



# **Chief Executive's Report**

**MAY 2019**

# 1.Economic Development & Planning:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Local Enterprise Office:** The Wexford County Final of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur took place in the Council Chamber on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. From the 15 finalists who pitched to a panel of judges, the following emerged as winners who share a total prize fund of €50,000;

Best Business Idea:	Runner Up Winner	Sue Murphy, WellWex Ltd Michelle O'Neill, The Perfect Job
Best StartUp:	Runner Up Winner	Joseph Sinnott, Luxe Box Ireland Mark Rowe, Dynomed
Best Established:	Runner Up Winner	Harry Kehoe, Mibodi Apparel William Devereux, Natural Ice Cream t/a Scup Gelato

In addition to winning the Best Established category, Willie Devereux was also named overall County Wexford IBYE Entrepreneur of the Year.

The category winners will now represent Wexford in the Regional Final which will take place in the Step House, Borris, Co. Carlow on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.



*n*  
Cathaoirleach, Cllr Keith Doyle, Willie Devereux and Breege Cosgrave

**UNMISSABLE WEXFORD**

You are invited to the Visit Wexford Networking Event  
When: Wednesday, 8th May  
Time: 9.30am - 12pm  
Where: Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy  
We would be delighted if you can join us!

Visit Wexford Networking Event Highlights:  
Networking Opportunity • 2019 Visit Wexford Marketing Plans  
Taste Wexford Update • Wexford Trails • Spot prizes

RSVP [www.visitwexfordnetworking.eventbrite.ie](http://www.visitwexfordnetworking.eventbrite.ie)  
Exhibition spaces available please email  
[edwina.colfer@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:edwina.colfer@wexfordcoco.ie)

**THIS IS WEXFORD** A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

**WEXFORD**  
AN OLD TOWN  
[VISITWEXFORD.IE](http://VISITWEXFORD.IE)

## TOURISM TEAM

**Visit Wexford Networking Event:** Visit Wexford is a tourism industry and public sector initiative aimed at promoting Wexford County, and is supported by Fáilte Ireland, Wexford County Council, Wexford Local Development, local tourism groups and other entities from the Wexford tourism sector.

Visit Wexford are holding a Network event in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The aim of the event is to bring the industry together to inform them of the various platforms Visit Wexford are promoting the county and also to give the industry an opportunity to share experiences with their counterparts.

**Michael Londra Concert:** Michael Londra will be filming a concert at the National Opera House on June 07 as part of a documentary/film he is shooting for the Public Broadcasting Service is American. The film crew will also shoot various parts of County Wexford as part of that show. The TV show and the tour will have footage of the county, mixed with some songs from the show at the opera house. It is planned that the TV show will air in the US in the autumn of 2019

### ***Over 18,000 jobs created through Local Enterprise Offices over 5 years***

#### **5 Years of Local Enterprise Offices**

- 18,640 net jobs created
- €81.5 million in grants approved
- Over 140,000 trained
- Over 5,000 projects approved



Since the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) were established in 2014 they have supported the creation of over 18,600 jobs nationwide with 144,830 entrepreneurs and business people trained in a range of skills over the five years. The figures were announced by Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Pat Breen T.D., Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection at an event in Russborough House in Wicklow to celebrate 5 Years of the Local Enterprise Offices.

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## PLANNING

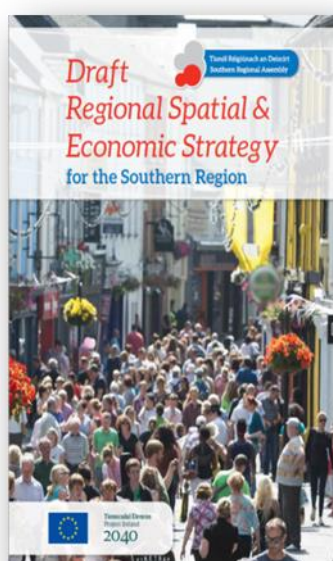
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### Planning Applications:

No. of valid applications received up to 19/04/2019 **426**

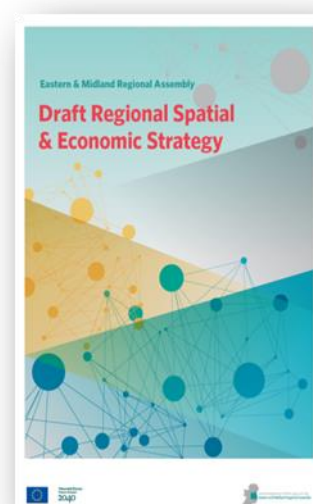
No. of invalid applications received up to 19/04/2019 **107**

### FORWARD PLANNING



The **Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES)** was placed on display between 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and **08th 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 is currently considering the submissions received and it is likely that Material Alterations to the Strategy will be placed on public display for four weeks in June. A further submission may be made by Wexford County Council at that stage.

