offers professional development support for emerging and professional artists in the South East Region with Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford Arts offices. In 2019 Wexford received 42 applications in total in all art forms which represents a 40% increase in applications, making it a very competitive fund. The total fund increased from €20,000 in 2018 to €25,000 in 2019. Assessment took place in February 2019 with 20 artists awarded bursaries ranging from €1,000 to €2,000 in visual arts, theatre, literature, music, film and dance. All artists were notified on 21st February 2019.

Small festival/ experimental Events call out: this new festival fund is in its 2nd year, it aims to promote new and high quality arts festival and experimental art events. The deadline for applications is Monday 25th February 2019. The total fund is €20,000, each festival/ event is awarded between €1,000 to €3,000 maximum. Festivals must take place between April and December 2019.

New Leitrim Sculpture Residency award: this 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 space, time and comprehensive technical facilities being made available for practice and research, to assist in the development of new work. The Residency is for 6 weeks and provides living and work space, and free access to LSC's unique and comprehensive technical facilities (stone, metal casting and fabrication, hot glass, ceramics, woodwork, digital and traditional print, and mould making.) In addition the awarded artist receives a bursary of €1,400 towards materials and expenses. The closing date for applications is 15th April, 2019. www.leitrimsculpturecentre.ie

The 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. Each bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for a two-

week period, with the use of a studio if necessary and a stipend of €300 towards expenses. Closing date for applications is 15th April, 2019 www.tyroneguthrie.ie

‘Open Call’ Exhibition Opportunities at the Creative Hub: the Arts Office did an Open call in February 2019 to artists, or artist groups resident in County Wexford, who are interested in exhibiting their work in the Creative Hub in Wexford town for 2019 (May to Dec). The venue is provided free of charge. In exchange all artists are responsible for all aspects of their exhibition i.e. installation, invigilation, PR, exhibition launch and dismantling of work. The Arts Office and Wexford Art Centre/ Creative Hub will assist with publicity for the exhibition. The closing date for applications is the 1st April 2019.

Creative Community Programme, Artists Panel: 26 artists were selected for this panel across visual arts, literature, music, dance and puppetry/circus skills. Applications to community groups within the PPN network open on 1st March 2019. The Arts Office convened an artists’ panel networking morning on Tuesday 8th February which was well attended by 15 artists.

FIRE SERVICE

News: Wexford Fire Authority shall facilitate two National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) 2 day fire safety workshops for senior officers nationally. The first is in May and the second in November. **Fire Operations:** There were 104 incidents in January as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls January 2019	Calls to date 2019	Calls to this period 2018
Chimney fire	29	29	18
Domestic fire	6	6	9
Road Traffic Accident	12	12	13
Industrial fire	1	1	0
Commercial fire	0	0	0
Assembly fire	0	0	0
Agricultural fire	1	1	1
Motor Vehicles	7	7	3
Forest/bog/grass etc	1	1	0
Rubbish	9	9	3
Non-fire rescues	2	2	1
False alarms – good intent	23	23	19
Malicious false alarms	0	0	2
Miscellaneous	13	13	4
Total	104	104	73

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	January
Fire Safety Certificates	12	7
Planning Referrals	79	42

Number of Inspections	Year to date	January
FSA Inspections	26	18

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civic Duties: We had two duties for February 2019:

24th February, Wexford Athletics, New Ross
28th February, Wexford Night Run 5K

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.

Enniscorthy Unit: The Enniscorthy held their first training night in Enniscorthy Fire Station on Monday 18th February 2019. We had a total of 22 new recruits attend on the night. The new recruits will cover their basic training over the coming months to include, CFR (Community First Responder), FAR (First Aid Responder), Search Skills, Child Protection and Manual Handling & People Handling.

Training Courses

Search Responder's: 8 Volunteers completed their Search Responder's course in Wexford on 9th and 10th February. The volunteers completed theory element in our HQ Ardcavan and the practical elements in Killurin.

CFR Advanced and EMT CPG Upskilling: We held a CFR Advanced and EMT CPG Upskilling course in HQ on Sunday 24th February 2019 to ensure our EMT's can be privileged on 15th March 2019. The course was offered to all counties within the region.