**Eastern Midlands Regional Authority Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy:** The Eastern Midlands Regional Authority (EMRA) are also preparing their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The Forward Planning section made a submission at Draft Stage which sought the inclusion of an extended Eastern Economic Corridor (Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare Harbour) in the Strategy. This submission was considered and accepted by the EMRA and reference to the Corridor extending to Rosslare Harbour was included as a Material Amendment to the EMRA-RSES. The Material Amendments were subsequently placed on public display. A further submission was made by the Forward Planning Section requesting that the narrative relating to the Eastern Economic Corridor be strengthened and that reference to it be added to a number of additional sections of the Strategy. Submissions are currently being considered by the Regional Assembly.





**The Geological Heritage of County Wexford – An Audit of County Geological Sites:** The preparation of *The Geological Heritage of County Wexford – An Audit of County Geological Sites for County Wexford* was an aim of the County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan and progresses work on the protection of geological heritage commenced under the County Development Plan 2013-2019. The report, commissioned and overseen by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and the Forward Planning Section of Wexford County Council, is now complete and live on the GSI website. <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/The-Geological-Heritage-of-Wexford.aspx>

The project represents a significant commitment on the part of the Local Authority to fulfil its obligations to incorporate geology into the spectrum of responsibilities under the Heritage Act 1995, the Planning and Development Act 2000, Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the National Heritage Plan (2002).

GSI state that *'This report places County Wexford firmly at the forefront of geological heritage within Ireland, as although more than half of the counties have now commissioned such an audit within the scope of the county-based Heritage Plan, Wexford has adopted a different strategy, embracing geological heritage fully within the County Development Plan (2013-2019) and within its Biodiversity Action Plan (2013-2018)..... GSI views partnerships with the local authorities, exemplified by this report, as a very important element of its strategy on geological heritage'*.

The project is comprised of two reports and accompanying maps. The first report contains the background, methodology, details of changes to the proposed protected sites and summary information of geology of County Wexford. The second report contains details of the individual sites and includes maps and photographs. The sites included as County Geological Sites (CGS) have been visited and assessed specifically for this project, and represent our current state of knowledge.

**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 138 valid commencement notices have been submitted up to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 on the BCMS.

**Taking in Charge:** Five developments are currently in the Public Consultation Stage; the last date for submissions is the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019:

- Oakhill, Gorey
- Gleann an Ghairdín, Gorey
- Willow View, Castlebridge
- Edenwood, Crosstown
- Southbay, Rosslare

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019:** The Department approved the applications for grant funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019 recommended by Wexford County Council.

**Historic Structures Fund 2019:** The Historic Structures Fund 2019 replaced the Structures at Risk Scheme. The Department approved one application under this scheme, that is, the repair of the Pugin Window in St. Peter's College. A grant of €32,000 will be allocated for the completion of this work.

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

Activity on Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures is as follows:

Notices Issued under Derelict Sites Act 1990

15

Notices issued under Sanitary Services Act 1964

5

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	39
➤ Live Cases	270
➤ Cases Closed	55

### **District Court Case**

- Enforcement case 0015/2018 - for mention on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019, relating to two unauthorised workshops at Main Street, Clonroche.

**Disability Access: Disability Access Certificates (DACs):** The number of DAC Applications validated up to and including the 24<sup>th</sup> April, totals 21.  
The number of DAC applications awaiting re-submission due to invalid status totals 3.

## 2. Special Projects:

**Min Ryan Park, Wexford:** Works recommenced on-site at the end of March 2019. 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 related application for foreshore consent was submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 01/03/2019.

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

Tenders for consultancy services for detailed design and procurement for Phase 1 of the development are due by 30/04/2019.

**Crescent Quay:** Works commenced in January, 2019 and are scheduled to be completed in July. Works are progressing well and Henrietta Street is 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 Q3 2019.

**Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy:** The preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge have commenced and is 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.

**Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley:** Works are expected to be substantially complete in April 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. RRDF grant funding of €430k was allocated on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to advance the project through detailed design and tendering. WCC is progressing with plans for the restoration of the building and the adjoining lands to the rear of the Market House.

**Wexford Arts Centre:** Tenders for services were received in early February and an appointment for design services has been completed. 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. Architects have been appointed for the project and 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 will be advertised in May 2019.

**Carrigfoyle Activity Centre:** Detailed design of infrastructural works including the access road, car parking and walking trails is underway and due to be completed by August 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.

**Enniscorthy Tourism Project:**

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

The baseline research is substantially completed and was presented to the Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting. The propositions options report is due to be completed by May 2019 to facilitate an application under Failte Ireland capital grants scheme in June 2019.

**GREENWAYS:**

**Rosslare Europort to Waterford City Greenway.**

Draft feasibility, route options and environmental screening documents have been completed.

A presentation to the Members took place on 30<sup>th</sup> October on the draft feasibility and route options assessments. The preparation of the EIAR & NATURA Impact reports for the proposed development is underway.

Public information events are planned for early May 2019 for the greenway.

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

**New Ross to Waterford Greenway / South East Greenway:**

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

Detailed design is currently underway and it is planned to tender for a Works contractor by December 2019.

An application for funding for the project was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 28/11/2018. A project assessment board visited the proposed greenway on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 and a decision on funding approval for the project is expected by May/June.

**Curragloe to Wexford Greenway:**

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

The Council has reviewed the decision and met with the NPWS. It has been agreed that a scoping report be prepared, taking account of the concerns set out by NPWS and the ABP Planner's report, with a view to identifying alternative routes.

**Wexford to Rosslare Greenway**

WCC has undertaken a preliminary study to examine the potential for developing a greenway from Wexford town to Rosslare. Further route options assessment, studies and consultation are required to determine the feasibility of delivering this greenway prior to committing to preparing an application for planning consent.



### 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 May 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 June 2019
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Under construction	Special needs housing – due to complete in July
Castlemoyle	1	New Ross	Stage 4	TAP house (too expensive not approved by DHPLG) currently looking at alternative for a scheme
Taghmon	18	New Ross	Stage 4	Awaiting DHPLG approval to sign contracts
The Ballagh	7	Enniscorthy	Stage 4 <i>(with DHPLG)</i>	March 2019
Ballynaboola	1	New Ross	Stage 3	Boundary issues
Whiterock Hill	44	Wexford	Preparing Stage 3	Part VIII approved December 2018
Ballywish, Castlebridge	11	Wexford	Stage 2 Q1 2019	Consultants appointed to advance next stage.
Rosetown, Rosslare	36	Wexford	Stage 2 <i>(with DHPLG)</i>	Stage 3 August 2019
The Faythe	12	Wexford	Preparing Stage 2 <i>(June 2019)</i>	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

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Current Position	Comment
Ballyhine, Barnstown	6	Wexford	Stage 1 (with DHPLG)	Stage 2 May 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	Stage 1 approved March 2019
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>313</b>			

#### 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 December 2018 – awaiting DHPLG approval
5 Francis Street	1	Wexford	Awaiting survey (Buy & Renew)
Bullawn	2	New Ross	Stage 1 submitted awaiting DHPLG
Marley	1	Enniscorthy	Stage 1 submitted awaiting DHPLG
Castlebridge	1	Wexford	TAP house, site ownership to WCC (sketch design) – Land to transfer (Planning issue)
Ballycullane	1	New Ross	Fire damaged house – rebuild Stage 1 submitted – awaiting DHPLG
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>		

#### 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
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, 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 Q2 2019
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>		

#### Other Projects

Project Address	No of Units	Municipal District Area	Comment
Newtown, Ferns	1	Gorey	Housing for demolition and rebuild
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>		

## 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>		

## 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, Whiterock Hill	35	Wexford	12 units occupied, 23 to be occupied 2019
Rath an Duinn, Castlebridge	3	Wexford	3 units occupied
Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine	10	Gorey	10 units to be occupied in 2019
Belvedere Road	7	Wexford	7 units delivery date to be finalised
Riverchapel Lane	4	Gorey	4 units to be delivered in 2019
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>		

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
<b>Cooperative Housing Ireland</b>			
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	Approval received. Construction underway to be delivered by end of 2019

<b>Oaklee</b>			
Fearach an Cnoic, Greenville	46	Enniscorthy	40 units completed to be occupied in Q2 2019 and balance to be occupied by Q3 2019
Station Court	2	Gorey	Occupied

<b>Respond</b>			
Rivergate (2 Bed Units)	20	New Ross	Occupied

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

<b>Tuath</b>			
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.

<b>Circle</b>			
Abbey Centre	10	Enniscorthy	Funding approved by Department. To be occupied Q4 2019.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>382</b>		

## ENVIRONMENT

**Piers and Harbours:** In April 2019 the Department of Ag, Food & Marine approved funding of €320,000 for four projects in County Wexford. The projects are Duncannon – Structural Repairs to Harbour Walls; Kilmore Quay – Upgrade of Harbour Lighting; New Ross Marina – Repair works to Pontoon; Kilmore Quay Marina – Upgrade and Repair of Pontoon Sections.