Boating SOG (Standard Operation Guidelines): The revised boating Standard Operation Guidelines were launched in the Civil Defence College Roscrea on Wednesday 13th February 2019. A lead Coxswain will be nominated from Wexford to help with the roll out of the new SOGS to all coxswains and crews in Wexford.

Launch of the Preparing for the unexpected: The Civil Defence Officer attended the launch of the Preparing for the unexpected leaflet on Monday 11th February in the Maldron Hotel. The event was also attended by Wexford GAA, Wexford IFA, St Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels, Wexford Order of Malta, Fire Service, Wexford Marinewatch.

Wexford Military Barracks Garden of Remembrance: The Civil Defence Officer attending the opening of a garden of remembrance in Wexford Barracks on Sunday 24th February 2019. The opening was performed by Minister Paul Kehoe TD, and attended by General Officer Commanding One Brigade, Brigadier General Paddy Flynn and O.C St Stephens Barracks Kilkenny Murt Larkin, Army Chaplain Fr David Murphy and Cllr Jim Moore.



4. Transportation, Water Services:

COUNTY WEXFORD'S NATIONAL ROADS SCHEMES:

1. N25 New Ross Bypass

Progress Update March 2019

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

The installation of the cables on all three towers on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge are progressing in unison with the progression of the respective towers and decks upwards and outwards. The final form of the bridge is now becoming evident as the respective cantilever decks extend further out to meet each other.

All three mainline roundabout junctions (N25 Glenmore, N25 Ballymacar & N30 Corcoran's Cross) continue to operate under temporary traffic management as part the existing national road network. These junctions remain part of the works site pending the opening of the bypass. Realignment and junction works on the R733 are nearing completion. The Pink Rock Road re-opened to traffic on the 18th of February. The L4026 Stokestown Road will be closed to traffic from the 19th of March to the 15th of April (i.e. Monday before Easter). This is to facilitate the completion of realignment and tie-in works. A closure order has been published and diversion routes will be signposted. Local residents, businesses and bus operators have been notified.

To mark Engineers Week (March 2-8) the project is hosting an event with transition year students in the local secondary schools to highlight this landmark engineering project and the opportunities provided by a career in engineering. Engineer's Week is an initiative of Engineers Ireland, the representative professional body for engineers in Ireland. Among the objectives of Engineers Week is to reach out to young people to highlight the diverse opportunities that a career in engineering offers, and to hopefully inspire them to explore engineering as a career path. The event will be co-hosted as a collaborative venture by Wexford County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the N25 New Ross Bypass PPP Company, and the Contractor Joint Venture of BAM/Dragados.



1. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge at dusk.



2. Finishing Works to Mainline at Lacken



3. N30 Corcoran's Cross Roundabout in operation

2. M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme update

Program

The contractor has stated during the last progress meeting that their program is on target and the M11, and N80 will be open 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 Dec 2016	Progress Reported in Dec 2017	Progress Reported in Dec 2018	Progress Reported in Feb 2019
Site Clearance	96%	98%	99%	99%
Fencing	85%	86%	93%	94%
Drainage & Service Ducts	7%	30%	92%	96%
Earthworks	23%	75%	98%	98%
Structures – Main Bridges		56%	95%	97%
Structures – Culverts	29%	96%	99%	99%
Structures – Access Structures	12%	84%	96%	96%
Kerbs Footways & Paved Areas			74%	78%
Safety Barrier			36%	43%
Pavement			70%	78%

Notification of Major Road Works

Roadwork Element	Ongoing Works	Completion Date
M11 Frankfurt Junction	Contraflow and traffic restriction north and southbound lanes for the construction of the interchange	July 2019
R744 Tomnafunshoge	Traffic Lights to allow for the construction of the tie in	10/04/19
N11 Scurlocksbush	Lane Restrictions to allow for the construction of the roundabout	July 2019
N30 Templescoby	Lane Restrictions for the propriety works for the new roundabout	June 2019
R702 Milehouse	Traffic Lights to allow for the construction of the tie in	26/04/19
N11/ N80 Clavass Roundabout	Lane Restrictions to allow for the construction of the New N30 Roundabout	April 2019

Applications submitted to WCC by the PPP Co.:

Road Closure Applications

The following road closures are to be submitted for statutory procedure:

Road	Closure Date	Duration (Weeks)	Opening Date
L2008, Old Dublin Road, Clavass	18/02/19 (closed)	5 weeks	29/03/19
N80, Clavass Roundabout	4/03/19	2 weeks	23/03/19

The 2019 TII road improvement allocation has been received from TII.