**Walking Trails:** In January 2019 the Department of Rural and Community Development and Fáilte Ireland approved funding of €780,000 for four outdoor development projects in County Wexford. The projects are Enniscorthy Trails; Three Rocks and Carrigfoyle Trails; Trail Improvements to Slí Charman and Gorey District Park.

**Public Convenience Network:** The renovated Duncannon PC facility is due to open towards the end of May 2019. A trial for the installation of two portaloo's at Cahore Harbour, to facilitate harbour users and tourists may be implemented for this summer

**Septic tank Inspections 2018:** A total of 150 sewage treatment systems were inspected in 2018, with a 66% failure rate. 18 grants for remedial works for sewage treatment systems were paid out in 2018

## COMMUNITY

**The Big Hello:** Wexford LCDC approved 57 applications from community groups and organisations throughout the County for the May Bank Holiday event. The Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €10,000 to the project with the council allocating an additional €1200. Each group were awarded €200.00.

**Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019:** The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) have allocated €150,065 to Wexford LCDC as part of the 2019 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) with the closing date for the receipt of applications 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

This is the third year of this programme which has had a very positive benefit on local community development throughout Co Wexford, allowing those small essential works to be undertaken by local community groups that otherwise would not happen due to lack of funding. To date 1200 groups have benefited from the Programme.

In 2018 the DRCD allocated an additional €320,000 to Wexford LCDC under Phase 2 of this Programme. The LCDC allocated funding towards smart community development initiative (Smart Communities) a total of 32 groups received funding under this initiative. It is proposed to continue this initiative in 2019 by targeting funding towards climate mitigation and reduction measures. There is an opportunity under this measure to leverage additional funding under the Sustainable Energy Ireland, Sustainable Communities Programme.

**Measure 1:** €100,000 to be allocated to community enhancement 25,000 to each Municipal District

**Measure 2:** €50,000 to be allocated towards Community Climate Mitigation and Reduction Measures.

**Town and Village Renewal Programme (TVR) 2019:** The Council will be issuing a call for Expressions of Interest under the TVR Programme 2019. The Programme overview is outlined below. It is expected that the closing date for the receipt of completed Applications by the DRCD will be June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Categories of Town/Villages:

Two categories of Town/Villages are eligible for support under the scheme:

Category 1: Towns/villages with a population of less than 5,000 people.

Category 2: Towns with a population of 5,000-10,000 people.

At least of 60% of the funding available will be awarded to Category 1 towns and villages.

Successful proposals will demonstrate close collaboration between communities and business interests in the design and delivery of proposed projects, and must have the support of the Local Authority.

**Sustainable impacts:** Projects which have clear positive impacts on a town or village in terms of place-making and town centre regeneration, or which stimulate economic activity between a town/village and its neighbouring townlands will be particularly welcome, as will proposals seeking to develop initiatives to encourage town centre living.



Projects which demonstrate leveraging of, or linkages with, other schemes operated by Government Departments or agencies (e.g. in the areas of heritage, arts, culture, tourism, re-use of vacant premises, vacant sites, energy efficiency schemes, etc.) will also be encouraged.

**Grant levels:** Up to 80% of the total cost of a project under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme will be provided for any individual project. The minimum grant which is available is €20,000 and the maximum is €100,000. A higher maximum of €200,000 will be considered for a limited number of projects where a strong case can be made demonstrating exceptionally strong benefit to a town and/or its outlying areas.

## **SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

Safeguarding 1: **5** Courses have been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of 78 participants. Safeguarding 2: **2** Course has been completed with a total attendance for 2019 of **16** participants.

**Urban Adventure Hub Bunclody (Objective 3.3):** The Launch of this Hub will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and will be launch by Minister Paul Kehoe.

**HSE Funding:** We have been awarded €7650 funding from HSE South to support Programmes for disability and Men on the move.

**Federation of Irish Sport Sports Industry Awards:** Sports Active Wexford was shortlisted for the Local Sports Partnership Initiative Award at the National Awards for its Programme with CAHMS 'Experiencing success'.

### **Healthy Ireland Funding:**

**Swimming for Schools Programmes (Objective 1.2):** 31 National schools have received funding support through Sports Active Wexford And Swim Ireland – through the Get Ireland swimming Initiative. 1091 Students have been enabled to access swimming lessons.