The following schemes will be carried out in 2019;

- N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.
- N11 Maldron roundabout to Ferrycarrig bridge (Killeen to Newtown Phase 2)
- N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

2018 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation:

The following schemes were ongoing in February

N25 New Ross By-Pass Residual Network

N30/ R700 Roundabout

Works commenced in July. This scheme is due to be completed in March.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 1

This scheme runs from Ferrycarrig Bridge to just south of Kyle Crossroads. Works commenced on September 12th. Drainage works were completed in December. Pavement works will be completed by the end of March.

N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 2

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. This scheme should be tendered in the first quarter of 2019.

N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne

This scheme should be tendered in April.

N30 Clonroche from Ballymackessy to Tomfarney.

This scheme should be tendered in April/May

Public Lighting LED Upgrade

Works have commenced in the 2019 upgrade which will involve the replacement of up to 3,400 lanterns.

Installation of the lanterns should commence in March and should be completed by September.

Winter Maintenance

The 2018/2019 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 15th. October. There have been 23 no. call outs up to Sunday 24th, February.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

Improvement Works

Work ongoing at Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District).

Strengthening

Resurfacing/strengthening completed at Mangan, Tinakilla & Coolaknick (all in Enniscorthy District); Fatima Terrace (in Gorey District).

Local Improvement Schemes

Local Improvement Schemes completed in Park Lane & Knockanure (all in Enniscorthy District).

Drainage Improvement Works

Drainage improvement works completed at Ballyroe buck & Tombrick. Drainage improvement works in progress at Skarawalsh (all in Enniscorthy 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 WWTP is to be extended to cater for a PE of 26,000, up 10,000 PE from the existing 16,000 PE, which is an increase of 30% in the available capacity. 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 ahead of programme and the plant is now fully operational. Handover to Irish Water Operations is currently underway.

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 is scheduled to be 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 are due to commence in Wexford Town in early April 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.

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 contractors in December, 2018 and are currently being reviewed.

IW Asset Delivery: Untreated Agglomeration Study (UTAS)

Aecom has been appointed to design a waste water treatment scheme 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 now complete. The treatment standard for the schemes has been increased to both primary and secondary treatment.

The CPO for Duncannon, Arthurstown and Ballyhack has been advertised. This project is now out to tender Arthurstown, Ballyhack & Duncannon with tender due to be returned by the end of January, 2019. Tenders have been returned and are currently being assessed.

IW Asset Delivery: Wexford Town Watermain Rehab and Gas Network

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. Returned tenders are currently assessed.

Direct Labour Pipe Laying Crew

Redshire road works are now complete and the crew are rehabilitating the water main in Kilmallock. A major rationalisation project is next for the crew in Bunclody.

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.

The feasibility study report on options to upgrade the plant has been completed and is currently under review.

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.(Wastewater to Wexford WWTW)

- Pump Station operational as of Thursday 14th February 2019
- Decommissioning Wastewater Plant commenced Tuesday 19th February 2019

Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station

- 4th number Storm Pump:
 1. Waiting on spares, due 3rd week of February
 2. Motor has been rewound
 3. To be assembled and tested - provisional completion date end of February 2019 and installation 1st week March 2019
- Replace existing rubber fuel hoses, with galvanised steel pipework, between External Tank and Standby generator postponed to March 2019

Carcur Pumping Station

- Meeting contactor later this week regarding quotation for passive stone trap, Face on Valve etc.
(note IW to draw up spec for new control system, pumps variable speed drive - 3 pumps running – duty, duty assist, duty assist assist)

Distillery Road Waste Water Pumping Station

- New pump installed Tuesday 29th January 2019

Rosslare Harbour Pumping Stations

- Works commenced Tuesday 19th February to upgrade (St Brendans, Barrackscross, St Aidans, Ballygilliane lane Big, Ballygilliane lane Small, Ballygerry) 6 number pumping stations from RTU to IP Digital