**Staff Activities (Objective 1.3):** Staff soccer continues every Wednesday from 5 - 6pm in Ferrycarrig. Circuit classes are held every Monday evening from 5-6pm, Cardio Boxfit at lunchtime on Thursdays and Yoga at lunchtime on Fridays, all of which are held in County Hall. Couch to 5K started at lunchtime on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and will continue for 8 weeks.  
Circuits: **10**                      Soccer: **12**    Cardio Boxfit: **25**    Yoga: **24**    Couch to 5K: **10**

**Wexford County Council's Fittest Family (Objective 1.3):** Wexford County Council's Fittest Family came to a conclusion on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of April. 73 people participated over the three days, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> April. The three events were a 5k/3k run, Olympic Handball and a team challenge. The housing section was the overall winner and retained it's title for a second year in a row. Participants: 73

**National Learning Network (Objective 2.2):** On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer for Sports Active Wexford led an activity session in the National Learning Network, The Swan, Wexford to celebrate Autism Awareness Week. The students got to try Corn-hole and Scooch and the session was finished up with an Introduction to Yoga led by Sarah Dunlea on behalf of Sports Active Wexford. Participants: 16

**Kilrane National School (Objective 2.2):** On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer for Sports Active Wexford gave a disability inclusion talk and led an inclusive P.E lesson using corn-hole and skittles for 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The session was organised by the active schools co-ordinator. Participants: 32

# LIBRARIES, ARTS & ARCHIVES

**Digital Learning Centres in Libraries:** Funding invested in 2018 to support the establishment of public libraries as digital learning centres and enablers of digital services is making a real impact on services offered to the public in libraries in the County.

- Library meeting rooms, digital training suites and activity spaces have been upgraded with state of the art digital technology.
- iPads and other smart devices have been provided.
- Hardware, software and instructional programmes are being introduced to support design and coding.
- A dedicated podcasting area will open in Wexford Library in the coming weeks.
- 3D printing is being rolled out in a three libraries.
- Virtual reality headsets are being incorporated into classroom visits to libraries.

**My Open Library Gorey:** Gorey Library has seen strong growth in numbers joining the My Open Library service with more than one hundred active users at present. The library is now accessible to **My Open Library** members for a total of 98 hours per week 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.

**Autism Awareness Week: Parenting Today – Lego Therapy for Autism** Caroline Busher, Reader in Residence, held a Lego Therapy workshop in a number of library branches for 6-12 year olds with ASD and their families in April. Lego was a tool for storytelling and allowed the children to express themselves in a relaxed environment. New Ross Library hosted an 'Images of Autism' Exhibition with an accompanying talk on autism. Wexford Library participated in **National Learning Network Autism Awareness Evening** at the Swan Centre, Wexford in order to promote its services and activities.

**Archive acquisitions:** A collection of diaries written by Edith Elgee of Selskar Street, Wexford has been deposited in the archive. Edith was the daughter of John Elgee, solicitor and belonged to the distinguished Protestant family resident in Wexford. Her diaries provide an important social narrative of life in Wexford for the period 1936-60.

The Allen family archive – the Allens were important shipping merchants in Wexford town during the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. This collection centres on a letter written in the early 1940s by Lucy Figgis née Allen of Ballystraw, Duncannon who recollects a 19<sup>th</sup> century childhood in County Wexford. The collection includes two handwritten notebooks from the early 1800s relating to the Allen family history, including references to intermarriage with the Graves shipping family.

**Creative Ireland:** As part of Wexford's 2019 **Creative Ireland programme applications** have been invited for grants that will develop bodies of work with a public interface/engagement. The nominal amount to any one project will be between €1,000 and €5,000. A key aspect of the grant scheme is to foster new exciting and innovative projects that may not otherwise be realised.

Applications are accepted from community organisations, creatives and practitioners who will engage in the following themes with communities of place or interest: Well being; Sense of place; Heritage (which may include historical exploration and engagement); STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and the Irish language. Closing date is 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cruinniú na nÓg** 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. An exciting and eclectic range of creative events for children and young people has been finalised for County Wexford. The website and booking will go live on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Training workshops for artists – spring 2019** in partnership Visual Arts Ireland and funded through Creative Ireland to deliver professional development/ business support workshops for Wexford artists.

Workshops included Digital marketing ( 4 Feb) ‘How to apply for funding’,( 4 March) ‘Managing your accounts’ & individual finance clinics,( 1 April) and Visual artists network café(31 April). Workshops were delivered in County Hall Wexford and Gorey School of Arts and strong interest has been received across from local artists.

## **ARTS:**

**Creative Community Programme** – This annual arts fund is valued at €50,000 with additional support from Creative Ireland targeting harder to reach groups and artistic collaborations. It supports community groups countywide to work with an identified artist (s) on an arts project ranging from 1week – 6 months. Twenty four community programmes were recently awarded grants in 2019 ranging from €1,000 to €3,000 each.

**‘Art Ability’ Exhibition** – The biennial exhibition from the Art Ability programme ‘Rainbows and Bandaged Skies’ runs in County Hall until 25<sup>th</sup> May. Curated by Catherine Marshall, this year’s exhibition features over 60 art works, writing and live music from 80+ participants in the Art Ability programme. Art Ability is a long term art programme partnership between Wexford Arts Office, the HSE and centres CUMAS, (New Ross) WRIDS and KTAC (Enniscorthy). It also encompasses a Music Exploration Programme in partnership with Wexford Mental Health Association.

**Wexford Short Film Award** – recipients of the 2018 Wexford Short Film Award, Zanzibar Productions (Edwina Forkin) with Wexford writer Hannah Mc Given and Director Brian Rossney, shot the short film ‘ The Bog Lady’ at Mount Leinster and North Wexford in April 2019. The film is currently in post-production. This new short film fund consists of €10,000 award and the aim is to support local talent and film production in County Wexford.

**Music Generation** is a partnership between Wexford County Council, WWETB, and the Music Generation. Two week-long Easter camps took place in April. Wind jammers camp- young people and HFC brass band – took place in Opera House 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> April and Room to Create - 22- 26 April young people exploring sound recording and performance – Presentation centre Enniscorthy – led by Orchard studios and composer Laura Hyland.

## FIRE SERVICE

**News:** Wexford Fire Authority passed another external OHSAS 18001 audit with two minor non-conformances in late March.

A joint exercise with the RNLI was run in early April in Ferrybank Quay, Wexford.

**Fire Operations:** There were 79 incidents in March as detailed below.

Incident Type	Calls March 2019	Calls to date 2019	Calls to this period 2018
Chimney fire	21	62	68
Domestic fire	9	20	29
Road Traffic Accident	9	26	31
Industrial fire	0	3	3
Commercial fire	1	2	1
Assembly fire	0	0	2
Agricultural fire	0	1	3
Motor Vehicles	0	8	13
Forest/bog/grass etc	8	10	5
Rubbish	5	14	13
Non-fire rescues	4	7	10
False alarms – good intent	20	64	65
Malicious false alarms	0	0	3
Miscellaneous	2	22	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>270</b>

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

Applications Received	Year to date	March
Fire Safety Certificates	29	14
Planning Referrals	175	41

Number of Inspections	Year to date	March
FSA Inspections	60	11

## CIVIL DEFENCE

**Civic Duties:** We had four duties for April 2019

- 6<sup>th</sup> April, Wexford Academy of Martial Arts, Fight Night, Wexford
- 14<sup>th</sup> April, Interschool's Show jumping Barnadown Gorey,
- 14<sup>th</sup> April, Blue Run 5K, Scoil Mhuire Wexford
- 28<sup>th</sup> April, Wexford Half Marathon, Wexford

•  
**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.

**Gorey Unit – Recruitment Night 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019:** We have advertised for a recruitment night in Gorey Library for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. We hope to recruit some new members into the Gorey Unit.

**Training Courses:** We held a Swift Water Responders course on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April. The practical element of the course was on the River Boro in Enniscorthy. The course was attended by 8 new recruits. Civil Defence Officer attended a course on Serious Incident Training on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

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



## 4. Transportation, Water Services:

### 1. 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	Progress Reported in March 2019	Progress Reported in April 2019
<b>Fencing</b>	85%	86%	93%	94%	94%	95%
<b>Drainage &amp; Service Ducts</b>	7%	30%	92%	96%	96%	96%
<b>Earthworks</b>	23%	75%	98%	98%	98%	98%
<b>Structures – Main Bridges</b>		56%	95%	97%	97%	97%
<b>Structures – Culverts</b>	29%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%
<b>Structures – Access Structures</b>	12%	84%	96%	96%	96%	96%
<b>Kerbs Footways &amp; Paved Areas</b>			74%	78%	81%	81%
<b>Safety Barrier</b>			36%	43%	57%	62%
<b>Pavement</b>			70%	78%	79%	86%
<b>Traffic Signs and Road Marking</b>					6%	12%
<b>Road Lighting and Electrical Works</b>					2%	34%
<b>Landscaping</b>						80%

#### 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	May 2019 *
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	May 2019 *
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**

There are currently no road closures in effect.