Rosslare Strand PS

Awaiting approval from IW to upgrade (Iona, Kapunda, Haven, New Haven, Southfield, Rosehill & Mauritiustown) 7 number pumping stations from RTU to IP Digital –

Kilmore Quay Pumping Station

- New foul pump installed Thursday 14th February (special coating on the hydraulics to prevent corrosion as it will be installed in a harsh environment, Also Zinc anodes fixed on the pump housing)

IW approval for the following works:

1. Rathroe Meadows PS – new foul pump replacement
2. Ballygillane Little PS, Kilrane – new foul pump replacement (pump on hire)
3. Fair Green WWTP, Ballycullane, New Ross – new foul pump replacement
4. Adamstown WWTP - Repair work on 2no RBC's (replacement chains, repairs to sprockets etc.)
5. Bridgetown WWTP - PLC (programmable logic controller) replacement
6. Sli an Uisce PS, Clonroche - new submersible foul pump replacement
7. Ballygerry PS, Rosslare Harbour - new submersible foul pump replacement
8. Rosslare Strand WWTP - replacement DO (Dissolved Oxygen) controller and probe etc.
9. Whitewater Estuary PS, Ballyhack, New Ross - replacement of 2 number submersible foul pumps (pump on hire)
10. Rosetown Village PS, Rosslare Strand - new submersible foul pump replacement (pump on hire)
11. Fernhill WWTP, Killinick - replacement foul pump

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

Works complete at Edenvale and Newtown with the exception of minor snagging.

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, Hollyfort, Ballinellard, Clonroche, Bree, Kilmuckridge Coolgreaney and Ballindaggin commissioned.

Works nearly complete at Vinegar Hill. Mechanical works almost complete at Newtown and Kilagoley.

Works partially complete at Creagh, Camolin, Edermine, Carrigbyrne and Ballindaggin boreholes.

Bolabeg, Raheen and Tellarought boreholes added to IW Disinfection Programme.

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 Wexford, Gorey and Taghmon. 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.

IR issues around works are being resolved by dealing locally with crews. Works can proceed on PRVs and flowmeters in Gorey and Enniscorthy and kiosk only works in Wexford. Negotiations are ongoing with Irish Water for Wexford County council to carry out PRV installation works by direct labour in Wexford District.

Capital Maintenance Budget

CM is operating on a rolling budget since 2017. Current approved spend from IW is 2,512,957. Total commitments to end of December were €1,982,195. Level of budget increase for 2019 has yet to be announced.

C. RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

Submissions to be forwarded to the DHPLG on or before 14th March 2019.

The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme

Application for connection for the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme forwarded to Irish Water on the 21st December, 2018. Awaiting response.

Crosstown Group Sewerage Scheme / Orchard Lane Group Sewerage Scheme

Takeover Process ongoing.

5. Finance:

Finance Report – Qtr 4 2018

The Q4 financial report has been circulated and provides a provisional position in relation to the 2018 financial performance. Preliminary figures indicate a surplus of €970k on the Revenue Account for the year which would make 2018 the fifth consecutive year to report a surplus. As there is still work to be completed on the end of year transactions this is subject to change and a more detailed report on the 2018 financial performance will be presented to members once the final accounts for 2018 are complete.

Capital Programme 2019 – 2021

A draft of the 2019 – 2021 Capital Programme is included on the agenda for consideration and approval of members. The programme contains a list of proposed major capital projects to be progressed over the next three years and the estimated spend on the projects during that time. The programme assumes funding will be in place through the sources available to the council which are grants, borrowing, planning levies, and internal reserve funding. Where funding does not materialise projects cannot be progressed and alternatively where additional funding becomes available during the term of the programme these projects. An introductory note to the programme sets out the basis for the programme as presented.

Annual Financial Statement 2018

Work is progressing on the preparation of the 2018 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.

Audit Committee Annual Reports

The next meeting of the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 6th March 2019.

Borrowing Programme 2018

During 2018 Ministerial Sanction was been received for the Public Lighting (€5m) and Housing Loan Programme (€5.5m). Partial Sanction, €15m, was also received for the Economic and Community Development element (€40m), the remainder is the subject of additional correspondence with the DHPLG and formal ministerial approval is still 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 for the period to the 31st December, 2019.

**Tom Enright,
Chief Executive.**