## **2. N25 New Ross Bypass**

### **Progress Update May 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 Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge is progressing very well with very noticeable progress week on week. Of a total of 36 deck segments that will make up the main river span between piers 3 & 4, 27 segments have now been completed. The pylon towers at Piers 3 and 5 are complete with is a single lift remaining on Pier 4. 10 of 18 cables at Pier 4 have been installed, with 5 of 8 cables installed at both piers 3 & 5. On current progress, it is anticipated that the bridge decks over the river will meet in July with deck connection works then required followed by significant bridge finishing works.

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. A number of road safety audits are scheduled on the constructed roads over the coming weeks.



**1. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Progress of deck form travellers from Pier 4 (foreground) & Pier 3 (Pink Rock side in background).**



**2. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – View From Stokestown Road**



**3. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Installation of cables at Pier 4**





**4. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge – Approach from R733 Junction (dual carriageway parking lay-byes in foreground)**



**1. Approach to R733 Junction at Stokestown**



**6. Mainline at Camlin – road markings and signage in place.**



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 March

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

#### **N30/ R700 Roundabout**

Works commenced in July. This scheme was to be completed in March. Additional public lighting will be installed between the roundabout and the existing public lighting on the New Ross side in late May.

#### **N11 Killeen to Newtown – Phase 1**

This scheme runs from Ferrycarrig Bridge to just south of Kyle Crossroads. Works commenced on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Pavement works were completed in early April.

#### **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 early May.

#### **N30 Mountelliot to Ballyanne**

This scheme should be tendered in late April/early May.

#### **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 in Gorey, Courtown, Riverchapel, Ferns and Enniscorthy.

2,000 lanterns have been designed and delivered. 200 lanterns have been installed to date. Installation of the lanterns should be completed by September.

### **Winter Maintenance**

The 2018/2019 winter maintenance programme commenced on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. October. It is due to finish on 29<sup>th</sup>. April. There have been 28 no. call outs up to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS**

### **Improvement Works**

Mountelliott Roundabout (New Ross District) is complete. The only remaining work is public lighting on the N30 Mountgarret leg, which is expected to be installed in June.

### **Resurfacing/Strengthening**

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

Roads completed in the last month were: Corcorans Cross to Rathgarogue; Oldcourt to Tomagarrow; Templenacroha to Ballagh (all in New Ross District); Drummond Lane to Co. Bounds; Askamore Village; Ballytarsna junction; Ballymore to Rockspring; Ballymore to Ballyeden; Clone East to Ballymurragh; Garrynew to Ballyduff; Cluaininn (all in Gorey District); and Rathmore to Muckranstown (Wexford District).

### **Surface Dressing Works**

Preparation for surface dressing works is in progress. It is expected the surface dressing programme will commence in June.

### **General Maintenance**

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

## **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 lead 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 7,500m<sup>3</sup> 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**

Transferring load from Redwood Park PS to New Murntown PS completed last week Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April i.e. removal of flow to Redwood Park WWTP

Backfilling Redwood Park pump sump next week and installing new D400 cover 23<sup>rd</sup> April next to No. 1 John Paul Park

Note: proposed decommissioning works at Redwood Park WWTP (providing IW with schedule of works and quotation Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April with provisional meeting with Irish Water end April / 1<sup>st</sup> week May)

PS Remedial works (snag list) and landscaping works ongoing

### **Somers Way Rising Main**

Contractor in place for rising main, current scheduled May 2019

Road opening licence application submitted

Issue with private access to plant addressed by Property Management and Wayleave signed by landowner Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

### **Somers Way WWTP, Ballycullane**

Following recent survey of existing infrastructure – feasibility proven to use existing sump and emergency store tank

Confirming levels for pump design

Pumps and associated equipment to go for pricing (greater than €25,000 approximate) – formal tender by procurement required

### **Fairgreen WWTP**

Corrected issues with flooding of estate and brought plant back into operation (eliminated costs for tankage and public health risks)

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**

Site clearance and Tree works completed

Site fencing and entrance gate works completed – remedial works on gate clad with pressure treated timber vertical boards

Percolation Area and Concrete Works shall commence early May 2019 (Construct 3No 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)

Ravenwood WWTP upgrade works shall commence next week (stainless steel foul pump, new blower, new electrical controls for blower and pump etc.)

### **Trinity Street Wastewater Pumping Station**

Delay to the Repair of the 4<sup>th</sup> number Storm Pump:

Motor has been rewound but delay due the manufacturing of specific replacement pump parts

To be assembled and tested - completion date Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Installation into Trinity Street storm sump beginning Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> May 2019

### **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, Hollyfort, Ballinellard, Clonroche, Bree, Kilmuckridge Coolgreaney, Camolin and Ballindaggin commissioned.

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

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

### **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.

HSQE submission made to IW for PRV works to proceed in the Wexford District.

### **Capital Maintenance Budget**

CM is operating on a rolling budget since 2017. Current approved spend from IW is 2,593,257. Total commitments to end of February was €2,146,831. 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 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

### **Blackstairs Group Water Scheme**

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

### **The Bing Group Sewerage Scheme**

Irish Water Connection offer forwarded to the Bing Group Sewerage Scheme for signing and acceptance.

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

Takeover Process ongoing.

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

### **Leak Detection and Repair:**

39nr leaks were detected and repaired in March 2019.

2nr new Leak detection operative has started with the Water Conservation Office for Find and Fix scheme assignment.

Water Network Programme with Coffey Northumberland –

First Fix scheme:

Irish Water free first fix to customer supply side has commenced in Co. Wexford. There is currently 3,048nr properties identified as receiving disproportionate volumes of water, equating to approx. 3293m<sup>3</sup>/day.

Coffey Northumberland are working throughout the county with customers to repair customer side leaks.

Gorey:

Grattin St. and McCurtain St. work due to be completed 10/05/2019, an issue with moling has led to a delay. Main to rear of houses to be decommissioned.

New Ross:

Charlton Hill has outstanding reinstatement works. Footpath will be completed by Coffey Northumberland in conjunction with Old Charlton Hill BYS works this year.

Wexford:

Distillery Rd works complete.

William St lead services complete.

Backyard main to a terrace on the east side of Wolf Tone Villas has been decommissioned.

Funding sought to complete works to the rest of the houses.

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 10<sup>th</sup>.

Detailed design for Redmond St and Pierce Road has commenced.

### **Pressure Management:**

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

### **SCADA-Telemetry:**

Disinfection Programme and Telemetry programme work ongoing.

Update to mobile SCADA for county by EMR Solutions ongoing.

Works to enhance resilience of SCADA system by EMR Solutions ongoing.

### **Global Information System:**

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

## **5. Finance:**

### **Annual Financial Statement 2018**

The 2018 AFS (Annual Financial Statement) together with a full overview report on the outcome and main points informing the accounts is included as a separate item for consideration of members on the May CPG and County Council Meeting agendas. The Accounts will now be subject to Audit by the Local Government Audit Service and this is expected to be concluded in the coming months.

### **Audit Committee**

The final meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019. A new committee will be established following the local elections in May.

### **Rates Revaluation**

The Valuation Office have provided a summary of the preliminary outcome of the National Rates Revaluation Programme for ratepayers in Co Wexford as set out in the table below. This analysis is based on the first batch of Provisional Valuation Certificates issued in the county by the Valuation Office in the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> March. This does not include the proposed valuations in relation to licensed premises, nursing homes, service stations, hotels etc. which issued more recently. It is expected additional analysis and updates will be provided as the Revaluation programme progress.

The table also contains statistics in relation to the other 7 counties also involved in the REVAL2019 programme for comparative purposes. Ratepayers who are dissatisfied with their proposed valuation have up to 40 days from the date of issue of their proposed valuation certificates to make Representations to the Valuation Office. The Valuation Office are required to consider each Representation received and to make a decision to reduce/increase/not change the initial valuation based on the information and evidence provided with Representations.

<b>County</b>	<b>No. of Properties</b>	<b>% of ratepayers experiencing Reduced Rates Liability</b>	<b>% of ratepayers experiencing Increased Rates Liability</b>	<b>% No Change</b>
Wexford	4,263	57.7%	37.8%	4.5%
Wicklow	3,655	57.6%	38.0%	4.4%
Cavan	2,461	59.6%	37.7%	2.8%
Meath	4,495	63.3%	32.4%	4.3%
Monaghan	2,390	58.8%	37.8%	3.4%
Tipperary	5,204	64.4%	31.2%	4.5%
Louth (All)	4,237	61.3%	34.0%	4.7%
Fingal	5,897	66.2%	25.8%	8.0%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>32,602</b>	<b>61.7%</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>



The Walk in Clinics arranged by the Valuation Office throughout the county with the assistance of Wexford County Council were well attended and allowed ratepayers to source answers to queries directly from Valuation Office personnel. 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.

Once all representations have been assessed and determined by the Valuation Office final Valuation Certificates will be issued to ratepayers in September 2019 and all rated occupiers will, at that point, have 28 days to lodge an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. In September the Council will also move to publish the final ARV in line with the regulations governing the Rates Revaluation Process.

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

#### **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.**